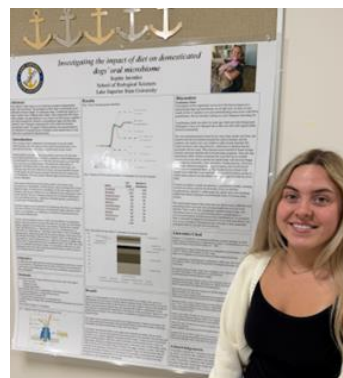


Academic Affairs Update September 15, 2026

College of Arts and Sciences

Student Accomplishments and Activities

- Sophie Jaremko (Biology, Pre-vet 2025) was accepted to the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the Ontario Veterinary College, University of Guelph Ontario. The program at Guelph was recently ranked the #1 veterinary college in Canada and in the top four veterinary colleges globally, by the QS World University Rankings. While at LSSU, Sophie also served as captain of the women's hockey team and was founding president of the LSSU Pre-Vet club.
- Molly McKeever (Biology, Pre-Med 2025) was accepted to the Podiatric Medicine program at Des Moines University and has received a full scholarship to attend. While at LSSU, Molly was a member of the women's hockey team. She was also an advocate for proper sizing for hockey skates for females, as she found in her senior thesis project, that females developed foot problems when having to wear skates designed for males.



Sophie Jaremko showing her senior research poster.

Community Engagement

- Dr. Barbara Evans collaborated with Maggie Merchberger, MSU Extension's Chippewa County 4-H Program Coordinator, to offer the three-week Aqua Tankers 4-H SPIN Club at LSSU. Now in its third year, the program teaches students about aquaponics, including water chemistry and ecosystems. Students plant seeds, examine crayfish, and build their own aquaponics systems to take home. The program also introduces youth to careers in agriculture, environmental science, aquaculture, and natural resources. Through hands-on activities, students learn to ask questions, test ideas, and make observations like scientists. The program is free and is funded by Michigan 4-H and a USDA-NIFA grant awarded to Dr. Evans. The grant will help expand aquaponics SPIN Clubs throughout Michigan.



An Aqua Tanker presents her aquaponic blueprints for the camera

- Drs. Paul Kelso and Nalaka Ranasinghage helped to lead a geophysical archaeology workshop at the historic John Johnston House on August 6 – 8. The site was a seventh century fur trading site. This workshop was organized by Monte Lawton from Heartsong Archaeology in collaboration with the Chippewa County Historical Society. Logan McQueen (Geology) helped prepare the equipment of the workshop and Kyle Eichhorn (Geology) visited the site during the workshop. Dr. Kelso taught participants how to use LSSU's Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) system to examine the ground and identify possible archaeological materials without disturbing the site. The workshop and Johnston House were open to the public, and LSSU had a table on site with informational materials.



Drs. Nalaka Ranasinghage and Paul Kelso at the historic Johnston House.

Publicity

- Dr. Nalaka Ranasinghe participated in the popular weekly radio program of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation, alongside a Physical Oceanographer from the University of Ruhuna, Sri Lanka, and the former Director General of the Meteorology Department of Sri Lanka, to discuss long term and modern climate change.

Conference Presentations

- Dr. Jun Li gave an invited presentation at the 16th Congress of the International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology held in Dalian, China, from June 28 to July 2.
- Dr. Jun Li visited the Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Institute (Qingdao, China) and gave a presentation titled Spawning and Reproduction of Salmonid Fish in North America.
- Dr. Russell Searight presented two papers at the American Psychological Association's Annual Convention in Washington D.C.:

Searight, H.R. (2026, August 7) Milgram's Legacy: The Institutional Review Board. American Psychological Association Annual Convention. Washington D.C.

Searight, H. R. (2026, August 8) Climate Related Migration, Economic Challenge, and Mental Health. American Psychological Association Annual Convention Washington, D.C.

- Dr. Russell Searight chaired a symposium, Stanley Milgram's Obedience Study: Its Continuing and Diverse Influence, at the American Psychological Association's Annual Convention in Washington D.C.
- Dr. Derek Wright presented a talk titled "Optimization of X-ray Backscatter Imaging in a Laboratory Micro X-Ray Fluorescence Spectrometer: Applications in Structural Characterization in Engineered and Natural Materials" at the Denver X-Ray Conference in Chicago, Illinois. This was the result of a

research collaboration between Dr. Wright, Professor Ben Southwell, and Nicholas Gordon (Environmental Science 2025) with Sault Sainte Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians.

