



**Academic Affairs Report**  
February 21, 2025

**Agenda Item #1: Conferral of Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025 Candidates for Degrees**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this action is to confer the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements.

**Background:**

The enclosed list of candidates is submitted to the Board of Trustees for the granting of the appropriate degrees. The respective chairs certify these candidates have completed all major departmental requirements and the Registrar certifies these candidates have completed all University requirements. The Registrar's memo and List of Candidates is in Appendix A.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

Move to approve the conferral of the appropriate degrees upon the list of candidates for Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025 as certified by the Registrar as having completed their graduation requirements.

**President's Recommendation:**

Approval of the motion, as presented.



**Academic Affairs Report**  
February 21, 2025

**Agenda Item #2: Approval of Promotion and/or Tenure Recommendations**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this action is to approve promotion and/or tenure for the following faculty members:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski<br>Associate Professor<br>School of Natural Resources      | Recommend promotion to Professor                      |
| 2. Dr. Edoardo Sarda<br>Assistant Professor<br>School of Engineering and Technology | Recommend promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure |
| 3. Dr. Fred Williams<br>Assistant Professor<br>School of Kinesiology and Psychology | Recommend promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure |

**Background:**

**Tenure and Promotion Process**

1. The tenure and promotion process is rigorous. The process is prescribed in the bargaining agreement between the Faculty Association and LSSU.
2. A faculty member prepares a Tenure and/or Promotion File consisting of a narrative, curriculum vitae, Annual Faculty Self Evaluation and Reflection Reports, and Summative Evaluation Reports for no more than the past five years, letters of support, and additional information as needed.
3. Next, in the following order, each committee or individual recommends for or against tenure or promotion.
  - School Retention, Promotion, and Tenure Committee composed of tenured faculty in the School.
  - Dean

- University Committee on Tenure and Promotion (composed of one tenured faculty member, associate rank or higher, elected from each college).
- Provost
- President
- Board of Trustees

Recommendations at each of the first five levels has been unanimously supported.

### **Information:**

#### **Comments on Faculty Seeking Promotion and/or Tenure**

##### **1. Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski**

- Associate Professor, School of Natural Resources
- Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski received his PhD in Ecology from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF), and his MS and BS from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Since joining LSSU in 2014, Dr. Kapuscinski has played instrumental roles in creating unique student experiences in and outside of the classroom. He has mentored over 60 undergraduate students in their senior theses, many of whom have presented their work at regional and national scientific conferences. He continuously receives exceptional teaching evaluations, which reflect his commitment to student success and his efforts to provide hands-on learning experiences that lead to students' academic and professional growth.

Dr. Kapuscinski also has been instrumental in the development and success of the Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE), completed in 2021. Under his leadership as the Assistant Director of Research, CFRE has grown to 13 full-time staff and created over two dozen paid student positions annually. He has secured over \$6 million in research grants as Principal or Co-Principal Investigator, leading impactful studies on freshwater ecosystems and fish management. His extensive research output includes 35 peer-reviewed publications, multiple co-authored with undergraduate students, and presentations at international and national conferences. In addition, his research continues to help fund CFRE operations, equipment, and student opportunities.

In addition to his research accomplishments, Dr. Kapuscinski's service to LSSU and the broader academic community has been exemplary. As Chair of the School of Natural Resources, he has led initiatives to enhance academic programs, including the development of the newly approved accelerated MS program in Fisheries & Wildlife. Beyond LSSU, he has served as the President of the Michigan Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and contributed to multi-institutional collaborations such as the Great Lakes Northern Forest Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit. Dr. Kapuscinski exemplifies excellence in teaching, research, service, and leadership, demonstrating a deep commitment to students, colleagues, and the institution. We are grateful to have Dr. Kapuscinski's continued dedication to LSSU.

## 2. **Dr. Edoardo Sarda**

- Assistant Professor, School of Engineering and Technology
- Dr. Edoardo Sarda, an LSSU Mechanical Engineering alum, earned his doctorate and master's degree from the Florida Atlantic University in Ocean Systems Engineering. During his six years teaching at LSSU, he has established himself as a highly effective instructor and a valuable member of the School of Engineering and Technology. Dr. Sarda has developed several courses for the B.S. Robotics Engineering degree and has integrated mobile and collaborative robots into the program's curriculum.

Dr. Sarda has prioritized professional development to maintain and enhance his expertise in an engineering field that changes rapidly. His numerous scholarly activities include publishing peer-reviewed conference papers, participating in conferences, workshops and presentations, reviewing scientific articles, performing research for grant-funded projects and working as an industry consultant. Dr. Sarda has shared knowledge gained through these activities with students in the classroom, included students in several of his endeavors, and brought exposure to LSSU through his achievements.

Dr. Sarda is dedicated to providing valuable learning opportunities for students outside of the classroom, and he takes great pride in his role as the advisor of LSSU's RobotX Club. He and six students founded the club with the goal of promoting the use of mobile robotics in outdoor settings. In three years, more than 40 students have been members of the club. They have competed in international RoboNation competitions, performed published scientific research, and developed interests that led to careers.

Dr. Sarda's exceptional strength as an instructor lies in his ability to enhance the learning experience by drawing on his industry expertise to offer practical applications and real-world examples. We are fortunate to have him as a valued member of the LSSU faculty.

## 3. **Dr. Fred Williams**

- Assistant Professor, School of Kinesiology and Psychology
- Dr. Fred Williams, an LSSU Kinesiology alum, earned his MS degree from Northern Michigan University and his PhD from the University of New Mexico. He joined LSSU in 2019 and has been a member of the Kinesiology faculty since then. Dr. Williams is a highly valued member of the Kinesiology team and has played a key role in the significant revision of LSSU's Kinesiology curriculum, offering invaluable contributions to shaping the program's future.

Dr. Williams is especially passionate about the impact of fear of failure on student motivation and engagement. He has published a scholarly work related to his research on this topic, and shared additionally with multiple conference presentations. Dr. Williams also serves as a reviewer for the Journal for the Study of Sports and Athletes in Education.

