



## Academic Affairs Update April 15, 2025

### College of Arts and Sciences

#### Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Ellie Eaddy (Animal Biology) was accepted into the Marine Biology graduate program at the University of Miami.
- Alexis Adair (Biology Pre-Medical) was accepted to the University of Michigan's Masters in Oral Health program.
- As part of Biology assessment, success rates of Biology pre-medicine and pre-veterinarian students attempting to enter the medical or veterinary professional schools were examined. Beginning fall 2019 and continuing through spring 2024, 57.7% of LSSU pre-medicine graduates attended or are attending professional or graduate programs. When controlled for those students who have taken the MCAT (shown intention to attend professional school) the number rises to 82.4%. National average of success for applicants to medical programs is 43%. Looking at LSSU pre-veterinarian students from the same period we find that 40% have been admitted to a veterinary medicine program with the national average at 10% to 15%.

#### Publication & Creative Works

- Assistant Professor Adam St. John was cast as a company member with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival. This summer's lineup includes "Much Ado about Nothing", "Richard III", and a new adaptation of "The Beaux' Stratagem". Adam will be performing in all three shows, which will run at the Hillberry Gateway Theatre in Detroit from July 5 through August 9. More information can be found at <https://www.michiganshakespearefestival.com/>.

#### Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Paul Kelso visited North Central Michigan College (NCMC) in Petoskey and met with NCMC students, Dr. Sara Glasgow, Dean of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Jeffery Lockridge, professor of geoscience on February 24, 2025.
- Dr. Paul Kelso visited Concord Academy Boyne, a LSSU charter school near Boyne City, where he met with multiple classes of high school students in Ms. Karen Gray's and Mr. Scott Pichard's classes where he discussed science careers and LSSU on February 25, 2025.
- On March 19, seventeen students from the Sault High Advanced Placement Biology class visited campus and participated in a genetics lab activity.
- Bay Mills Community College (BMCC), Michigan State University (MSU), and Lake Superior State University have renewed their articulation cooperative effective May 1, 2025. The program consists of premedical/medical education by which BMCC students who become undergraduate

premedical students at LSSU shall be prepared and considered for an early assurance of admission to the College of Human Medicine through the MSU Early Assurance Program.

## Community Engagement

- The 4H Aquaculture Spin Club hosted by LSSU last summer, was selected as a State Award winner for the Excellence in Natural Resources & Environment Programming Award. This Spin Club is going to be offered again at LSSU in summer 2025. The project is now in the running for a national award.

Aqua Tankers 4-H SPIN club was held twice a week for three weeks. Dr. Barbara Evans led the three-week program. During the first week of Aqua Tankers 4-H Spin club, the youth studied the aquaponics and hydroponics systems in the Aquaponics Learning Laboratory in Crawford Hall. The 4-H youth were able to learn about the nitrogen cycle and measure pH levels and how much ammonia and nitrogen was in water.



- The Arts Center hosted the inaugural EUP Fine Arts Day on March 11, 2025. Throughout the day, band practice sessions and select art classes took place, with 91 students and 22 teachers from EUPISD schools participating. The event concluded with an evening band performance, drawing a public audience of 205.
- On March 14, 2025, the Arts Center hosted EUP History Day. The event featured an awards ceremony open to the public, with 123 students participating and an audience of 168 attending the ceremony.
- *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead* enjoyed a successful run with 166 attendees overall. This poignant, thought-provoking production was brought to life by a diverse cast and crew, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and even a local high school student. The play, which reimagines the beloved Peanuts characters as teenagers facing complex challenges, sparked deep conversations and left a lasting impact on audiences. The event was also partnered with LSSU Counseling Services to provide resources for anyone affected by the show's content, ensuring a supportive environment for all attendees. Many guests returned for multiple performances, further engaging with the material and discussing its themes of identity, mental health, and self-discovery. The success of this production highlighted the power of theater to create meaningful dialogue and foster connections within the community.
- Music Director Casey Snyder and 22 members of the Lake Superior Sound Wave Pep Band traveled to Evansville, IN to support the Men's Basketball Team during their Elite Eight game in the NCAA Division II basketball tournament.



