



Academic Affairs Update August 15, 2025

College of Arts and Sciences

Recruitment and Outreach

- The Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association (MESTA) held their summer field conference at LSSU, hosted by Dr. Paul Kelso. The MESTA conference participants were primarily junior high and high school earth science teachers, along with community college professors. The MESTA conference included two days of activities at LSSU and throughout the Sault region. While here, they learned about the region's geology and participated in four days of field excursions. Teachers collected rock and mineral samples for their classrooms, from Sault Ste. Marie to Terrace Bay, Ontario, on the north side of Lake Superior. While in the Sault, the MESTA conference participants, plus LSSU Dean, Dr. Steven Johnson, and LSSU Science Laboratory Coordinator, Nicholas Gordon, were given a behind-the-scenes tour of the Soo Locks construction project with the Army Corps of Engineers, where they collected Jacobsville sandstone samples, which are being excavated as part of the project. The MESTA group toured the LSSU Micro Analysis and Spectroscopic Characterization (MASC) Lab led by Nicholas Gordon and the LSSU Kemp Mineral Resources Museum led by Dr. Paul Kelso, and wrapped up the conference with a dinner at the LSSU Crow's Nest.



Construction at the Soo Locks Project



MESTA participants examine a rock outcrop.

Gifts

- The School of Chemistry, Environmental, and Geosciences received a large donation of willemite and zincite from the Franklin and Sterling Hills Mines. Ten percent of all known minerals can be found in the mine's vicinity, located in Sussex County, New Jersey, and thirty-five of those are unique to that site.

Appointments to Boards and Professional Organizations

- Dr. Martha Hutchens has been elected treasurer of the Michigan branch of the American Society for Microbiology.

College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science, and Mathematics

Publications and Creative Works

- Dr. Saad Ashraf co-authored a paper that has been accepted for presentation at the Midwest Academy of Management Conference in Cleveland, OH this October.

Hajian, H., Disfani, O., & Ashraf, S. *Greed at the Front Desk: How Competition and Moral Disengagement Drive Unethical Loyalty.*

Community Engagement

- Dr. Georgi Kalchev joined the Uncommon Econ Faculty Evaluation Community. As a Faculty Evaluator, Dr. Kalchev will participate in a research study to test the impact of the Uncommon Econ instructional modules in Principles of Microeconomics courses this fall.

College of Great Lakes and Ecology and Education

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) student technicians, including Alana Schofield pictured below, assisted the US Fish & Wildlife Service with gill net surveys targeting lake sturgeon in the St. Marys River. This unique opportunity allowed students to learn new skills, network with potential future employers, and in Alana's case, collect diet samples from lake sturgeon for her senior thesis.



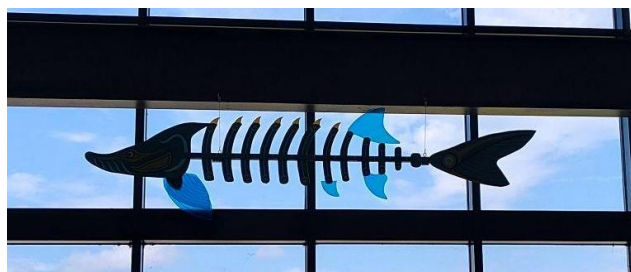
- Twenty-three School of Education students are scheduled to student teach in Fall 2025 at schools across Michigan and in Canada.

Grants

- Drs. Jon Doubek and Kevin Kapuscinski were recently awarded a continuation of a grant with the US Geological Survey for \$56,491 to study factors affecting larval and juvenile lake whitefish and cisco abundance in Lake Michigan. This work will be completed in spring and summer of 2026, and will provide semester and summer funding for multiple undergraduate students and research technicians.

Fundraising and Gifts

- A 10 foot sturgeon sculpture made of wood and glass was donated to CFRE by local artist Diane Adamo and is currently hanging in the Great Lakes Discovery Center.



Publications

- Wander HL, Lofton ME, **Doubek JP**, Howard DW, Hipsey MR, Thomas RQ, Carey CC. Warming air temperatures alter the timing and magnitude of reservoir zooplankton biomass. Ecological Modelling, In Press.

