

## Academic Affairs Update August 15, 2026

### College of Arts and Sciences

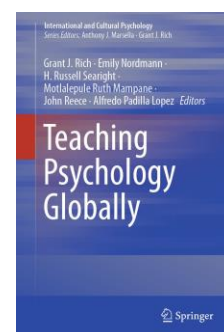
#### Publications and Creative Works

- This summer, Assistant Professor Adam St. John performed in three productions with the Michigan Shakespeare Festival. The performances took place at the Hillberry Gateway Theatre in Detroit. Prof. St. John portrayed the roles of Lord Stanley in "Richard III", Friar Francis in "Much Ado about Nothing" (picture to the right), and Squire Sullen in "The Beaux' Stratagem".



- Dr. Russ Searight recently published a book, *Teaching Psychology Globally*.

Rich, G., Nordmann, E., Searight, R., Mampane, R., Padilla-Lopez, A., & Reece, J. (June, 2026.) *Teaching Psychology Globally*. Springer Publishers



- Dr. Russ Searight published a book chapter and several articles over the summer.

Carlino, F. & Searight, H.R. (2026). Bridging past and present: Exploring the history of higher education framework and psychology in Canada, with applied interviewing skills in the classroom. In G.Rich, et al (Eds). *Teaching psychology globally*. Springer.

Searight, H.R. (2026) Alfred Russel Wallace: Science, Mesmerism, and Spiritualism in T. Shackelford, et al (Eds.) *Encyclopedia of Religion and Psychology*. Springer Publishers.

Searight, H. R. (2026). The Medicalization of Black Resistance: Frantz Fanon, Psychiatry, Social Control and Decolonization. *Human Arenas*, 1-18.

\*Groover, M. G., & Searight, H. R. (2026) Exposure to Mental Health Content on TikTok: Associations with Mood Disturbance and Body Image among Young Adult Women. *Open Journal of Depression*, **15**, 53-66

\*Lake State Superior State Student, Graduated, May 2026; accepted into two graduate programs in social work.

#### Community Engagement

- Dr. Steven Johnson has been selected to participate in the American Chemical Society Sciences Coaches program. This year he will work with Sara Sholten from James T. Jones elementary school in Gladstone, MI and Mari Sirk from Sault Area High School. The ACS Science Coaches Program pairs volunteer chemists with K–12 teachers to bring real-world chemistry into the classroom through hands-on activities, mentoring, and classroom support. Together, they inspire

students' interest in science while strengthening chemistry education through year-long school partnerships.

## Conference Presentations

- Searight, H.R. (May 26, 2026) Higher Education Assessment and its Discontents. Upper Peninsula Teaching and Learning Conference, Marquette, Michigan.
- Searight, H.R. (May 20, 2026), Human Trafficking and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal. Virtual Panel Celebrating the Special Issue.
- Searight, H. R. (July 25, 2026). Moral philosophy as a foundation for ethics in psychology: An overlooked dimension of psychological literacy. Presented as part of the symposium. International Council of Psychology Educators (ICOPE): National Development and Innovation in Psychology Education. 31st International Congress of Applied Psychology, Florence, Italy.
- Searight, H. R., Lamma, S\*\*, & Anderson, M\*\*. (July 23, 2026). Medically assisted dying (MAiD) for psychiatric conditions: Ethical analysis and the role of psychologists [Conference presentation]. 31st International Congress of Applied Psychology.

\*\* Author Note: Skylar Lamma and Madison Anderson are 2025 graduates of Lake Superior State University. Madison Anderson is currently completing a Master of Social Work degree at the University of Michigan.

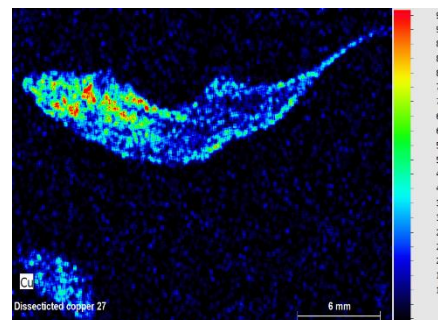
## Scholarship

- Dr. Mark Zierden and Dr. Derek Wright have been working with multiple research groups throughout Michigan and Canada in the campus Micro Analysis and Spectroscopic Characterization (MASC) Lab.
  - Dr. Heng-Hsuan Chu, Associate Professor of Biology at Northern Michigan University, spent a week on campus to analyze samples using the micro x-ray fluorescence ( $\mu$ XRF) spectrometer housed in the MASC Lab. Dr. Chu studies how toxic elements like arsenic are transported and stored in agricultural crops, including cultivated and wild tomatoes.
  - Dr. Bill Dew, Associate Professor of Biology at Algoma University, and his research students, Terry and Wendy, continue to work in the MASC Lab using the  $\mu$ XRF and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). Their group is working to understand the effects of metals like copper and nickel on zebrafish olfactory systems. These metals may interfere with their ability to sense their environment, prey, and predators.



