

**Academic Affairs Update
June 16, 2025**

College of Arts and Sciences

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Maggie Chism (Creative Writing) and Brady Myers (Teacher Education) had artwork accepted for this year's Art in the Legislature initiative, which is a partnership between the Michigan Association of State Universities and the Michigan Legislature to promote art in everyday life.



"You Cannot Muzzle My Eyes" by Artist Maggie Chism. Made with sketchbook paper, Runtz container, acrylic paint markers, Permanent marker, and electric tape. "Even if you can't speak, you can still see."

"She is Michigan" by Artist Brady Myers. "Indigenous tribes have a strong, rooted history in our state. In fact, there are 12 federally recognized tribes just in Michigan. Saying this, this painting is meant to be a celebration and recognition of our state's rich cultural heritage. As well as the figure being native to Michigan, the painting also depicts both a male and female ruby-throated hummingbird and three American bumblebees, which is an endangered species in Michigan. Even the feathers in her hair belong to two native Michigan birds, the great-horned owl and the red-tailed hawk. Overall, this piece is meant to be a celebration of our state's culture as well as be convey a message about being one with nature and respecting our beautiful state."



Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Jason Garvon has been elected Chair of the Michigan Wildlife Council, created to educate about the importance of wildlife conservation and the role of hunters and anglers in preserving Michigan's great outdoor heritage for future generations.

Community Engagement

- The Arts Center was honored to host the New Canon Theatre Company's production of *An Iliad*, directed by Assistant Professor, Noah Lucé. The production also took place at California's First Theatre in Monterey, an iconic historical landmark, which is the first professional production in this space since 1999. This landmark event not only marked a powerful revival of the space but also a bold and poignant artistic achievement.

Luce's vision brought Homer's epic to life with searing relevance, blending classical grandeur with the urgency of the present moment. The production was met with enthusiastic acclaim from audiences and critics alike. As Agata Popęda of *The Monterey County Weekly* writes, "An Iliad picks up the story with a modern lens, with a call for world peace and a sensitivity to the power of the art of storytelling itself, as the poet breaks down periodically during her retelling of the violence. As Lucé says: 'Can't we stop telling this story?'"



Dr. Patty Gallagher stars in *Iliad* at California's First Theater in Monterey, California. The show was directed by Noah Lucé.

Capstone Courses

- Dr. Paul Kelso, Dr. Nalaka Ranasinghage, and students in the *GEOL 480: Advanced Field Study* course traveled to Montana to study geologic formations and processes. The three-week field course is essential as it provides hands-on experience, solidifying theoretical knowledge through observation and application.



Geology students and Dr. Paul Kelso (shown above) visiting Yellowstone National Park as part of the *GEOL 480 Advanced Field Study* course.



Mia Morgan (Geology, Conservation Biology), shown above, in the field during *GEOL 480 Advanced Field Study*.

College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics

Publications and Creative Works

- Dr. Masoud Zarepoor published a blog post on the COMSOL website related to his research focused on finding buried objects using seismic surface waves. Dr. Zarepoor and his team used COMSOL Multiphysics simulations during their research. <https://www.comsol.com/blogs/finding-buried-objects-using-seismic-surface-waves>

Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Paul Weber (Professor), Trevor Bryant (Lab Engineer) and Brendan Kroll (student) represented the School of Engineering and Technology at MiCareerQuest Northeast 2025 with over 1,100 middle and high school students in attendance at this career exploration event in Gaylord on May 15.

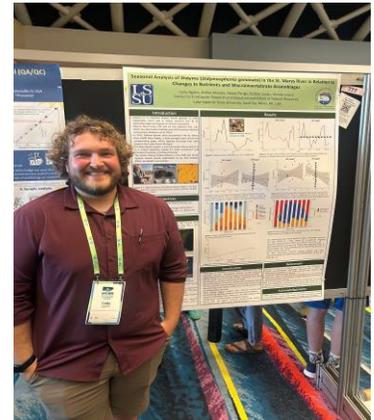
Conference Presentations

- Dr. Paul Bartus presented a talk at the 2025 Upper Peninsula Teaching and Learning Conference held at Michigan Technological University on May 9. His active learning presentation was titled “Inspiring High School Students to Study Computer Science at LSSU: Interactive Python Workshops to Create Drawings.”

College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Cody Ogden (Fisheries & Wildlife Management senior), presented his undergraduate research at the Society for Freshwater Science conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Cody also participated in numerous student activities and networked with professionals throughout the week. Cody’s research was titled “Seasonal Analysis of Didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in the St. Marys River in Relation to Changes in Nutrients and Macroinvertebrate Assemblages”.