Conference Presentations

- Sam Rimatzki presented his undergraduate research at Winous Point Marsh Conservancy's Great Lakes Wetlands and Waterfowl Grad Symposium.
- Dr. Bo Liu participated in the PEOPLE 2025 conference in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada. He gave an oral presentation on "Physicochemical and Behavioral Changes of Oil during Weathering Processes in Freshwater Environments" and also chaired two sessions.
- Dr. Britton Ranson Olson attended the PEOPLE conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, and visited the Memorial University Ocean Science Laboratory. She met with collaborators at Memorial University to discuss their study "In Situ Biodegradation of Oil in Freshwater", which is funded by Natural Resources Canada's Multi-partner Research Initiative.
- At the Northern Michigan Area Committee (NMAC) meeting in Petoskey, CFRE Research Technician Drew Heckman provided a presentation highlighting CFRE's involvement in evaluating low-cost oil sensors for use in the Great Lakes region. NMAC is led by the Sector Sault Coast Guard with attendees including state, federal, and tribal agencies, with a focus on topics like regional oil spill response.

Honors and Awards

- Shelby Eavou, School of Education senior and CFRE Environmental Education Intern, was awarded a conference scholarship for the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education conference in October 2025.

Academic Program Successes

- The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) visited campus July 14-15 to review the proposed 4+1 Master's program in Fisheries and Wildlife Management. After meetings with LSSU administration, School of Natural Resource faculty, and external partners including representatives from the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Bay Mills Indian Community, and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, LSSU received a positive recommendation. The HLC evaluators' recommendation will be considered by the HLC Institutional Actions Council at an upcoming meeting.

Recruitment and Outreach

- Dr. Jennifer Fager and Professor Becky Davis have been working with colleagues at BMCC to develop a 3+1 transfer agreement for the Early Childhood licensure program.

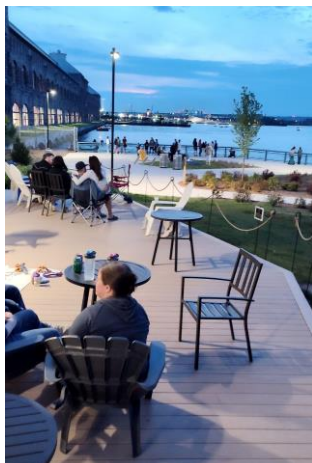
- Dr. Ashley Moerke met with Washtenaw Community College to facilitate articulation agreements for Teacher Education. WCC is the lead community college for Talent Together and an important pipeline for students in educational pathways.
- LSSU's CFRE provided educational recruitment experiences at the Richard and Theresa Barch CFRE building and the CFRE Fish Hatchery for 58 students and 12 adults through the following unique summer programs for secondary students. Programs included interactions and tours with LSSU students in natural resources career paths and activities involving fish and wildlife.
 - Alpena Community College TRiO talent search (19 secondary students, 4 adults)
 - Project Creekwise, Saranac schools (7 secondary students, 2 adults)
 - MSU Gear Up (17 secondary students, 3 adults)
 - Greening of Detroit (15 secondary students, 5 adults)
- Approximately 73 students and 15 adults from the following K-12 schools, camps, and organizations experienced special programs that included activities such as: collecting and studying aquatic macroinvertebrates; modeling a river system; learning about lake sturgeon and Atlantic salmon; gyotaku (the Japanese art of fish painting); exploring CFRE's rain gardens.
 - 4H Aquatankers aquaculture program (3 elementary children, 2 adults)
 - Les Cheneaux Community Schools summer STEAM camp (10 elementary participants, 3 adults)
 - LSSU Summer Kids Camp programs at Pendill's Beach, 2 programs, 1st-3rd and 4th-7th, (approximately 30 students, 5 LSSU student camp counselors)
 - LSSU Summer Kids Camp programs at CFRE, 2 programs, 1st-3rd and 4th-7th, (approximately 30 students, 5 LSSU student camp counselors)
- Beth Christiansen (CFRE Great Lakes Education and Outreach Specialist) and Shelby Eavou (CFRE Environmental Education Intern and School of Education senior) guided students from the Regent Park Scholars summer school, a program of one of LSSU's Charter School Academies, in exploration of macroinvertebrates, lake sturgeon, Atlantic salmon rearing, and Atlantic salmon dissection (5 programs, K-8, approximately 80 students, 12 adults).

Community Engagement

- During Soo Locks Engineer's Day, more than 1,000 people visited CFRE and participated in 13 activities and informational displays showcasing the life and health of the Great Lakes region's freshwater resources. Visitors not only learned what was living in and around the water, but how they can help protect water and other natural resources.