Dr. Williams serves as the School of Kinesiology and Psychology's representative on the University Curriculum Committee, and is the club advisor to the LSSU Brazilian Jiu Jitsu club. In the community, he serves as the vice-chair of the Parks and Recreation advisory board for the

city of Sault Ste. Marie, and he currently coaches Brazilian Jiu Jitsu both in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan and in Ontario, Canada.

His enthusiasm and commitment for learning and application activities speaks to his dedication to his career in Kinesiology, as well as to LSSU and his students. We are grateful to have Dr. Williams as part of the faculty team at LSSU.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

Move to approve tenure and/or promotion to the following faculty members:

- Dr. Kevin Kapuscinski, promotion to Professor,
- Dr. Edoardo Sarda, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure, and,
- Dr. Fred Williams, promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure.

**President's Recommendation:**

Approval of the motion, as presented.



**Academic Affairs Report**  
February 21, 2025

**Agenda Item #3: Approval of Course and Program Fee Changes**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this action is to approve course and program fee changes for the 2025-2026 academic year.

**Background:**

In cases where specialized equipment, facilities, personnel, operational, and maintenance costs have primary use by a single program or group of programs, program fees are applied to defray the higher costs of instruction and support. These per credit fees are assessed to any student enrolled in a course with a given prefix.

Special course fees are charged to cover costs over and above the normal costs for all courses such as, but not limited to, supplies, equipment, and student transportation. These course fees are assessed per course and not per credit.

The proposed course fee and program fee changes below, if approved, would be implemented in Fall 2025.

**Microscopy**

The Microscopy and Microanalysis Certificate and associated courses were approved to begin in the fall 2023 academic year. Program and courses fees are now being requested to provide supplies/reagent and required instrument maintenance.

<b>Proposed Course and Program Fee Changes</b>			
<i>Course/Program</i>	<i>Current Fee</i>	<i>Proposed AY 2025-2026</i>	<i>Amount Change</i>
MICR 205: Light Microscopy Techniques	\$0	\$40	\$40
MICR 315: Elect Microscopy/Microanalysis	\$0	\$80	\$80
<i>MICR: Microscopy Program</i>	\$0	\$20	\$20

**Computer Science**

The School of Computer Science and Mathematics is requesting to increase all of their CSCI course fees by \$10 per course due to the increase in cost of computers, hardware, software, and supplies. This fee was set 15 years ago and has not been increased since that time. In the case of CSCI 211, the course has added a lab since the time the fee was first implemented, resulting in a higher increase. The fee for CSCI 106 is reduced to align with other courses that use the same software and computer labs. (Other software was used at the time that course was first implemented.)

<b>Proposed Course Fee Changes</b>			
<b>Course</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed AY 2025-2026</b>	<b>Amount Change</b>
CSCI106: Web Page Design & Development	\$75	\$60	(\$15)
CSCI101: Intro to Microcomputer Applications	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI103: Survey of Computer Science	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI105: Intro to Computer Programming	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 115: Introduction to Data Science	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 121: Principles of Programming	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 163: Troubleshooting/Repair of PC's	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 201: Data Structures and Algorithms	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 211: Database Applications	\$30	\$60	\$30
CSCI 221: Computer Networks	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 248: Network Operating Systems	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 263: Managing Computer Security	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 265: Intro to Artificial Intelligence	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 281: Intro to UNIX and Networking	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 290: Independent Study: Computer Science	\$40	\$50	\$10
CSCI 291: Computer Science Project	\$40	\$50	\$10
CSCI 292: Computer Networking Project	\$40	\$50	\$10
CSCI 321: Computer Graphics	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 323: Routers and Switches	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 327: Web App Design & Development	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 341: Discrete Structures Comp Science	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 342: Advanced Programming Techniques	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 348: Network Operating Systems II	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 351: App Interface Development	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 371: Multi-Platform App Development	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 411: Data Analytics	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 412: Unix Network Administration	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 415: Computer Org Architecture	\$30	\$40	\$10
CSCI 418: Senior Project I	\$40	\$50	\$10
CSCI 419: Senior Project II	\$40	\$50	\$10
CSCI 422: Network and Computer Security	\$50	\$60	\$10
CSCI 434: Operating Systems Concepts	\$30	\$40	\$10

## Engineering

The School of Engineering and Technology had two courses that replaced older courses in the curriculum and is requesting that the associated fee be moved accordingly to cover supplies.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2025-2026	Amount Change
EGET110: Applied Electricity	\$60	\$0	(\$60)
EGET175: Applied Electronics	\$70	\$0	(\$70)
EGET 270: Applied Electricity	\$0	\$60	\$60
EGET 275: Applied Electronics	\$0	\$70	\$70

## Fire Science

We propose fee increases for various fire science courses due to rising costs. Most courses saw increases ranging from \$25 to \$85, primarily due to higher fuel and supply expenses. The largest increase was for the Fire Science Internship (FIRE 403), which went from \$0 to \$85 to cover class material costs.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2025-2026	Amount Change
FIRE 102: Wildland/Rural Fire Control	\$85	\$150	\$65
FIRE 111: Hazardous Materials	\$80	\$150	\$70
FIRE 204: Fire Protection Hydraulics/Pumps	\$75	\$100	\$25
FIRE 206: Fire Protect Sys/Equip/Ind Pro	\$75	\$100	\$25
FIRE 219: Firefighter Essentials	\$75	\$150	\$75
FIRE 220: Fire Science Certification	\$275	\$325	\$50
FIRE 403: FIRE 403 Fire Science Internship	\$0	\$85	\$85

## Paramedic Program

Currently, students taking EMED classes are charged \$45 per credit for program fees. At the time of approval, the Board of Trustees approved all fees to be applied toward an investment in infrastructure, thus 0% was to be allocated directly to the department. EMED courses require purchase, use, and maintenance of a Simulation Ambulance, as well as other required equipment for emergency services. This request is for the Board to approve a 75% allocation of direct support to the EMED programs with no change in fee.