- Dr. Derek Wright presented a talk titled “Application of Spatially Resolved Micro X-ray Fluorescence Imaging to Identification of Potentially Hazardous Pigments in Historic 19th and 20th Century Books” at the Denver X-Ray Conference in Chicago, Illinois. This was the result of a research collaboration between Dr. Wright, Professor Ben Southwell, Ana Robbins (Office of Advancement), Nicholas Gordon, Arianna DeHoyos (Political Science), and Dr. Stephen Kolomyjec (University of Olivet).

Scholarship

- Dr. Nalaka Ranasinghe performed fieldwork in Sri Lanka as part of a collaborative research project with Professor Camilo Ponton of Washington State University, the Marine Environmental Protection Agency, and the University of Ruhuna. This study examines changes in vegetation and deuterium isotopes in precipitation across different latitudes using plant biomarkers in one of Sri Lanka's major rivers. University of Ruhuna students also participated in collecting water and sediment samples from tributaries of the Walawe River.

Dr. Nalaka Ranasinghe and his team conducting sampling at the Walawe River within Udawala National Park of Sri Lanka.



College of Professional Studies

Grants

- The School of Engineering and Technology received \$18,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation CNC Scholarship program to support students in machining-based programs.

Academic Program Successes

- Dr. Herb Henderson brought the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) Instructor Development Course to LSSU August 5–7. This intensive three-day course is required for individuals seeking certification to instruct law enforcement and public safety officers in Michigan and includes practical demonstrations of instructional skills. The training was co-sponsored by the MCOLES Career Development Unit and LSSU's Criminal Justice/MCOLES program. Participants included personnel from regional law enforcement partner agencies as well as prospective LSSU adjunct instructors.
- Dr. Herb Henderson coordinated newly mandated legal update training for LSSU's MCOLES Subject Control instructors. Following the introduction of new statewide training requirements in

June 2026, Dr. Henderson worked with Washtenaw Community College and the Michigan State Police to bring the required live, interactive training to LSSU via Zoom at no cost. Training sessions were held July 24 and August 13, with a final session scheduled for September 29.

Recruitment and Outreach

- The School of Engineering and Technology hosted an interactive activity table at Pickford Public Schools' Back-to-School Open House and Opportunity Fair and engaged elementary and middle school students in a hands-on boat-building activity.
- Dr. Chris Smith initiated a new partnership with Kall Morris Inc. (KMI), a Marquette-based space technology company focused on the active removal of orbital debris. Through the partnership, KMI is using LSSU's Space Mission and Operations Certificate to provide specialized training for its employees. The first cohort of three KMI employees began the program this fall.

Community Engagement

- The School of Engineering and Technology hosted an interactive activity table at the Sanderson Field Open House, engaging children in a hands-on paper airplane activity.
- School of Engineering and Technology faculty and staff attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at North Central Michigan College for its new Martin Jahn Technology Center.

Scholarship

- Professor Leach completed America's Cutting Edge (ACE) CNC Train-the-Trainer program at the University of Tennessee. The training prepares LSSU to host ACE CNC Boot Camps for local industry workforce development, prospective students from high schools, charter schools, and CTE programs, and current LSSU students. LSSU is currently working to establish an 18-month contract to offer the program, with the capacity to train up to 10 participants per boot camp.

College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education

Student Highlights & Accomplishments

- The College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education held its first-year experience program called "CoGLEE Connections" that focuses on students exploring the region, developing connections with peers and professors, and building a community. Students started the morning with a sunrise hike up Mission Hill, followed by a speed meeting with CoGLEE staff and faculty, and then spent the rest of the day working to leave their mark with sidewalk art downtown and kayaking around Voyageur's Island. We wrapped up in the afternoon with lunch by a local restaurant sponsored by Bob Arfstrom. All CoGLEE staff

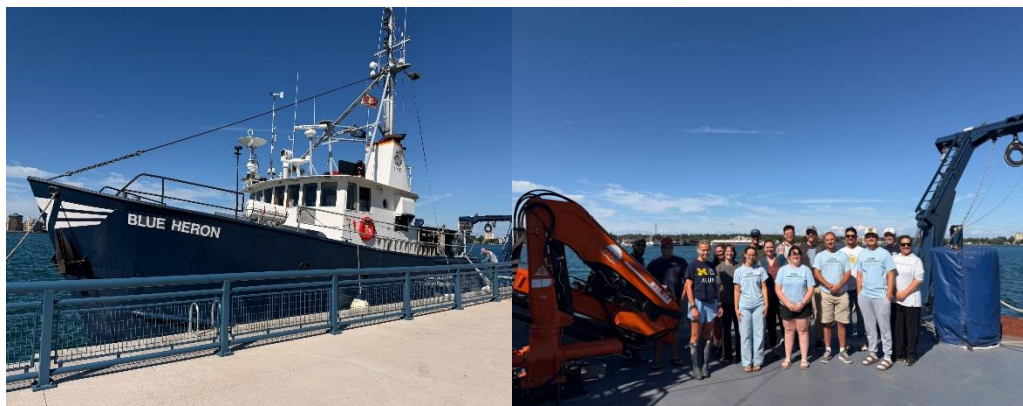


and faculty participated in the event. In a follow-up student survey, 73% of students rated the experience a 5/5 and 100% indicated the program was a great way to build connections with others.

