Jim Northrup, a tribal member of the Fond du Lac Band of Ojibwe, presented on his experience in the Marine Corps, his time in Vietnam, and about his writing on Dec. 3rd. The event was sponsored by UW-Superior’s Office of Multicultural Affairs, Veteran and Nontraditional Student Center, and First Nations Center.

Jim Northrup is an internationally known writer, poet, storyteller, and playwright. He is a combat veteran serving with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine Division in-country from September of 1965 until September of 1966. He has been recognized with local, regional, and national awards including the 2012 George Morrison Artist Award from the Arrowhead Regional Arts Council. His poems are featured in textbooks and have been translated into many languages.

He has written 5 books, including Walking The Rez Road, The Rez Road Follies, Anishinaabe Syndicated, Rez Salute, and Walking The Rez Road, Golden Anniversary Edition.

The University of Minnesota Duluth’s Diversity Commission is hosting its 2014 Summit on Equity, Diversity and Multiculturalism on Tuesday, February 25, 2014. This summit will bring together UMD faculty, staff, and students, as well as community members to present workshops that address issues of equity, diversity and multiculturalism. Author, educator and activist Dr. Angela Davis will be the Keynote Speaker.

Simona Simkins, UW-Superior MA student in Communicating Arts, will be presenting a workshop entitled “Forum Theatre for Positive Dialogue.” The workshop offers participants a safe space to practice new outcomes for conflict situations by creating a theatre scene through improvisation that centers on issues of equity, diversity, and multiculturalism. Theatre warm-ups, group sculpting, and improvised scene work culminate in a group facilitation that engages the audience to craft new endings and possible solutions to a staged conflict. Simona’s work aims to unveil real issues of diversity, giving participants an experience in theatre as a tool for dialogue, understanding, and growth.
Staff member, Gabriela Theis, traveled to Green Bay for a College/Education Fair designed for Hispanic families on Thursday, January 23, 2013. Universities from all over Wisconsin gathered at Preble High School to promote college and to inspire our Hispanic community members from Wisconsin. She met one-on-one with many Hispanic families and answered their questions about UW-Superior and about our community. According to the school analysis, Green Bay: Smart Growth 2022, “There is a noticeable increase in Hispanic and Asian populations in Green Bay. It is a wild card that can potentially increase population beyond what is projected. Many of the immigrant families are of child-bearing age, increasing the potential impact on school enrollments... most of these were from Latino families. Latinos are now 10 percent (2,000 or 20,000) of the school district’s enrollment.” (2003).

The Office of Multicultural Affairs had its 4th Annual Diversity Leadership Retreat from Friday Jan. 24 to Sunday Jan. 26. The leadership retreat’s goal is to bring together a diverse group of students and help further their leadership skills through a variety of workshops, presentations, and activities.

The retreat began with a weekend overview and introductions followed by an ice breaker and dinner. Saturday and Sunday were filled with workshops, leadership activities, and presentations by university staff members who submitted proposals to present at the retreat. Staff members included: Gabriela Theis and Ivy Vainio (Leadership Compass Activity), Dr. Monica Roth Day (Facilitating Diverse Groups In the Role of Servant Leader), Heather McGrew (Consensus Leadership: Trust, Harmony, and Democracy in the Japanese Leadership Style), student staff members Jordan Appicelli, Carinn Coy, & Devon Pfaff (Represent UWS: Yellowjackets Unite!), Mary E. Lee-Nichols (Living Our Culture!), and Chip Beal (Closing Discussion: Reflection on What You’ve Learned at the Diversity Leadership Retreat).

During the closing discussion Chip Beal created a Native American talking circle where everyone passed around the talking stick. Every student and staff member received a fair chance to talk about what they learned from their experiences at the retreat in a respectful manner. The person who had possession of the talking stick was the only one allowed to speak while everyone else listened intently to what they had to say.

Student Spotlight

Binta Khairi Sidibe
Hometown: Abidjan, Cote D’ivoire
Year: Senior
Major/Minor: Double majoring in International Peace Studies and Economics
What is one "Fun Fact" about you?: I love to try anything new with an open mind because I like challenges. I am also passionate about traveling.

Sean Milnes
Hometown: Fair Lawn, New Jersey
Year: Freshman
Major/Minor: Exercise Science / Athletic Training
One "Fun Fact" about you?: I can be classified as a professional procrastinator.
On January 22, the OMA, Admissions Office, and Dept. of Educational Leadership presented “The How-To on College Admissions” at the Boys and Girls Club in Lincoln Park, Duluth. These college information sessions are for anyone who is interested in learning about college admission requirements, academic programs, and campus/student life program.

On Jan. 30 Ivy Vainio along with UW-Superior students, Ernesto Soto and Terra Brister, presented to African-American high school students about the African-American College Student For A Day program that will be held on Feb. 26. CSFAD program is for multicultural high school students who want to learn more about the University of Wisconsin-Superior’s campus, academic opportunities, and college in general.

Gichi Manidoo Giizis Powwow

Staff members Ivy Vainio and Chip Beal set up an UW-Superior informational table at the 2nd Annual Gichi Manidoo Giizis Powwow at the Otter Creek & Convention Center at the Black Bear Casino located. An estimated 1,020 people attended the powwow and UW-Superior was one of 26 informational tables represented. The powwow was sponsored by the 13 Moons Program operated within the Fond du Lac Ojibwe Reservation’s Natural Resources Management Department.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday Events

January 20 was the national holiday honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. As with the past 13 years, UW-Superior faculty, staff, students and alumni attended the events in record numbers despite the cold. The local breakfast program, the march, and the rally at the DECC were inspirational. Alumnus Carl Crawford was the Rally’s co-emcee. Chip Beal set up a UW-Superior information table at the Rally so we could be represented.

“What are you doing for others?”
~Martin Luther King, Jr.
Martin Luther King Jr. was an American pastor, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African American Civil Rights Movement. He was born on January 15, 1929.

Martin was the chief spokesman for nonviolent activism in the civil rights movement, which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King’s honor began soon after his assassination in 1968.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is now an American federal holiday that marks the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. which is celebrated every third Monday of January each year.

Many people were inspired by his words; his famous speech “I Have a Dream” touched many hearts on August 28, 1963 and it continues to resonate through the people today.

Martin Luther King Jr. was a father, a spouse, a friend to many, a leader, and most of all, an inspiration.