Proposed Program Fee Changes		
Program	Current/Proposed Fee	Proposed AY 2025-2026
EMED: Paramedic Program	\$45	75% fund allocation



## Nursing

The fees for several nursing courses have significantly increased to cover essential resources such as books, software, simulation tools, testing materials, and virtual reality resources provided through ATI. Currently, students purchase their own license for ATI. These changes were made in response to student requests, allowing the costs to be included in the cost of attendance and covered by financial aid. Fee increases range from \$392 to \$916, with the highest increase seen in NURS 327: Adult Nursing I.

Proposed Course Fee Changes			
Course	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2025-2026	Amount Change
NURS 211: Intro to Professional Nursing	\$40	\$432	\$392
NURS 212: Health Appraisal	\$75	\$598	\$523
NURS 213: Fundamentals of Nursing	\$175	\$1,090	\$915
NURS 327: Adult Nursing I	\$200	\$1,116	\$916
NURS 325: Nursing of Childbearing Families	\$150	\$608	\$458
NURS 326: Parent/Child Nursing	\$100	\$558	\$458
NURS 432: Nursing of Populations	\$50	\$75	\$25

## Psychology

We propose that the PSYC 210: Statistics fee decrease by \$2 due to a pedagogical change that reduces the need for supplies. The fees for PSYC 199, PSYC 259, and PSYC 391 have each increased by \$10 (currently \$0) to cover class project materials and the annual cost of video subscriptions. These changes ensure students have access to necessary resources for coursework and learning.

A new \$30 program fee for the Psychology program is being proposed to support the purchase, maintenance, and replacement of student lab and research equipment, such as BioPacs and research software like E-Prime and VR headsets. Additionally, establishing a dedicated Psychology lab space would provide students with a stable space for research activities, including data collection, analysis, and experimentation.

Proposed Course and Program Fee Changes			
Course/Program	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2025-2026	Amount Change
PSYC 210: Statistics	\$12	\$10	(\$2)
PSYC 199: Freshman Seminar in Behavioral Sciences	\$0	\$10	\$10
PSYC 259: Psychopathology	\$0	\$10	\$10
PSYC 391: Family Therapy	\$0	\$10	\$10
<i>PSYC: Psychology Program</i>	\$0	\$30	\$30

**Natural Resources and Recreation**

The School of Natural Resources is requesting the addition of a program fee for all RECS courses, which will support the newly revised Outdoor Recreation and Leadership degree program. This program requires specialized equipment to support hands-on experiences, and the program fee will enable equipment acquisition and maintenance. Additionally, course fee increases are requested due to changes in teaching pedagogy and content and will support increased costs in travel, equipment, supplies, and additional field site visits.

<b>Proposed Course and Program Fee Changes</b>			
<i>Course/Program</i>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed AY 2025-2026</b>	<b>Amount Change</b>
NRES 101: Developing a Sense of Place	\$0	\$35	\$35
NRES 311: Mammalogy	\$0	\$50	\$50
NRES 350: Ecological Data Analysis	\$0	\$10	\$10
NRES 339: Wildlife Ecology	\$0	\$10	\$10
NRES 470: Restoration Ecology	\$0	\$10	\$10
RECS 365: Expedition Management	\$250	\$365	\$165
<i>RECS: Outdoor Recreation and Leadership Program</i>	\$0	\$40	\$40

**Education**

The School of Education is requesting changes in course fee and program fee structure as a result of their recent state-required change in curriculum. A program fee, instead of course fees across the board, are more aligned with the program structure and will enable support of costs associated with accreditation, expanded field work experiences for all students (freshman through seniors), and partnership-building with K-12 schools. In addition, course fee increases are requested to support travel to K-12 school sites and increase science methods course costs. Currently there is a \$30 course fee in each of the teaching courses, which we are requesting to be removed and changed to a \$15 program fee for the education program. In addition, we are requesting the teaching apprenticeship courses (TEAC102, 202, 302, and 402) increase their course fee from \$0 to \$10 to cover costs associated with school visits in the EUP. There are two education courses (TEAC 451, 453) that we are requesting the fee to be increased because it incorporates the Next Generation Science Standards certification fee, a national certification program.

<b>Proposed Course and Program Fee Changes</b>			
<i>Course/Program</i>	Current Fee	Proposed AY 2025-2026	Amount Change
TEAC101: Becoming a Teacher	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC110: Infant/Toddler Intentional Teaching	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC120: Impact Diversity on Education	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC210: Infant and Toddler Development	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC211: Infant/Toddler with Special Needs	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC215: Infant/Toddler Communication Development	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC220: Development	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC221: Special Education/Partnerships	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC230: Emerging Literacy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC231: Developing Literacy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC240: PK-3 Math Attributes	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC241: PK-3 Counting	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC250: PK-3 Design Lesson Sci Learn	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC251: PK-3 Science Pedagogy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC270: Admin Early Childhood Programs	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC332: Engaging with Literacy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC333: Mastering Literacy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC342: PK-3 Operations & Fractions	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC343: 3-6 Operations	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC352: 3-6 Design Lesson Sci Learning	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC353: 3-6 Science Pedagogy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC363: The Arc of Literacy	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC423: Partnerships & Classroom Management	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC444: 3-6 Fraction Decimal Operation	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC450: PK-3 Eng Lang Art Soc St Int M	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC452: 3-6 Eng Lang Art Soc St Int Mt	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC458: Infant/Toddler Sci Soc St Mthd	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC480: Directed Teaching Seminar	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC492: Directed Teaching	\$30	\$0	(\$30)
TEAC102: Apprenticeships	\$0	\$10	\$10
TEAC202: Apprenticeships	\$0	\$10	\$10
TEAC302: Apprenticeships	\$0	\$10	\$10
TEAC402: Apprenticeships	\$0	\$10	\$10
TEAC451: PK-3 Math/Sci Integrated Methods	\$30	\$225	\$195
TEAC453: 3-6 Math/Sci Integrated Methods	\$30	\$225	\$195
<i>TEAC: Teaching Program</i>	\$0	\$15	\$15

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

Motion to approve the presented course and program fee changes for the 2025-2026 academic year.

**President's Recommendation:**

Approval of the presented course and program fee changes.