- Fresh off the heels of Engineers Day, CFRE hosted an LSSU night on the 4th of July with live music (donor-sponsored) on the deck. We had over 150 people attend, with everyone enjoying the music and the downtime before the fireworks. We look forward to holding a larger event next year for community engagement.



- CFRE Education and Outreach student assistants and Beth Christiansen provided opportunities for visitors to explore live macroinvertebrates and Atlantic salmon in addition to a game identifying nine different Great Lakes fishes, through the following events.
 - Les Cheneaux Watershed Council Frog Festival (approximately 250 people)
 - Superior District Library Block Party (approximately 500 people)
- CFRE Environmental Education Intern, Shelby Eavou, worked with Bayliss Public Library Children's Librarian to plan a special visit to CFRE for children and adults participating in a *Libraries Love Lakes* story time at the library followed by a craft at CFRE (12 children, 9 adults). Sheila Hatch, Youth Services Librarian, said *"I wanted to add a thanks to you and your staff for hosting Bayliss patrons after a successful story time at the CFRE Discovery Center. I'd love to continue to collaborate and connect this fall and beyond!"*

Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- Fiber installation was completed in the CFRE Boat Building, which now provides added work space for CFRE staff, visiting collaborators, and future graduate students.
- Cloverland completed upgrades to the electrical service lines that power the CFRE Fish Hatchery. This collaborative project included an investment of donor funds by LSSU to provide materials and a donation of personnel time by Cloverland to ensure the hatchery has a safe and reliable power source.

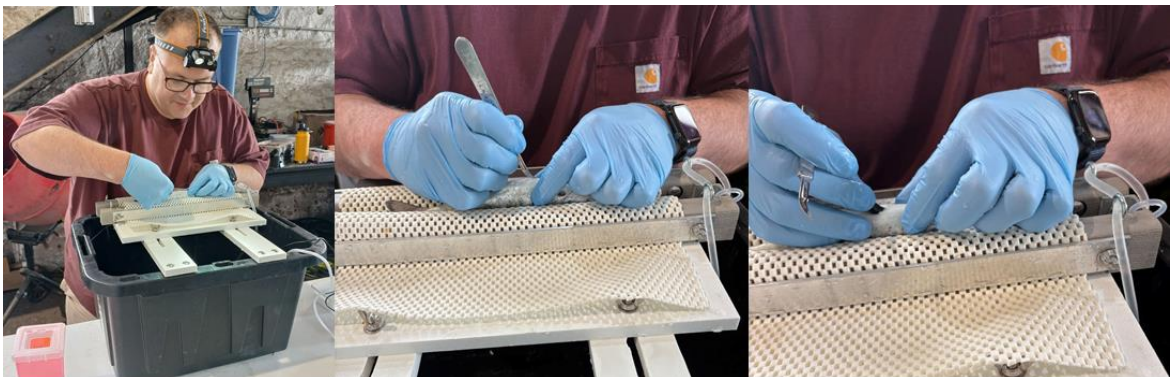
Scholarship Activity

- CFRE faculty, staff, and student employees, in collaboration with colleagues from Algoma University and University of Windsor, wrapped up a 30-day experiment examining the effects of

oil spills on coastal wetland food webs at CFRE's outdoor mesocosm facility. The experiment provided unique research and networking opportunities for several LSSU undergraduates, some of which are leveraging the experience to complete their senior theses. This multi-year project is funded by Natural Resources Canada's Multi-partner Research Initiative.



- Dr. Tom Binder (Director, Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observing System) and crew, in collaboration with CFRE personnel, conducted surgical implantation of acoustic transmitters in 40 age-1 Atlantic salmon reared at the CFRE Fish Hatchery. These fish were stocked at the Little Rapids Bridge to assess their use of restored habitats in the area. This NOAA-funded project is led by Drs. Ashley Moerke and Kevin Kapuscinski, and results will be used to evaluate efforts to restore habitats in the Little Rapids area.



- Dr. Kandel attended ESRI's User Conference that included an Education Summit and AI Summit in San Diego, CA, during July 12-17, 2025, to get refreshed with the technological updates and new developments in GIS for next generation education. During this conference he attended many academic- and industry-related sessions, hands-on-learning labs, and networking events.