Research Students Terry and Wendy adjacent to the  $\mu$ XRF (Left)

Heat map of copper in zebrafish. Red indicates high amounts, blue indicates low amount. (Right)



## College of Professional Studies

### Academic Program Success

- Lake Superior State University's STEP-UP Prison Education program proudly celebrated its inaugural Commencement, honoring 15 graduates who earned their Associates in Small Business Administration, Certificate in Business Entrepreneurship, and Certificate in Business Fundamentals through the LSSU's correctional education program. The milestone ceremony recognized the graduates' dedication, perseverance, and academic achievement. Following the commencement, graduates, their families, faculty, and staff gathered for a luncheon, where they shared stories, celebrated this remarkable accomplishment, and reflected on the meaningful impact of education. The event marked an inspiring new chapter for the STEP-UP program and reinforced LSSU's commitment to expanding educational opportunities that transform lives.
- LSSU's Mechatronics Associate Degree was approved for Federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Perkins V) funding. Specialty and support courses within this program are now eligible for financial support as prescribed under the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act.
- Over the past year, Dr. Ralf Wilhelms has actively collaborated with Inspire Higher Ed, AACSB, GMAC, and the Graduate Business Curriculum Roundtable on a national initiative examining how business schools are integrating AI into curriculum, teaching, governance, and student learning. Dr. Wilhelms contributed to the research and shared LSSU's ongoing efforts in embedding AI across our business programs. As a result, the July 2026 edition of A Framework for Artificial Intelligence in Business Education features LSSU among 84 business schools worldwide recognized for their work in this area. This recognition highlights the leadership of the Lukenda School of Business and demonstrates that we are contributing to conversations that are helping define the future direction of business education—not only within our region but across the broader higher education community. (<https://inspirehighered.com/report>)

## College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

### Student Highlights & Accomplishments

- In early July, student research technicians at CFRE (Frankie Albrough, Ethan Byrum, Brenden Conger, Eli Herriman, and AJ Pircochta) concluded their sampling efforts for larval Lake Whitefish and zooplankton along the northern shore of Lake Michigan. The student technicians are continuing this research by processing the zooplankton and larval fish samples collected. This research has been conducted in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as part of the Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU).



- CFRE Fish Hatchery student assistants wrapped up another season of Sea Lamprey trapping efforts alongside the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). CFRE has a contract that employs students to assist the USFWS in capturing and removing invasive Sea Lamprey from the St. Marys River.



- CFRE's Nmé (Lake Sturgeon) sampling crew started their 2026 field season by assisting the Bay Mills Indian Community and Garden River First Nation with an effort to capture Nmé near the Garden River mouth. The goal was to capture fish and surgically implant acoustic transmitters, and the LSSU crew happened to catch one of its smallest Nmé ever.

- CFRE student research technicians Anthony Savoie, James Laperriere, and Hunter McMahon have been sampling Great Lakes coastal wetlands in the Eastern Upper Peninsula over the last month. This project helps assess health of wetlands connected to the Great Lakes by surveying for fish and macroinvertebrate communities, while also monitoring water quality.



## Publications

- Phillips GL<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Prow EM<sup>\*\*\*</sup>, Ackiss AS, Alvarez AC, Bonilla-Gomez JL, Chorba LH, Collier JJ, Dunn SJ, Freeman SDD, Grow RC, Harding IC, Honsey AE, Inoue K, Jonas JL, Kapuscinski KL, Ropp AJ, Skubik KA, Smith JB, Waterhouse CE, Woolnough DA, Doubek JP. Documentation of giant floater (*Pyganodon grandis*) glochidia attached to larval lake whitefish (*Coregonus clupeaformis*) in the Laurentian Great Lakes. In Press, *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>Gwen and Ellie are lead authors on this paper recently accepted for publication at JGLR on work from their undergraduate research at LSSU. Gwen and Ellie led an upper Great Lakes collaboration with scientists from tribal, state, and federal institutions. The paper includes other LSSU former students/technicians too: Alicia Alvarez, Luke Chorba, Silas Dunn, and Simon Freeman.

## Academic Program Successes

- The School of Natural Resources had a successful search for a new Outdoor Recreation faculty. Dr. Caitlyn Henry, a current post-doctoral researcher at Michigan State University, will begin this fall. Dr. Henry brings extensive experience in recreation management and interpretation that will be important in growing the Outdoor Rec program and helping re-launch the Regional Outdoor Center.