THE DOCTOR IS IN. Brooklyn Patchin (Creative Writing 2024) and Patrick Bickings (Parks and Recreation) star as Van's Sister (Lucy) and CB (Charlie Brown) in *Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead*.



## Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Martha Hutchens is currently serving on the board of the Michigan Branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

# **College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics**

## **Student Accomplishments and Activities**

- Fall Math 088 half semester courses had a pass rate of 95%, and the full semester course had a pass rate of 85%.
- Andrew Soma has been accepted into a Mathematics graduate program with a teaching assistantship that provides full funding at NC State University.
- Aaron Nachazel has been accepted to a graduate program in Mathematics Education at the University of Montana. He also has been awarded full funding for his graduate studies.

## **Academic Program Successes**

- The Lukenda School of Business (LSB) received reaffirmation of accreditation from the Accreditation Council of Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) for six of its bachelor degree programs. Following this process, ACBSP also awarded initial accreditation to LSB's Cannabis Business and Business Administration bachelor degrees.

## **Recruitment and Outreach**

- School of Engineering and Technology faculty and Industrial Advisory Board members promoted LSSU programs at FIRST Robotics competitions in Escanaba, Kentwood, Livonia and Midland.
- Professor David Leach promoted LSSU engineering programs at the VEX state competition in Green Bay, WI.
- Lukenda School of Business faculty and staff are actively preparing for the second cohort of MBA students set to begin in fall 2025. The recruitment target is 15 to 20 students, with an application deadline of July 15. To date, nine students have been admitted for fall 2025.
- The math department held Pi Day and hosted 50 middle school and 80 high school students from the Eastern Upper Peninsula for a fun day of math-related activities.

## **Community Engagement**

- Planned and organized by the School of Engineering and Technology, LSSU hosted a FIRST Robotics competition March 20-22. Thirty-nine high school teams from across Michigan attended the successful event.

## **New Programs**

- The LSSU Curriculum Committee approved the School of Computer Science and Mathematics proposal for an Associate of Science in Mathematics degree. This program will begin in Fall 2025, pending approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

## **Scholarship**

- Dr. Jennifer Gorman was one of three authors of the M3 Math Works Math Modeling Challenge run by SIAM (Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics) 2025 problem. Over 1,000 teams of high school students competed during the February 28th-March 3rd challenge weekend from

all across the US and Great Britain. Dr. Gorman was also part of the team that wrote two practice problems as well as co-hosted two webinars about the problem. Dr. Gorman was able to share information about LSSU to the high school students who participated in the webinars.

## College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

### Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Seven LSSU Fisheries and Wildlife students and two faculty (Drs. Brewer and Witt) attended the Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) Annual Meeting in Gaylord, March 19-20 (see photo below). Fisheries and Wildlife Management students Kylah Buikema, Torin Miller, Lauren Schagel, and Katie VanWormer presented posters of their research. Maddy Olson, Secretary for LSSU Fisheries and Wildlife Club gave an update on LSSU's TWS Student Chapter activity, and five LSSU students attended a workshop on methods and ethics of wildlife trapping. This was the largest showing at the TWS meeting in over a decade and we expect participation will continue to grow.