College of Health & Emergency Responders

Gifts

- Michigan Department of Health and Human Services provided the EMS program with a new LTV 1200 transport ventilator (retired regional items, unused/new). Herb Henderson provided

unused/new condition airway trainers (4 child, 5 Adult), a Pleural Decompression trainer torso, multiple portable suction units, and oxygen delivery supplies.

Publications and Creative Works

- Searight, HR., & Dowd, S. I.* (2025). Consideration of Culture and The Elimination of Poverty, and COVID-19: Is It Time for a Universal Basic Income? In *Modern Cross-Cultural Management: Understanding Diversity in Global Business* (pp. 321-353). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. (*Sawyer Dowd is a Spring 2025 graduate who will be attending University of Michigan School of Law this fall.)
- Searight, H. R., Anderson, M.*, & Lamma, S. *(2025). Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) for Patients with Psychiatric Conditions: Clinical, Ethical, and Religious Implications. In *Encyclopedia of Religious Psychology and Behavior* (pp. 1-10). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland. (*Both Madison Anderson and Skylar Lamma are Spring 2025 graduates. Madison Anderson will be attending the MSW program at University of Michigan this fall.)
- Akande, A., Bobek, V., Kellner, D., Goodman, M., Pinto, J. F., Searight, H R. ... & Jones, D. (2025). Changing Tides: Twilight and Dawn in the Modern Cross-Cultural Management Sea. In *Modern Cross-Cultural Management: Understanding Diversity in Global Business* (pp. 3-14). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.

Recruitment and Outreach

- The School of Nursing led numerous community and school engagement activities this summer. Highlights include:
 - Malcolm High School Simulation Tour: Students experienced hands-on exposure to clinical environments and basic nursing skills during a guided tour through our simulation center.
 - ISD Learning Center Skill Stations: A group of approximately 10 students participated in mini-stations that introduced CPR techniques and basic skills.
 - Brimley 6th Grade Tour: The Simulation Center welcomed young learners for an engaging walkthrough of simulation areas, helping spark early interest in healthcare careers.
 - Innocademy School Visit: Students toured the Simulation Center and explored hands-on learning with nursing and healthcare technology.
 - LSSU Nursing Summer Camp (July 14–16): Thanks to a recently awarded grant, LSSU School of Nursing hosted high school students from across the Eastern Upper Peninsula (EUP) and Northern Ontario for a three-day immersive experience. Students learned how to take vital signs and conduct mini head-to-toe assessments. They learned the use of nursing tools such as stethoscopes, pen lights, and PPE. They also learned the basics of CPR, AED and First Aid. During the camp they had both hospital workshop experiences and simulation activities and had the opportunity to explore careers through a panel of practicing nurses.
- The School of Criminal Justice, Fire Sciences and Emergency Services held a summer camp for 9-12th grade high school students interested in the career fields of CJ, FS and/or EMS. The campers are exposed to law enforcement specific experiences through instruction and then practical application such as radio communications, Activities also included tactical handcuffing, room searches, officer down recovery, door breaching, fingerprint dusting and collection, tire tread casing, digital microscope analysis of ballistics, cybersecurity and emergency vehicle operation using the Virtual simulator. The students learn about and practice wearing firefighter

bunker gear and SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus). Then they are instructed in hazardous materials and practice using hazardous material safety suits. In EMS the students are instructed in CPR/AED, first aid, and Stop the Bleed. They then use their new knowledge through practical application in scenarios. The students go on three tours during which they interact with the City Police, Fire Department and a Federal Agency (the MSP Cybersecurity team).

- Kinesiology faculty participated in admissions programming for Indian River High School (16 students), Alpena Gear Up (19 students), MSU Gear Up (14 students) and Greener Detroit (14 students).

Community Engagement

- Parametric students worked with the LSSU Summer Camp Program participants on learning pediatric patient assessments.

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Joseph D. Susi II presented at the UPTLC Conference at MTU in May on "Freshman Fears."

Scholarship

- Four LSSU nursing faculty completed certification to become Basic Life Support instructors, strengthening in-house capacity to train future healthcare providers.

Upcoming Events

- Zuzu Acrobats, Arts Center, August 29th, 7:00- 9:00pm
- Zuzu Acrobats, Arts Center, August 30th, 2:30 – 4:30 pm
- Peter Bergin, Rag Time Piano, Arts Center, September 12th, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
- Fish Thief Documentary, Arts Center, September 18th, Time TBD



"Balancing skill and strength — the Zuzu Acrobats are set to amaze LSSU with their high-energy, gravity-defying performance!"