**Academic Affairs Report**  
February 21, 2025

**Agenda Item #4: Academic Affairs Update**

Information

Action

Discussion

**Purpose:**

The purpose of this information is to provide an update on progress in the area of Academic Affairs.

**Background:**

**Highlights from the Academic Affairs Update**

1. A peer reviewer from the Higher Learning Commission visited the Chippewa Correctional Facility on February 6, 2025 for a required additional location confirmation visit. During the visit, the reviewer met with administrators from LSSU and MDOC, faculty, and students to discuss the STEP UP program.
2. Faculty and staff within Academic Affairs continue to increase engagement with the community and outreach to prospective students. Within the Academic Affairs Report are details on numerous new initiatives such as hosting conferences, starting new scholarships, creating new competitions to engage high school students, visiting LSSU charter schools, and joining recruitment events.
3. The School of Natural Resources' proposal to create a 4+1 accelerated Master's program in Fisheries & Wildlife received approval and positive comments from the Michigan Association of State Universities. Next, the school will seek approval from the Higher Learning Commission with the hopes of starting the program during the 2025-2026 academic year.
4. LSSU's video production project, in collaboration with MI Playground, ended in December. MI Playground produced 12 videos and over 80 photos of students using high impact practices, applied learning, and working closely with faculty. These videos are featured on the LSSU webpage and one video is released each week on social media.

**Suggested Action/Motion:**

None

**President's Recommendation:**

N/A

**Special Initiatives Update,  
Colleges,  
the Office of Sponsored Programs, and  
Marketing**

## **Update on Special Initiatives**

### **STEP UP**

The Prison Education Program has been approved by HLC on January 22, 2025 to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration – Entrepreneurship, expanding the current Associate degree for Small Business Administration. This expansion may open the program up to additional funding, pending legislative approval. We are now seeking approval from the US Department of Education to be able to utilize Pell Grant funding to support students who enroll in the Bachelor's degree program.

The Fall 2024 semester was a success as we completed our first semester for our first cohort. All 20 students passed all of their classes and achieved a 3.7 overall GPA. Six students earned a perfect 4.0 GPA. All faculty/instructors who taught in the program were pleased with how the semester progressed, how rewarding their experience was, and are interested in teaching in future semesters.

A peer reviewer from the Higher Learning Commission visited the Chippewa Correctional Facility on February 6, 2024 for a required additional location confirmation visit. During the visit, the reviewer met with administrators from LSSU and MDOC, faculty, and students to discuss the STEP UP program.

We will receive applications soon for the next cohort, which will be expanding to 25 students. Increasing the cohort size will provide the possibility that within a few years, this program alone will account for 100 FTE students.

### **Master's in Fisheries in Wildlife**

The School of Natural Resources' proposal to create a 4+1 accelerated Master's program in Fisheries & Wildlife received approval and positive comments from the Michigan Association of State Universities. Next, the school will seek approval from the Higher Learning Commission with the hopes of starting the program during the 2025-2026 academic year. This will be the first program of its kind at LSSU and the first accelerated program in Fisheries and Wildlife in the region.

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

### **Outreach and Recruitment**

1. The School of Engineering and Technology hosted a FIRST LEGO League Competition on November 23, 2024 at the LSSU Arts Center. Teams from six local elementary schools participated in the event.
2. The School of Engineering and Technology hosted a FIRST Robotics Kickoff event on January 4, 2025 at the LSSU Cisler Center. Teams from seven local high schools participated in the event.
3. Dr. Bridgette Russell visited Detour High School in November 2024 in her capacity as the Recruitment Coordinator for the School of Computer Science and Mathematics.
4. The School of Engineering and Technology created a Start Strong Scholarship to help encourage more scholarship applicants and build connections with those who write letters of recommendations such as high school STEM teachers.
5. The School of Engineering and Technology hosted local Girl Scout Troup #5350 on January 7, 2025. Mr. Trevor Bryant provided tours and demonstrations in robotics and engineering so the girls could learn about those fields.
6. School of Engineering and Technology faculty volunteered as judges at the EUP Regional Science & Engineering Fair that was held on LSSU's campus on December 12, 2024.
7. Prof. Devaprasad, Dr. Weber and Dr. Sarda ran the slap shot system (hockey shooting game) during the Superior Ice Showdown in Traverse City, MI on November 16, 2024. Numerous teenagers were engaged through this system throughout the game, and LSSU logo items were given away.
8. High School Students from the EUP mechatronics CTE program in Rudyard toured CAS, had lunch in the QD, were given hockey game tickets and met with School of Engineering and Technology faculty and staff on December 16, 2024.
9. On November 12, Professor David Leach and three engineering students were judges at Pickford Public School's Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science & Engineering Fair.
10. The School of Engineering and Technology completed an articulation agreement for LSSU's Mechanical Engineering program with Oakland Community College.
11. On November 7, 2024, the School of Computer Science and Mathematics hosted the Inaugural Modeling Day at LSSU. A total of 64 middle and high school students from Brimley, Rudyard, Mackinac Island, and Pickford participated. The students worked on creating mathematical models for various scenarios. The students benefited from presentations about LSSU, careers in Math/CS, Talk Math 2 Me, and some student experiences at LSSU.



12. The College of Business, Engineering, Computer Science and Mathematics hosted an Academic Showcase on December 6, 2024 for 15 prospective students. Attendees learned about our academic programs, toured our facilities, met with students, faculty, and staff and joined us for dinner and a hockey game.

### **Student Accomplishments and Activities**

1. Eleven LSSU students competed in the 2024 Maritime RobotX Challenge in Sarasota, FL in November 2024. They received the following monetary awards:
  - a. 1st place MATLAB Award - \$1000
  - b. 4th place Documentation (website, video, presentation, technical paper and robot system assessment) - \$2000
  - c. Perseverance Award - \$500
  - d. Free RoboBoat registration - \$1000
2. School of Engineering and Technology faculty and students collaborated to publish two papers on IEEEExplore titled “Development of a Water Quality Monitoring System on a USV” and “Accurate Autonomous Launch and Recovery of an UAV from a Station Keeping USV”.
3. Sara Waltz, a Mechanical Engineering senior, was awarded a \$5,000 John & Elsa Gracik Scholarship from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) for the 2024-2025 academic year.