- Kennedi Johnson, a MS student in the Fisheries and Wildlife program, wrapped up her research project this summer where she led a large-scale experiment evaluating the effects of crude oil and dilbit on primary producers to understand how oil impacts freshwater food webs. Kennedi worked closely with Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) staff, three undergraduate students from LSSU, and one from Algoma University to add two types of oil into outdoor experimental tanks at CFRE. Kennedi's work is leading the way on building a scientific understanding of the potential effects of oil spills in the Great Lakes.



- Three CoGLEE students (Izabella Yeakey, Outdoor Recreation; Karlie Goble, Fisheries and Wildlife, and Melissa Lee, Parks and Recreation Management) were awarded scholarships from the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education to support their conference registration at their annual meeting and to support the first phase of an environmental education certification.
- CFRE staff and students had the opportunity to tour the R/V Blue Heron, a research vessel out of the University of Minnesota Duluth that was docked alongside Barch CFRE. The crew was on a research sail with research scientists from Rochester University studying methane production in the lakes. The CFRE team met the Blue Heron crew, learned about the climate change research going on, and got to explore the lab and crew space that supports 21-day expeditions on the Great Lakes.



Grants

- Sam Rimatzki, MS student in Fisheries and Wildlife Management, was awarded a grant by the Society of Wetland Scientists to support his graduate research.
- Dr. McCall has received a two-year IMLS National Leadership Grant (\$75,714) to help LSSU teacher candidates learn to teach with community using local archives in addition to standardized national curricula. Dr. McCall's grant is contributing to building place-based curricula in the Education programs.

Publications

- Ranson Olson, B., Miller-Schofield, A.*, and Kapuscinski, K. *In press*. A refined qPCR duplexing method for the molecular sex determination of sturgeon (*Acipenser genus*), providing a validating, endogenous control. BioTechniques. This paper involves two faculty from different schools (Biology and Natural Resources) and a student co-author.

Academic Program Successes

- The School of Education joined the MiCAREER Resource Hub through a MOU. The Hub efforts will support and enhance initiatives across Michigan to grow and diversify the educator workforce and reduce educator shortages, particularly in rural communities with the overarching goal of providing the opportunity for every learner to succeed. This program is in collaboration with Central Michigan University (CMU), Eastern Michigan University (EMU), Michigan State University (MSU), Northern Michigan University (NMU), and Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU).

Recruitment and Outreach

- Representatives from the School of Education and CFRE participated in the Pickford Public Schools “Back to School/Opportunity Fair” at the end of August.
- For the second summer in a row, CFRE hosted a visit and tour for 12 of the MSU Glassen Scholars, undergraduate students doing summer internships with natural resource or environmental organizations in the Greater Lansing area. Their trip to CFRE was part of a four-day capstone study in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.
- The Wayne State UpWard Bound class of 25 students visited CFRE and participated in a fish dissection and Barch and Hatchery tours.
- Almost 80 students in four summer school classes from Joseph K. Lumsden Bahweting Anishnaabe Public School Academy wrapped up their summer with CFRE. We provided unique programs for each grade supporting their curriculum:
 - 1st grade: relationships in water—lake sturgeon and macroinvertebrates
 - 3rd grade: native gardens; pollinators and food webs
 - 5th grade: human impacts on the environment—oil spills, invasive species, and garden plants (native, non-native, invasive)
 - Middle school: Watershed STEM, runoff and pollution—build a watershed and observe the flow of pollution; collect data on beach pollution and plastics; design a rain garden
- Lake Superior Academy K–5 summer science extension program wrapped up their summer at CFRE exploring connections between organisms in different ecosystems. Students looked for evidence and variety of life in the rain gardens and observed live aquatic macroinvertebrates and the lake sturgeon.

- Twenty-five K–6 students from Sault Tribe YEA visited CFRE for programs focused on connections: people, animals, plants, insects, water, land, and stewardship. They participated in activities focused on lake sturgeon, native plants, macroinvertebrates, and water quality.
- CFRE provided tours to 10 prospective students interested in Fisheries & Wildlife, Environmental Science, Animal Biology, and a few who were undecided. Coach Whitten also brought a hockey recruit from Sudbury to CFRE for lunch on the CFRE balcony and a tour of the hatchery and the Great Lake Discover Center.