*Fisheries and Wildlife Management students and faculty attended and presented at the Michigan Wildlife Society annual meeting this March and had tremendous opportunities to learn about new research and network.*

- The LSSU student chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) hosted two outreach events with Three Shores Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas (CISMA) during the month of March: 1) a survey of local forests for the invasive hemlock woolly adelgid, and 2) a native wildflower seed planting and pot painting social event. Over 25 students participated in the SCB activities.
- LSSU's student Parks and Recreation Club hosted a Euchre tournament fundraising and social event at Bird's Eye Outfitters in March. Twenty-two teams participated in the event, including students, faculty, and members of the community. Our very own Dr. Witt and Dr. Parker, School of Natural Resources (SNR) faculty, came in as the runner-ups. The funds raised will help support more opportunities for students to participate in Parks and Recreation conferences.
- CFRE co-hosted an Ambassador event at the Barch CFRE building this month featuring Gyotaku, a Japanese art style that uses fish as printing plates (see photo below), and Native American beadwork. The event was co-hosted with the Shingabowassin Anishinaabe Student Organization (SASO) and was full with approximately 20 student participants.
- The School of Education (SoE) has been hosting monthly *Cookies, Cupcakes, and Conversations* events for Teacher Education students to informally meet and talk with faculty and administrators in SoE. We are seeing growing numbers participating each time, which is supporting a positive culture and learning environment in the SoE.





A CFRE ambassador's event was hosted at Barch CFRE with Shingabowassin Anishinaabe Student Organization and featured Gytaku and beading. It was a full room of activity all evening.

## Conference Presentations

- Dr. Kapuscinski gave a presentation to 90 participants of the Speaker Series - Oil Spill Response Multi-Partner Research Initiative, a webinar series focused on delivering research results to personnel from the Canadian Coast Guard and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Dr. Kapuscinski's presentation was an update on the oil research being done at CFRE in collaboration with Algoma University and University of Windsor.
- Dr. Brewer gave a presentation on March 20 at the Michigan Wildlife Society conference in Gaylord, MI. The presentation overviewed a recently published paper (*Using environmental DNA to detect radio-tagged King Ralls: Initial validation results and needed advancements*) and sought collaborators to expand on this work. There were approximately 100 people in attendance for the presentation. As mentioned above, four Fisheries and Wildlife Management students also presented posters on their research at this meeting.
- Dr. Stith, along with four School of Education students, presented their work on virtual learning at the MACUL (Michigan Association of Computer Users for Learning) conference in Detroit, MI, on March 20. During their presentation, they discussed their personal experiences in designing asynchronous math and science lessons for K-6 students. They also shared insights from analyzing survey results collected from their peers who created similar lessons. There were about a dozen participants in attendance for the presentation. Additionally, the group shared their results informally with conference attendees over the 2-day conference.
- Dr. McCall's paper was accepted at the American Educational Research Association's national conference in Denver, CO. The paper is called "*Facilitating Transdisciplinary STEM: Designing with Teachers for Project-Based Learning.*" Rather than kits or supplemental programming, this paper argues for designing with teachers because it affects their teaching practices, builds projects around local contexts, and creates meaningful learning experiences for students.



Brook Baker, Teacher Education major, and three other students travelled to Bay City Academy and Tipton Academy to facilitate STEM lessons for their students.

## Academic Program Successes

- SoE launched the Education Club, which will provide an opportunity to build community, take advantage of volunteer opportunities, and support students as they complete their program. The SoE did not have student organizations until now, so this is an exciting initiative to help create connections among students interested in education.

## Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Stith & Dr. Zeng talked to approximately 80 high school CTE teachers at the Spring MECA (Michigan Educational Careers Association) conference in Shelbyville, MI on March 5. They shared information about LSSU's teacher education/early childhood programs as well as college credit offered to high-school students who complete a qualified program.
- Dr. Stith, along with four School of Education students, visited two LSSU Charter Schools (Bay City Academy in Bay City, MI, and Tipton Academy in Garden City, MI) on March 18-19. During their visits, the group facilitated STEM challenges with elementary school students and promoted LSSU's teacher education program with high school students.
- CFRE fish hatchery provided five prospective students a tour of the hatchery as well as hosted two Sault High student job shadows.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke visited Northland College with Admissions to recruit potential transfer students. Seven students applied on-site and several have already scheduled visits to LSSU.
- CoGLEE participated in the FIRST Robotics Competition held at the Norris Center. Dr. Yong Zeng (SoE), Dr. Jill Witt (SNR), and students Ryan Quackenbush and Alayna Schulte (CFRE) showcased the opportunities available in the college to prospective students.
- SoE faculty worked with local experts from the EUP Intermediate School District to validate key assessments in the School of Education. This is an important step to ensure the SoE gains insights from local educators to strengthen the program.
- Ms. Beth Christiansen served on the MI Sea Grant review panel where she highlighted the partnership between CFRE and MI Sea Grant.
- 20 Pickford and 20 Brimley high school students who are participating in NOAA B-WET education project (funded by a grant to CFRE) visited Barch CFRE for programs focused on research, water quality, and data science. The high school students had the opportunity to interact with LSSU faculty, staff, and students and went home with LSSU recruitment swag bags.
- CFRE provided two programs for the Ojibwe Charter School 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade classes focusing on CFRE research, water quality, and food webs with a special focus on LSSU recruitment for the 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade group.
- Ms. Beth Christiansen visited the J.K.L. Bahweting 8th grade careers class with a follow-up fieldtrip for students at CFRE to explore aquatic macroinvertebrates, lake sturgeon, and a river system model designed by the 8th grade students. Two undergraduate student employees and four high school Natural Resources CTE students interacted with the J.K.L. students during their field trip to CFRE.
- Ms. Beth Christiansen visited Bay City Charter Academy for two days of school programs starting with a morning field trip to Bay City State Park for 10th grade students. Over the two days, Beth provided 10 unique programs for grades K, 1, 3, 4 and 7-12; approximately 300 student contacts.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke participated in the King-Chavez-Parks annual meeting in Marquette, Michigan to share her experiences and learn from others regarding the Morris Hood Educator Development program, which is a grant to SoE to develop teacher education pipelines for

economically disadvantaged students. This program is getting underway this year and will help grow educator pathways at LSSU.

## Publicity

- Dr. Jon Doubek was featured in the Sault News highlighting his extraordinary passion for and dedication to his students. Congratulations Jon. [Teacher Spotlight: Jonathan Doubek shares enthusiasm for the natural world at LSSU](#)

## Community Engagement

- After an on-site visit earlier this month, CFRE signed a contract with Victory Cruise Lines to offer private showings of the Barch CFRE building, including the Dr. Constance Baker Great Lakes Discovery Center to cruise guests.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke presented at Algoma University in an evening lecture series on Great Lakes Research Centres; approximately 40 students, staff, and community members attended.
- Great Lakes Discovery Center is open the first and third weekends of the month for a story and craft or special program. Approximately 60 visitors including over 20 children participated in these GLDC activities in March. Activities were developed and facilitated by CFRE E&O student assistants (Shelby Eavou, Alaina Kecskes, Brynn Jannetta, and Ryan Quackenbush, all students in CoGLEE).
  - March 1, 2025, story and craft day featured the book [Autumn Peltier, Water Warrior](#) by Carole Lindstrom
  - March 15, 2025, World Water Day—Children’s activities and information for the public highlighting LSSU Robotics club and USCG oil spill research. *All Too Clear: Beneath the Surface of the Great Lakes* Documentary was showing as well.

## Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- CFRE had its two pumps that supply water from the river into the building fail because the underground vault became filled with water. The replacement of these specialty pumps was covered by donor funds, for which we are extremely grateful, because they allowed our research operations and the lake sturgeon tank to continue. The vault still needs to be repaired to maintain dry conditions, but we have a plan in place to correct this by the end of the month. The physical plant team was instrumental in helping to resolve this issue.

## Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Jennifer Fager was invited to join the Upper Peninsula Center for Educational Development Board of Directors. This board consists of superintendents from the seven Upper Peninsula Intermediate School Districts and representatives from higher education institutions in the UP.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke participated in the annual advisor’s meetings for the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which advises the US and Canada on fisheries management in the Great Lakes. Dr. Moerke serves as an advisor to the Lake Superior Committee, which is a governor-appointed position.