### **Conferences, Presentations and Publications**

1. Dr. Bridgette Russell attended and coordinated sessions for Project NEXt at the Joint Mathematics Meetings 2025 in Seattle, WA.
2. Dr. Georgi Kalchev gave a poster presentation on "Fatal Car Crashes and Marijuana Legalization" at the American Economic Association meetings in San Francisco, CA in January 2025.
3. Dr. Georgi Kalchev is participating in “Uncommon Economics”, a national NSF-supported study on the teaching of Principles of Microeconomics, to implement new teaching methods.

### **Certifications**

1. As part of his PhD studies at Michigan Technological University, Professor David Leach enrolled in a graduate industrial safety course and earned an OSHA 10-Hour safety card / certification during the fall 2024 semester. This will help him develop new safety standards for our machine shop and other labs.

### **Grants and Equipment**

1. MISUMI, one of the world’s largest suppliers of components for the manufacturing industry, donated a case full of various mechanical parts and a large linear actuator, valued at \$3,000, to the School of Engineering and Technology.

## College of Arts and Sciences

### Conferences and Presentations

1. Professor Adam St. John (Theatre) and students Nathan Piche (Creative Writing) and Aimee Spring (Creative Writing) attended the American College Theatre Festival from January 7 – 11, in Madison, WI. Piche and Spring competed in the Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship competition. St. John presented two workshops on the Suzuki movement method and completed the Intimacy Professional Accelerator Program run through Intimacy Directors & Coordinators.
2. Nine research projects were presented at the American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting in Washington, DC in December 2024 which involved LSSU students (names in bold) and/or faculty (names in *italic*). Four LSSU students presented posters at the meeting: Shane Coykendall (Environmental Science), **Nicholas Gordon** (Environmental Science), **Ashley Render** (Environmental Science), and **Nicholas Strader** (Geology).



*Nicholas Gordon, Nicholas Strader, Shane Coykendall, and Ashley Render at the American Geophysical Meeting in Washington, DC.*

- a. *Hari Kandel, Pradeep N. Ranasinghage, Paul Kelso, **Nicholas Strader**, Relict Shoreline Delineation of Ancient Lake Algonquin in Northern Michigan Synthesizing Geomorphologic, Sedimentological, and Geochemical Analysis*

Project Support: LSSU David M. Knowles Glacial Lake Study gift, LSSU Matthew and Lisa Ritter Geology Research Endowment, LSSU Undergraduate Research Fund.

- b. **Nicholas Gordon, Hayley Beaudoin, Paul R Kelso, Benjamin J Southwell, Derek Wright, Laser Direct Infrared Spectroscopy Hyperspectral Imaging; Applications in Geochemical Phase Mapping and Interpretation of Multidimensional Analysis**

Project Support: National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program.

- c. **Nicholas Gordon, Ashley Render, Pradeep Ranasinghage, Benjamin J Southwell, Derek Wright, Application of Correlative Chemical Imaging Techniques to Improve Paleoclimate Reconstruction Using Speleothems**

Project Support: National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program.

- d. **Shane Coykendall**, Deidre Furlich, *Benjamin J Southwell, Derek Wright*, Assessment of PFAS sources in coastal Lake Huron waters within the US Great Lakes.

Project Support: LSSU Undergraduate Research Fund and National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program.

- e. **Shane Coykendall**, *Mark R. Zierden, Nicholas Gordon, Benjamin J Southwell, Derek Wright*, Copper Biogeochemistry and Bioaccumulation at the Historic Freda Stamp Mill near Houghton Michigan

Project Support: LSSU Undergraduate Research Fund and National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program.

- f. **Ashley Render, Nicholas Gordon**, *Paul Kelso, Benjamin J Southwell, Derek Wright*, Application of Chemical Imaging Techniques to Stromatolite Fossils: Implication for Paleoenvironmental Reconstruction

Project Support: LSSU Undergraduate Research Fund and National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program.

- g. Gayani Ranasinghe, *Pradeep N. Ranasinghage*, Upul Premarathne, Shashika Amali Samaranayak and Dilini Walakulu Arachchige, Continental Shelf Morphology and Spatial Variation in Mid-Holocene Highstand around Sri Lanka.

- h. Thilini Wijewardhane, *Pradeep N. Ranasinghage*, Climate Influence on the Variations in Sediment Flux in the West Indian Ocean from the Last Interglacial to Present

- i. *Pradeep N. Ranasinghage*, K.D.V.B Jayawardhana, *Derek D Wright*, Potential New Chemical and Mineralogical Proxies to Reconstruct Precipitation Records using Speleothems

Project Support: National Science Foundation Major Research Instrumentation Program.

## Recruitment

1. Professor Adam St. John held an improv workshop with 15 students from the American International Academy (Detroit, MI) on January 24 in the Arts Center.

## Publications and Creative Works

1. Dr. Alexei Iretski (Chemistry) was a co-author on two peer-reviewed publications.

G. G. Martirosyan, A. A. Hovhannisyan, L. S. Harutyunyan, A. G. Aleksanyan, A. V. Iretskii and P. C. Ford. Nitrite Reduction with H<sub>2</sub>S/Thiol Mediated by Cobalt and Manganese Porphyrins in the Solid State. *Inorg. Chem.* (2025).

G. G. Martirosyan, A. A. Hovhannisyan, A. V. Iretskii and P. C. Ford. Reduction of iron porphyrin nitrate to the iron nitrosyl by H<sub>2</sub>S/thiol. Studies in sublimed layers. *Chem. Comm*, (2025).

2. Drs. Derek Wright (Environmental Science), Mark Zierden (Chemistry), Stephen Kolomyjec (University of Olivet), and Professor Ben Southwell (Chemistry) published an article in the journal *Spectroscopy*.

Derek D. Wright, Mark R. Zierden, Stephen Kolomyjec, and Benjamin Southwell. Applications of Micro X-Ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy in Food and Agricultural Products. *Spectroscopy* (2025).