Community Engagement

- Dr. Kapuscinski led an “Identification of Nongame Fishes Workshop” sponsored by the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society as a continuing education opportunity. The workshop was hosted at Barch CFRE and attended by 25 professionals and students from universities, consultant groups, and state and tribal agencies.



- CFRE hosted an “Educator’s Day” prior to the start of the K–12 school year. Over 10 educators, including two from Grayling, visited CFRE to get nature- and place-based ideas for use with their students. CoGLEE faculty Dr. Toni Stith (School of Education) shared activity resources and hosted the give-away table.
- Approximately 30 children and their parents participated in the Bayliss Library Story & Activity partnership. The summer Education & Outreach student assistants, led by Lilli Betts, provided activities for children at the Dr. Constance Baker’s Great Lakes Discovery Center (GLDC) that aligned with the book *Edmund Fitzgerald, Song of the Bell*, read at Bayliss Library prior to the activities at CFRE. Activities included building a paper boat and testing it with cargo (pennies), playing battleship with Great Lakes freighters, and coloring paper boats and sailor hats. In addition, all regular GLDC activities were available to explore.
- Great Lakes Education and Outreach Specialist, Beth Christiansen joined the Conservation District team on August 10 to celebrate the grand opening of Alford Park’s new waterfront gardens. Fourteen people came to walk the gardens using a custom scavenger hunt to explore native species in the area.
- Nearly 1,850 members of the public visited the GLDC during August, and 8 cruise ships sent nearly 1,100 visitors from across the country into our Center.
- Dr. Ashley Moerke was invited to speak at Senator Peters’ farewell tour event on his role in Great Lakes protection in Marquette, MI.

Scholarship Activity

- Dr. Ashley Moerke participated in the 3-day Great Lakes Annual Collaborative and Oil Spill Workshop in Detroit, MI and presented on CFRE's research related to oil spill science and networked with researchers across the US.

Publicity/Media

- The Sault News, Aug. 26, 2026. Angler's donations help expand Great Lakes research.
<https://www.sooeveningnews.com/story/news/local/2026/08/26/what-richard-barchs-donations-mean-for-lssu-students/91445962007/?qnt-cfr=1&qca-cat=p&qca-uir=true&qca-epti=z113023p001950c001950e008000v113023d--30--b--30--&qca-ft=154&qca-ds=sophi>
A lifelong passion for hunting, fishing and conservation has led Richard Barch of Tecumseh to invest millions of dollars in programs that support Great Lakes research and student learning at Lake Superior State University.
- The Daily Mining Gazette, August 21, 2026. A Great Lakes legacy: Salmon fishing in the St. Marys
<https://www.mininggazette.com/news/outdoors/2026/08/a-great-lakes-legacy/>
- SooLeader, Aug 20, 2026. LSSU marks 40 years of Atlantic salmon stocking tied to research program on the St. Marys River
[sooleader.com/local-news/lssu-marks-40-years-of-atlantic-salmon-stocking-tied-to-research-program-on-the-st-marys-river-12688134](https://www.sooleader.com/local-news/lssu-marks-40-years-of-atlantic-salmon-stocking-tied-to-research-program-on-the-st-marys-river-12688134)
- LSSU students engage with Sault Ste. Marie through CoGLEE connections. 910News.com, 8-24-2026
https://www.google.com/url?rct=j&sa=t&url=https://www.9and10news.com/2026/08/24/lssu-students-engage-with-sault-ste-marie-through-coglee-connections/&ct=ga&cd=CAEYAioUMTM3MDE3OTU3NDEyNzIzNzYyOTYyGjAwM2UzN2U1MDM0MDEyNzE6Y29tOmVuOIVT&usq=AOvVaw0_M9dOFmSZaX9uSQyxlB-

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, September 17—Rebekkah Bowen will be presenting a Lunch and Learn titled "Integrating History/Holocaust in Curriculum", CETAL, noon
- Friday, September 18 – Sunday, September 20th— Soo Film Festival, Arts Center, various showings
- Friday, September 18, CETAL— Dan Friedman will be presenting "Best Practices For Teaching First Year Courses". Dan Friedman is the Assistant Vice President for the National Resource Center for the First Year Experience and Students in Transition, CETAL, noon.
- Friday, October 9—Bill Bowers Residency, Arts Center, 7:00 pm
- Wednesday, October 21—Battle of The Bands, Arts Center, 7:00pm - 10:00pm
- Saturday, October 31—Rocky Horror Picture Show, Arts Center, Midnight