## Recruitment and Outreach

- CFRE provided tours to 7 prospective students interested in robotics engineering, environmental science, and fisheries and wildlife.
- Ten educational programs were delivered to approximately 140 preK-7th grade students in the first three weeks of July.
  - Regent Park Scholars, a LSSU charter academy, grades preK-7 (90 students): Students participated in activities that ranged from “A Bug’s Life” to mock broodstock collection, fish dissections, and more.
  - Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnabe PSA, grades 2 and 4 (30 students): Students learned about aquatic insects and fish in the Great Lakes food webs, they explored the Discovery Center, and learned about lake sturgeon’s life cycle. Fourth graders also talked about watersheds and modeled their own watersheds.
  - Sault Tribe Youth Education and Activities (YEA) summer school, grades 2-5 (13 students) explored Anishinaabe connections to Bahweting, water, land, and plants. Students modeled a trade activity to represent generations of Indigenous people gathering in this place, explored the rain gardens to learn how native plants provide food and shelter for many animals and help keep the water clean, and they learned about macroinvertebrates and their role in the food web.
  - Students from the Sault Tribe YEA ages 7-12 (8 students) explored the Discovery Center with activities focused on lake sturgeon, watersheds, and invasive species.

## Community Engagement

- CFRE opened to LSSU friends and family for fireworks on the evening of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Live music was provided by a local Interlochen student (Molly Escherisch) and was funded by a donor. Over 100 people came out for the evening.
- At the end of June, CFRE had over 450 visitors to the facility. Visitors learned about Great Lakes organisms and ecology through hands-on activities for all ages including fish origami, face painting, lamprey displays and more.
- CFRE hosted six cruise ships this month with over 200 visitors introduced to CFRE and LSSU.
- For Frogfest, July 11, two CFRE summer interns (Anna Figert, Junior School of Education, and Melissa Lee, Parks & Rec graduate) along with Great Lakes Education and Outreach Specialist Beth Christiansen hosted informational tables with live Atlantic salmon from the CFRE hatchery, live macroinvertebrates from local waterways, and a fish pond to catch paper fish and identify 9 species of Great Lakes fishes. Approximately 300 people of all ages visited our tables.
- For Bayliss Library Block Party, July 25, CFRE summer intern, Melissa Lee, Parks & Rec graduate, and Lilly Betts, Environmental Science major, hosted informational tables with live Atlantic salmon from the CFRE hatchery, live macroinvertebrates from local waterways, and a fish pond to catch paper fish and identify 9 species of Great Lakes fishes. Approximately 200 people of all ages visited our tables.



- The Whitefish Festival was held on July 25 at Bay Mills Indian Community and two Fisheries & Wildlife students, Eli Herriman and Aiden Cardwell, hosted interactive displays with aquatic organisms. Approximately 50 people of all ages stopped by and engaged with our LSSU team.
- CFRE outreach partnered with Northern Transitions, Inc. to make Sault Ste. Marie, MI the only UP community participating in the 2026 Boat shrink-wrap recycling run sponsored by Michigan Recycling coalition (<https://michiganrecycles.org/film-plastics/>). Participating EUP marine storage facilities prevented between 25,000 and 32,000 square feet of plastic film from entering landfills. Marine storage facilities (All Star Marine, R&R Marine, Cedarville Marine, Seewalds Towing) plan to continue participating in the recycle run in 2027 when we hope to expand our reach across the UP and double our collection.

### Operations and Infrastructure Projects

- A new exterior sign was installed along the waterfront at CFRE and is now widely visible to boaters on the water and across the border. The sign was paid for using donor funds.
- Using grant funding, CFRE was able to install electrical lines to the outdoor mesocosm facility, which will enable additional equipment (e.g., lighting) to be used for future experiments.



### Scholarship Activity

- Dr. Moerke met multiple times with the Great Lakes Adaptive Management working group for the International Joint Commission, which is the organization that oversees water regulation in the Great Lakes. Dr. Moerke is helping evaluate water level regulation plans and their effects on fisheries.
- Dr. Toni Stith traveled to Bangalore, India, to culminate a years' worth of work training teachers in STEM education. She facilitated a STEM showcase, where the teachers presented their progress on STEM education, and awarded certificates. She partnered with the Param Science Experience Centre and the Param Foundation in this work. She also discussed educational issues with the principal at the Jaipol Garodia Rashtrotthana Vidya Kendra School in Bangalore, India, and toured the facility. She was able to identify many similarities and differences in the school systems of India and the United States.



## Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, August 18 – Fall Kickoff, Arts Center, 10:00 am (luncheon to follow)
- Thursday, August 20 – Professional Development Day, Library, 8:30 am
- Saturday, August 22 – Yooper Frankenstein World Premier, Arts Center, 6:15 pm Red Carpet, 7:00 pm Showing, 9:00 pm Showing
- Friday, August 28 – Lakerpalooza!, Pleger Common Area (Rain Location: SAC), 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
- Friday, August 28 – Nai-Ni Dance Company, Arts Center, 7:00 pm
- Friday, September 4 – The American Jamboree with Peter Bergin and Ivory and Gold, Arts Center, 7:00 pm
- Friday, October 9 – Bill Bowers Residency, Arts Center, 7:00 pm