## Grants and Equipment

1. The Micro Analysis and Spectroscopic Characterization (MASC) lab acquired a Bruker TRACER 5g hand held X-ray Fluorescent (XRF) instrument. This handheld XRF was purchased with the *David M. Knowles Glacial Lake Survey Research Fund* through a generous estate gift by LSSU emeritus Geology Professor Dr. David Knowles. This is a research grade handheld XRF which students and faculty will use in the field and the laboratory to conduct chemical analyzes which allows determination of elements present and their concentrations, quickly and nondestructively for natural and manmade materials.

*LSSU Geology student Elle Moses using the new XRF to analyze sediment core chemical variations to understand glacial lake storm frequency and intensity in the Sault Ste. Marie region.*



## Awards and Appointments

1. The board of the Michigan Sociological Association appointed Dr. Kirk Mauldin to a three-year term as executive editor of the Michigan Sociological Review (MSR). The MSR is the official, peer-reviewed journal of the Association and is indexed with libraries and databases of academic journals such as JSTOR, ProQuest and EBSCO.

## Arts Center

Over 50 new permanent pieces, including photographs, posters, and memorabilia, have been added to the space, creating a dynamic and visually engaging environment for visitors. Looking ahead, the Arts Center's spring season is shaping up to be vibrant and diverse. Key events include:

1. **A Night with Stephen Kramer Glickman:** This highly anticipated comedy event, with over 160 in attendance, was held on January 23 in partnership with University Activities Board.
2. **Missoula Children's Theatre:** This production of the Wizard of Oz on February 22 will give 64 local students the opportunity to participate in a professional theatre experience, enriching the cultural landscape of the Sault Ste. Marie area.

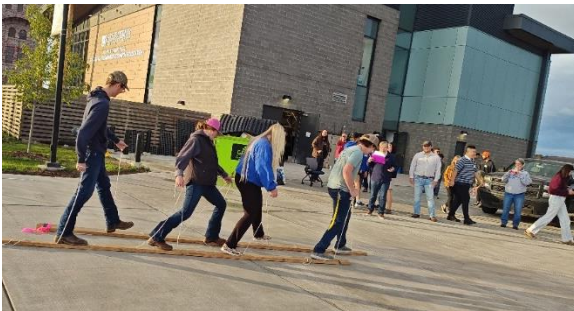
3. **Soo's Got Talent:** This community-driven event will be held on April 11<sup>th</sup> and is designed to highlight local talent and engage more people with the Arts Center.
4. **The Great Lake Chamber Orchestra:** This fan favorite will return to LSSU on March 29<sup>th</sup>. This event continues to draw a loyal following and contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the region.
5. **An Iliad:** This thought-provoking performance by New Canon Theatre Co., will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. It promises to engage audiences with contemporary themes.
6. **Spring Concert:** This concert showcasing the talents of our music students will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
7. **Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead:** This theatre production, featuring LSSU students and alumni, will take place on March 19-22.

These events, along with others planned throughout the season, reinforce our commitment to providing diverse and high-quality programming for the community.

**College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education  
Richard and Theresa Barch Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE)**

**Outreach and Recruitment**

1. College of Great Lakes Ecology and Education (CoGLEE) held an Academic Showcase on January 17 in collaboration with Admissions and Athletics. We had 12 prospective students and families and full participation by School of Natural Resources (SNR) faculty and CFRE staff. Faculty introduced prospective SNR students and their families to natural resource experiences and showcased the Center for Freshwater Research and Education with tours of the Barch CFRE building and the hatchery during the evening reception. We also had three student clubs and over a dozen students engage with prospective students during the reception.
2. CoGLEE faculty and staff showcased their programs during the Traverse City Hockey Game on November 19, which introduced several hundred people to CoGLEE. Dr. Ashley Moerke also visited Northwest Education Services (NES), which has over 900 upper level high school students enrolled in Career Technical Education (CTE) program in Traverse City. After her visit, she worked with the Assistant Superintendent to get LSSU's scholarships showcased at NES.
3. In October, CFRE hosted the first annual CoGLEE Olympics, an Ambassador event to encourage connections to CFRE and build a stronger College community. Over 50 students participated along with dozens of faculty and staff in activities such as wader races, team skiing, and pie eating contests. We are already getting requests to do it again this spring because it was such a success.



*CoGLEE students and faculty competed in the first annual CoGLEE Olympics, which gave students a chance to connect with each other and their professors, enjoy good food, and have lots of laughs.*

4. Dr. Jenna Parker and Dr. Dustin Brewer, from SNR, participated in the LSSU Pre-College Information Session on December 13, where a dozen prospective students rotated through mini-field experiences in wildlife and conservation biology.
5. Dr. Jill Witt (SNR) visited Shepard High School for a recruitment fair in December. Over 500 high school students from two school districts attended the event, with several dozen expressing interest in programs at LSSU.
6. Dr. Jon Doubek (SNR/CFRE) visited Careerline Tech Center in Holland, MI for a recruiting event in early November, 2024, which introduced several hundred students to CoGLEE's programs.