# College of Health and Emergency Responders

## Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Joseph Susi (Kinesiology) and Dr. Russ Searight (Psychology) were Judges for the First Robotics Competition March 21 and 22.
- Faculty representatives from Criminal Justice (Prof. Herb Henderson), Nursing (Prof. Charlotte Kostelyk), and Kinesiology (Dr. Fred Williams) engaged with Robotics Competition attendees to promote programs at LSSU.
- Articulation agreements signed for the following:
  - Bay College: Fire Science Generalist (both with and without certification), and BS Cybersecurity
  - North Central Michigan College: BS Cybersecurity

## Community Engagement

- Criminal Justice, Fire Science, and EMS faculty are collaborating with the City Police Department to develop an International Police and Fire scholarship to honor the memory of Lieutenant/Paramedic, Jason Carstens, an LSSU alum who passed away in September 2024.

## Conference Presentations

- Dr. Kristina Olson-Pupek and Professor Stephanie Bowlby presented “Asparagus is a Healthy Option, Even If You Prefer Broccoli: Applying Learning Preference to College Students” at the National Education Association (NEA) Higher Education Conference held in Philadelphia. Their presentation related to debunking the myth of learning styles and discussing the neuroscience behind how people actually learn. The presentation included discussion of evidence-based learning strategies that incorporate engagement of multiple sensory modalities to teach students.



## Scholarship

- Professor Herb Henderson has completed data collection for his PhD Dissertation in Fall 2024 and is currently working on final chapters.
- Dr. Joseph Susi attended the GLATA conference March 12 – March 15, 2025 in Wheeling, IL. While there he interacted with LSSU AT Alumni Andrea Cripps (LSSU 2007), Andy Mendina (LSSU 2008), Michael Shampo (LSSU 2008) and Ryan Peroceschi (LSSU 2013).
- Dr. Sandra King (Nursing) served as an external reviewer for a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant application cycle. The purpose of this program is to train doctoral health service psychology students, interns, and postdoctoral residents in integrated, interdisciplinary behavioral health. The program will prepare trainees to provide behavioral



health services, including trauma informed care and substance use disorder prevention and treatment, in community-based primary care settings and in other high-need and high-demand areas. Developing health service psychology faculty is also a key aspect of this program.

### **Advisory Board Activity**

- The fall MCOLES and Law Enforcement Advisory board met in November for the annual Advisory Meeting. The Board recommended the AS Criminal Justice Cybersecurity program as a viable degree that would lead to employment. This recommendation may result in Perkins funding once the program is fully approved.

### **Upcoming Events**

- Simulation Event, Arts Center, Thursday April 17, 9:00 am
- Movie: Ferris Bueller's Day Off, Arts Center, Thursday April 17, 7:00 pm and Saturday April 18, 2:00 pm
- Open Mic Poetry Night co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Club, Library Commons, Thursday, April 17, 7:00 pm
- Continuing Education Class: Introduction to Watercolors, Library Commons, Saturday, April 19, 2:00 pm
- Book Art Book Folding Workshop, Library Commons, Monday, April 21, 4:00 pm
- NURS 432 Nursing of Populations Senior Nursing students are partnering with Kinesiology Club students and Criminal Justice students to host a health fair on Safety. Entrance is free to the event with food and mocktails being provided. Attendees will enjoy games, music, education, and a chance to win prizes, Taffy Abel Area, Tuesday, April 22, 6:00 pm
- Therapy Dogs, Library Commons, Friday, April 25, 12:00 pm (noon)
- *An Iliad*, Arts Center, Friday April 25, 7:00 pm
- Spring Senior Research Poster Symposium, SAC, Friday, April 25, 2:00 pm
- Spring Senior Research Oral Symposium for the School of Natural Resources, Considine, Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am
- *An Iliad*, Arts Center, Saturday, April 26, 2:00 pm
- Exam Slam, Library Commons, Sunday, April 27, 4:00 pm – 12:00 am (midnight)