- Cody Ogden also presented his research to the Fred Waara Chapter of Trout Unlimited (headquartered out of Marquette, MI). Cody was a recipient of their annual scholarship last year and they invited him back to share his findings.
- Shelby Eavou was the inaugural recipient of the Environmental Education Internship and will be working with Education and Outreach staff to develop and facilitate programs this summer. The scholarship is funded by the Robert and Nancy Christiansen Memorial Fund to provide future educators an opportunity for immersive experience designing and facilitating nature-based learning for children of all ages.
- Five students (Aiden Cardwell, Torin Miller, Gwen Phillips, Alana Schofield, Anthony Savoie, Fisheries and Wildlife Management) passed the national certification exam for aquatic insect identification. This is a national external exam for professionals, and it requires a 95% score to

become certified. The national pass rate is 28% and the *NRES 475 Aquatic Entomology* class had a 50% pass rate this year. The certification allows students to be hired at agencies and firms conducting biological assessments to determine the health of aquatic ecosystems.

- Two students (Audrey George and Sam Rimatzki, Conservation Biology) are working on a grant-funded project with Dr. Brewer surveying birds and amphibians as part of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Monitoring Program. LSSU and CFRE have been hiring students on this Great Lakes-wide project for nearly 15 years, with their focus on fish, invertebrates, and water quality. With Dr. Brewer's expertise, we are now expanding opportunities for students in wildlife conservation and management.
- Brooke Baker (Teacher Education) will be teaching Kindergarten at Rudyard Elementary.
- Ethan Nachazel (Teacher Education) will be teaching Special Education in Munising Public Schools.
- Shawna McDonald (Teacher Education) will be teaching Special Education in Rogers City, MI.
- Danielle Cabanaw (Teacher Education) will be teaching at Great Start Readiness Program.
- Kaitlyn Edington (Teacher Education) will be teaching 3rd Grade at Rudyard.
- Makayla McDaniels (Teacher Education) will be teaching at Head Start Western UP.
- Miranda Allen (Teacher Education) is headed to Michigan State University for Music Education.
- Brenna Pacey (Teacher Education) will be teaching Special Education in Newberry.
- David Miller (Teacher Education) will be teaching Special Education at Northwest High School (Jackson, MI).
- Lizzy Rometti (Teacher Education) will be teaching Kindergarten at West Iron County Public Schools.
- Ila Bisson (Teacher Education) will be teaching at St. Ignatius Catholic School (Rogers City, MI).
- Elle Cottle (Teacher Education) will be teaching early childhood at Pickford Area Schools.
- Zoe Williams (Teacher Education) will be teaching at North Central Junior/Senior High (Powers, MI).
- Gwen Phillips (Fisheries and Wildlife) was accepted into a MS program at the University of Vermont.
- Ellie Prow (Fisheries and Wildlife) started a full-time position with the Student Conservation Association of Alaska.
- Cody Ogden (Fisheries and Wildlife), Connor Arnold (Fisheries and Wildlife), and Wendy Leisner (Biochemistry) all started full-time positions with CFRE as research technicians.
- Andrew Roemer (Fisheries and Wildlife) started a full-time position for Pheasants Forever.

- Abbigail Schrader (Fisheries and Wildlife) will be working for the Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association (NSRAA) as a Fish Hatchery Technician in Sitka, AK.
- Alayna Schulte (Parks and Recreation) will be working at Holland State Park.

Fundraising/Gifts

- CFRE received a gift of \$10,000 from the Robert and Nancy Christiansen Memorial Fund to support the first environmental education internship at CFRE. This is expected to be an annual contribution that will fund a Teacher Education student to support children's and community programs at CFRE during the summer.

Publications

- Debruyne, R., E. Roseman, A. Moerke, L. Fry, M. Twiss, and S. Tank. 2025. [Visioning and Conceptual Framework for Coordinating Great Lakes Connecting Waters Research and Monitoring](#). Journal of Great Lakes Research
- Tran-Khac V, Doubek JP, Patil V, Stockwell JD, Adrian R, Chang C-W, Dur G, Lewandowska A, Rusak JA, Salmaso N, Straile D, Thackeray SJ, Venail P, Bhattacharya R, Brentrup J, Bruel R, Feuchtmayr H, Gessner MO, Grossart H-P, Ibelings BW, Jacquet S, MacIntyre S, Matsuzaki, S-I, Nodine E, Nöges P, Rudstam L, Soulignac F, Verburg P, Znachor P, Zohary T, Anneville O. 2025. Using long-term ecological datasets to unravel the impacts of short-term meteorological disturbances on phytoplankton communities. *Freshwater Biology* 70(5), e70023.