7. Professor Becky Davis in the School of Education (SoE) connected with the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children to identify current early childhood teachers who are looking to earn their BS in BK or P-3 grade bands. Two students have already applied as a result, and there are additional inquiring.
8. Dr. Hari Kandel (SNR) volunteered to support the city of Tucson, Arizona with needs for a hydrologic analysis regarding a flooding issue. Dr. Kandel performed the analysis and presented his findings at a zoning examiner's meeting to help a flood-stricken community by halting rezoning in a floodplain. His presentation is available [here](#) (time 1:51:20 to 2:00:00).
9. Dr. Toni Stith (SoE) is working with the Charter School Office at LSSU to keep the leadership of LSSU-affiliated charter schools up to date on the School of Education program. She presented at their annual retreat in January and attends monthly leadership meetings online with other members of the Charter School Office.
10. Mr. Riley Waterman, CFRE Hatchery Technician, provided a job shadow experience to a student from Sault Area High School. The student was able to spend the morning working closely with Riley and our student workers, highlighting a day in the life at the CFRE Fish Hatchery.
11. CFRE facilitated four Middle School and High School field trips for a total of 120 students and 6 teachers from J.K.L. Bahweting and Sault, Brimley, and Rudyard Area schools.
  - a. The J.K.L. Bahweting program combined a classroom visit by Ms. Beth Christiansen, CFRE Education & Outreach Specialist, to J.K.L.'s career class followed by a field trip for students to CFRE to explore aquatic macroinvertebrates, lake sturgeon, and a river system model designed by the students.
  - b. Sault Middle School students studied freshwater ecosystems with a focus on aquatic macroinvertebrates, native and invasive species, a visit to the Atlantic salmon hatchery and a fish dissection.
  - c. Programming at Brimley and Rudyard focused on data literacy using MiWaterNet sensor stations and activities including creek surveys. These experiences were supported by a grant to CFRE from NOAA-Bay Watershed Education and Training.
12. The CFRE Great Lakes Discovery Center (GLDC) is open the first and third weekends of the month for a story and craft or special program. Approximately 150 visitors participated in these GLDC activities from November 2024 through January 2025. Five students in the Fisheries and Wildlife program, Brynn Janetta (Junior), Alaina Kecskes (Senior), Ryan Quakenbush (Sophomore), Jessa Davis (Freshman), and Haley Smith (Freshman) along with one student in the Parks and Recreation program, Alexis Tyslicki (Senior) helped create and deliver these experiences to the community with support from our CFRE Education and Outreach team.
  - a. November 2, 2024—story and craft on *Giving Thanks: A Native American Good Morning Message* by Chief Jake Swamp, with illustrator Erwin Printup.
  - b. November 16, 2024—Annual salmon season event with stations to model the actions LSSU students do during salmon season.

- c. December 7, 2024—story and craft on *Footprints in the Snow* by Mei Matsuoka.
- d. December 21, 2024—“Welcome Winter” with animal pelts and skulls.
- e. January 18, 2025—story and craft on *Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner, with illustrator Christopher Silas Neal.

### Program Highlights, Student Activities, and Accomplishments

1. Nine seniors in the School of Natural Resources completed their senior thesis poster presentations on November 22, and oral presentations on November 23, at a symposium held at CFRE. Kylie Hoffman (F&W Management, mentored by Dr. Moerke) was awarded the best poster and Taylor Gross (F&W Management, mentored by Dr. Kapuscinski) was awarded runner-up poster based on the scores given by eight external evaluators. Dr. Kandel coordinated the event and all SNR faculty and CFRE staff contributed to a successful event celebrating their accomplishments. Over 150 people attended.



*The School of Natural Resources hosted the fall symposium at Barch CFRE, which gave over 150 students and visitors an opportunity to learn more about ongoing research in wildlife, fisheries, conservation, and outdoor recreation.*

2. LSSU’s CoGLEE partnered with Delta Waterfowl to create opportunities for our wildlife students to gain hands-on experience in conservation, hunting safety, and ethics. Through Delta’s University Hunting program, four students (and one professor) learned firsthand about the critical role hunters play in conservation. LSSU is proud to be Michigan’s first program to host a Delta-sponsored hunt in the state and we are eager to grow this partnership next year.



*CoGLEE partnered with Delta Waterfowl to host the first Delta University Mentored Hunt in Michigan! Four Fisheries and Wildlife Management students spent the weekend learning about hunting safety, ethics, and conservation and ended the weekend with a mentored hunt for waterfowl.*

3. Gwen Phillips received the Salmonid Award to attend the Midwest Fish & Wildlife conference this January 2025 (\$250).
4. Carli Huhn (Fisheries and Wildlife Management) was awarded funding through the LSSU Undergraduate Research Fund. The funds will support her senior thesis titled “Black bear movement in relation to all-terrain and off-road vehicles on Drummond Island.”
5. Kylah Buikema (Fisheries and Wildlife Management) was awarded the LSSU Michigan Garden



Club Scholarship for her research on snowshoe hare habitat. Kylah is now eligible to apply for the National Garden Club of America Scholarship.

6. Gwen Phillips and Ellie Prow (both Fisheries and Wildlife Management) received \$500 each from the LSSU undergraduate research fund for support to attend the MI American Fisheries Society Conference in February.
7. Nicholas Strader (Geospatial Tech Associates and Geology major) was awarded an undergraduate research fund grant for \$190 to support his presentation at the American Geophysical Union meeting.
8. Thirteen LSSU undergraduate students through LSSU's Fisheries and Wildlife Club, along with Dr. Doubek, attended the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri. Four students presented posters of their senior thesis.
9. Abigail Schrader and Kylah Buikema (Fisheries and Wildlife Management students) were selected as finalists for the Janice Lee Fenske Memorial Award, which recognizes students for their enthusiasm to protect fish and wildlife resources, their motivation to teach others, professional involvement, integrity, and positive attitude. Abbie and Kylah were two undergraduates selected among a group of graduate students.
10. Over 35 students are currently employed or are volunteering at CFRE including a dozen at the CFRE Fish Hatchery and 10 in Education and Outreach. Student workers and volunteers are gaining valuable experience in daily fish hatchery operations, fisheries and freshwater research, and education and outreach programs.
11. Fourteen student volunteers and 10 Career Tech high school students participated in the annual egg collection for adult Atlantic Salmon during mid-November. Students gained experience in fish handling, spawning, and egg care.
12. LSSU undergraduate student, Ms. Emily Perilloux, assisted CFRE Research Technician Mr. Silas Dunn with testing Atlantic Salmon used at the CFRE Fish Hatchery for Bacterial Kidney Disease. These tests help ensure Atlantic Salmon reared at LSSU and MI DNR are disease free, as all Atlantic Salmon stocked in Michigan start out as eggs collected by our students at LSSU.
13. Faculty in the School of Natural Resources welcomed guest lectures to their classes to expose students to cutting-edge science, diverse career paths, and Indigenous knowledge. Guest speakers included Dr. Matt Farr, a quantitative ecologist from the University of Washington who lectured in NRES 250: Quantitative Ecology, LSSU alums Michelle Kane (United States Fisheries and Wildlife Services biologist) and Jayne Roohr (Michigan Department of Natural Resources technician), who gave guest presentations in NRES 439: Wildlife Management, and LSSU alum Nick Cassel (UP Resource Conservation and Development Council) who presented in NRES470: Restoration Ecology.