Conference Presentations

- Leitz, C. and A. Moerke. Changes in macroinvertebrate assemblages in Michigan cold-water streams 10 years post-invasion by New Zealand mudsnails. Society for Freshwater Science 2025 Annual Conference.
- Moerke, A., K. Kapuscinski, T. Calappi, S. Dunn, D. Heckman, C. Leitz, N. Perigo. Balancing hydrology and ecology: A century of managing Lake Superior outflows in the St. Marys River Rapids. Society for Freshwater Science 2025 Annual Conference.
- Ogden, C., A. Moerke, N. Perigo, R. Landis, W. Leisner. Seasonal Analysis of *Didymosphenia geminata* in the St. Marys River in Relation to Changes in Nutrients and Macroinvertebrate Assemblages. Society for Freshwater Science 2025 Annual Conference.
- Perigo, N., A. Moerke, B. Ranson Olson, R. Pillsbury. Assessing extent, sensitivity of eDNA detection methods, and potential drivers of the nuisance freshwater diatom, *Didymosphenia geminata*, in northern Michigan waters, USA. Society for Freshwater Science 2025 Annual Conference.

Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Stith, Dr. Zeng, Prof. Davis, and Dr. Moerke all participated in Teacher Appreciation breakfasts organized by Student Life. These were great opportunities to connect with principals and students in the region and increase our positive interactions. Schools visited included Sault, Brimley, Pickford, and Rudyard High Schools.

- Dr. Ashley Moerke visited Northwestern Michigan College and Northwest Education Services (NES) to discuss expanding articulation agreements and strengthening partnerships. NES hosts all of Traverse City's Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, which enroll over 1,500 juniors and seniors each year. They have 22 programs, which strongly overlap with many LSSU majors including Fisheries and Wildlife, Teacher Education, Engineering, Nursing, Criminal Justice and more. Once our articulation agreements are completed, we are working on organizing an on-site visit for recruitment.

- Mr. Torin Miller and Dr. Kapuscinski participated in the MiCareerQuest event on May 15 in Gaylord, MI (see photo to the right). Approximately 1,700 students registered for the event. Torin and Dr. Kapuscinski led 8-12th grade students through an interactive "salmon investigation" exercise that mimicked how our undergrads collect and work up Atlantic Salmon broodstock (reproductively mature adults) at the CFRE Fish Hatchery. Students measured the fish, determined their sex from external characteristics like the kype (hook-shaped lower jaw on mature males), and examined the fish for parasites and lamprey wounds. Torin and Dr. Kapuscinski also talked to prospective students about LSSU's academic programs and careers in the outdoors.



- During this month, over 100 students (70 ninth graders) and 40 adults from 6 schools visited CFRE for school programs.
 - We welcomed 42 ninth grade students from Grand Traverse Academy who visited CFRE and the hatchery as part of a visit to LSSU. Student workers Aiden, Alaina, Cody, Ryan, and Torin also shared their LSSU student experience and CFRE work, research and course opportunities.
 - Fourth graders from JKL visited over the course of three separate days, bringing a total of 62 students and 6 adults for activities focused on invasive species, which they had studied during a previous unit.
 - Pickford Public Schools: 5th grade class of 35 students, 4 adults
 - Pellston High School: 28 students and 2 adults.
 - St. Mary's Catholic School: 13 elementary students and 4 adults
 - Three Lakes Academy: 20 kindergarteners and 22 adults
- Dr. John Doubek and CFRE research technician, Nikki Perigo, gave guest lectures to the Brimley/CFRE CTE class. This is a great way to introduce these students to our LSSU faculty and staff so they are engaged with LSSU.
- The School of Education finalized another partnership with VESi and the Tennessee Education Association to provide continuing education coursework. This is the fifth partnership agreement

signed this year, which will increase LSSU's visibility and provide external revenue to support educational programs.

Community Engagement

- Victory Cruises began on May 2 with 18 visitors to CFRE. In total, we have welcomed approximately 130 guests from four additional shore excursions this month. We expected 347 more ships throughout the summer into September. These visits financially support our student CFRE student outreach and education staff in the summer.
- Hosted Golden Grads reception at CFRE
- Great Lakes Discovery Center public hours: 113 visitors during 3 Saturdays in May (details below)
 - 73 visitors on graduation Saturday, May 3 (61 adults and 12 children). This included at least 6 graduates and their families.
 - 22 guests attended Sturgeon Saturday, May 17 (14 adults, 8 children), celebrating our lake sturgeons' 25th year.
 - 18 visitors on May 24 (13 adults, 5 children)
- Two special tours were given of the building for a total of 11 community members.
- The Brimley/CFRE CTE students kayaked around Island #3 in the St. Marys River to survey waterfowl and assess the island for breeding habitat. This marks the beginning of activities in partnership with the Friends of Pippin Land Trust. Future goals include installing duck boxes and planting oak or maple to replace the dead ash population.
- The CTE class kicked off learning about invasive species by removing buckthorn at Laker Woods with CISMA Outreach Specialist Lily Lacrosse. They also began efforts to map buckthorn in this area using an ArcGIS Field Map form created by second year student Mark Osborne.



Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- CFRE is in the first phases of adding fiber and communication lines to the boat house. This project will allow internet and network capabilities into the offices on the second floor of the garage. It will also add exterior cameras to enhance security. This will be funded using donor funds.
- The CFRE exterior vault that holds part of the river water intake system is undergoing renovations after a major pump failure occurred due to water leaks. We are currently waiting on a new hatch to be fabricated and installed, which reduces the risk of water seeping into the vault

and protects CFRE's infrastructure. The costs for the pump replacement are covered by CFRE donor funds and the vault repairs are being covered by Spence Brothers, the original contractor.

- The hatchery electrical upgrade began on June 6. This will take out power in the east end of the plant for up to two weeks. These costs have been covered by funds donated to Cloverland Electric to support the hatchery.

Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Ashley Moerke participated in the Great Lakes Fishery Commission Annual Meeting in Traverse City, Michigan. Dr. Moerke serves as a governor-appointed advisor to the Lake Superior Committee of the GLFC, which provides direction to the US and Canada on fisheries management in the Great Lakes.
- Dr. Yong Zeng was appointed to the Oscar S. Causey Award Committee in the Literacy Research Association, which awards scholars and educators for their outstanding contributions to reading and literacy research.

Scholarship Activity

- Dr. Toni Stith participated in the Understanding and Advancing PK-6 Preservice Teachers' Science Learning Conference at Alma College. While there, she discussed research-based developments related to supporting preservice elementary teachers' STEM learning with post-secondary STEM and science teacher education faculty across Michigan.
- Dr. Dustin Brewer is leading a US EPA funded research project on birds and amphibians in Great Lakes coastal wetlands.
- CFRE faculty and staff have begun summer research on over six major and externally-funded initiatives including oil spill research, aquatic invasive species management, fish response to river restoration, fish habitat in the Mackinac Straits, larval whitefish growth dynamics, and lake sturgeon telemetry.

Advisory Board Activity

- The first in-person meeting of the geospatial advisory board was held on May 7, 2025. The three advisory board members (Nathan Coon- EUP Planning, Don Dunkin- Soil and Structures, and Anthony Rinna- Inter Tribal Council), CoGLEE Dean Dr. Moerke, and geospatial faculties Dr. Kandel, and Dr. Parker attended the meeting. Provost Muller welcomed and thanked the advisory board members at the beginning. The board discussed a range of topics including recent approval of the program for Perkin's V funding, program's structure, resources and activities, trending GIS skills in market and proposed modification of courses, future of the program, and potential expansion of the board.

College of Health & Emergency Responders

Publications and Creative Works

- David, E.,** & Searight, H. R. (2025). Peyote: Neurochemistry, psychological effects, cultural aspects, religious perspectives, and legality. Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior. Springer. (**Emma David graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology in 2024—She is currently engaged in Child Advocacy Work through the Bay Mills Health Center)
- Rami, F., Searight, H. R., Dryjanska, L., & Hall, M. C. (2025). Modern slavery and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Canadian Psychology/Psychologie canadienne.
- Dryjanska, L., Searight, H.R., Brown, K. et al. (2025). International Psychology Advocacy for the Integration of Social Determinants of Health, identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Human Arenas <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42087-025-00501-1>
- Book Review: Searight, H. R. (2024). Challenging Mental Health Professionals to Look Beyond the Consulting Room: A Review of Becoming a Citizen Therapist: Integrating Community Problem-Solving into Your Role as a Healer. Journal for Social Action in Counseling & Psychology, 16(2), 61-71

Honors and Awards

- Kinesiology Program: The Kinesiology Club was recognized as “Club of the Year” for the fifth year in a row at the Student Government Awards Ceremony. Kinesiology Senior Katelyn Moore was recognized as “Senior of the Year” and the Kinesiology Department was recognized as “Department of the Year.”

Community Engagement

- LSSU Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) recruits participated in this year's Bike Rodeo, where 41 kids and teens participated in the bike safety obstacle courses and speed run. MyMichigan gave away bike helmets and Soo Cycle Bike Shop did bike safety inspections. This event is a great connection between LSSU MCOLES Academy and the Sault Police Department.



Conference Presentations

- Bowlby, S. L., & Olson-Pupek, K. J. (2025). Asparagus is still a healthy option even if you prefer broccoli: Applying learning preferences to college students. 2025 National Education Association Higher Education Conference.
- Susi, Joe (2025). Presentation at the Upper Peninsula Teaching and Learning Conference (UPTLC) "First Year Fears".

Upcoming Events

- UP Men's North Advocacy, Arts Center, June 25, 6:00pm-9:00pm
- Movie Series: Twister, Arts Center, June 27, 7:30pm-9:30pm
- International Bridge Walk, Arts Center, June 28, 7:30am-9:00am