*The Natural Resources CTE class, along with dozens of LSSU students, gained experience with the annual Atlantic salmon egg collection.*

## **Conferences, Presentations, and Publications**

1. Dr. Jenna Parker, Assistant Professor (SNR), co-authored a publication led by a PhD student at the University of Nairobi, alongside scientists at Save the Elephants and San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, titled “Adrenal and metabolic hormones demonstrate risk-reward trade-offs for African elephants foraging in human-dominated landscapes” in the journal *Conservation Physiology*. The study suggests elephants balance the risk and nutritional benefits of crop-raiding in agricultural areas, leading to greater understanding of elephant behavior at the human-wildlife interface to inform conservation strategies.
2. Dr. Dustin Brewer, Assistant Professor (SNR), gave an invited talk to the Michigan Sea Grant Research Retrospective titled “Experimental evidence suggests that broadcasting rail calls overnight can influence broad-scale site selection by migrating rails”.
3. Dr. Jon Doubek, Associate Professor (SNR), was a co-author on a publication in *Hydrobiologia* titled “Impacts of hypoxia and planktivory on crustacean and rotifer diel vertical and horizontal migration behaviors” that can be read here: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10750-024-05767-0>.
4. Dr. Jon Doubek is a co-author on a large collaborative project studying winter limnology. The publication in *Limnology and Oceanography Letters* is titled “The Great Lakes Winter Grab: Limnological Data from a Multi-Institutional Winter Sampling Campaign”.
5. Drs. Ashley Moerke and Jon Doubek are co-authors on a publication with collaborators from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The paper “Food web structure of the Lake Superior fish community in 2021–2022” was recently published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research*.
6. Dr. Hari Kandel co-authored a presentation titled “Predicting urban heat from land-use data and building attributes” at the American Geophysical Union’s fall meeting in Washington D.C.
7. Dr. Kandel and his undergraduate student, Nicholas Strader (Geospatial Technology Associates and Geology major), along with his collaborators in Geology (Dr. Kelso and Dr. Ranasinghage) presented a talk titled “Relict shoreline delineation of ancient Lake Algonquin in Northern Michigan synthesizing geomorphologic, sedimentological, and geochemical analyses at the American Geophysical Union’s fall meeting in Washington D.C.
8. Beth Christiansen was interviewed for a *Naturally Teaching Elementary* podcast called “Next Generation Science Standards Explained” which was shared with CoGLEE faculty and 37 undergraduate students in education courses. (<https://www.naturallyteaching.com/2024/12/13/next-generation-science-standards/>)
9. Beth Christiansen delivered a presentation to Bay City Charter Academy’s Board of Directors, administration, and LSSU Charter School Office staff, providing information on CFRE’s education opportunities for K-12 students. The presentation was well received by the board and Bay City Academy’s administration thanked us for the opportunities we provide to their students at Bay City and North Central Academies.
10. Dr. Bo Liu participated in the 2024 Great Lakes PFAS Summit, December 3-5. The summit focused on monitoring and influences of PFAS in the Great Lakes.
11. Rowen Faust, LSSU undergraduate student in Conservation Biology, presented a poster on her senior research “Density and community composition of aquatic invertebrates in intertidal wetland

ponds at Ludington State Park, MI, USA” at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife conference, St. Louis, MO, USA.

12. Gwen Phillips and Ellie Prow co-presented their undergraduate research titled “Where the Lake Whitefish are in the upper Great Lakes” as a poster at the Midwest Fish & Wildlife conference, St. Louis, MO, USA.



*LSSU’s Fisheries and Wildlife Club, advised by Dr. Jon Doubek, organized a trip to the Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference for 13 students. Four students presented their undergraduate research and three were honored with awards at the conference.*

### **Awards, Grants, and Donations**

1. Dr. Yong Zeng was elected Chief Executive Director of the Michigan Youth Empowerment Foundation. MYE is a 501(c3) nonprofit established to promote STEAM programs to students and empower them to thrive in the new technological world. Yong has been working with them for more than 6 years and has successfully helped the organization grow significantly.
2. Drs. Bo Liu and Kevin Kapuscinski were awarded a one-year, \$249,954 grant from the USCG GLCOE FY25 Fund. The project seeks to understand the physicochemical and behavioral changes of oil in freshwater environments during weathering. This project will leverage existing oil spill projects and provide undergraduate research opportunities to LSSU students.
3. Dr. Toni Stith, Assistant Professor (SoE), was awarded a \$3,905 grant to provide opportunities for LSSU teacher-education students to facilitate online learning and present their learning experiences at the (Michigan Association for Computer Users in Learning) conference. The grant also includes collaborations with three LSSU-affiliated charter schools to expose teacher-education students to learning environments in urban schools.

### **CFRE Operations**

1. Several LSSU faculty, staff, and students completed a pilot project studying the effects of oil on simulated Great Lakes coastal wetlands. This research was conducted at CFRE’s Outdoor Mesocosm Facility, in collaboration with colleagues from Algoma University, University of Windsor, and the US Coast Guard. Natural Resources Canada provided funding for this work through their multi-partner research initiative.



2. CFRE staff and students, in collaboration with staff from Limnotech and University of Michigan, conducted a pilot study to evaluate the performance of low-cost hydrocarbon sensor technologies under various simulated environmental conditions. Data were collected on the sensors' precision, accuracy, detection limits, and more. These initial tests provided a unique hands-on experience for LSSU undergraduates Torin Miller and Kennedy Johnson (Fisheries and Wildlife Management), who assisted with the project, and will support the future implementation of larger-scale experiments in a wave tank testing environment. Natural Resources Canada provided funding for this work through their multi-partner research initiative.
3. New equipment acquisition including a \$100,000 wave tank was delivered to CFRE and will be available for future research activity. Additionally, a new mussel touch tank for the Discovery Center and a new FishCam at the hatchery were installed this winter. All equipment was acquired using external funds, but will support visibility and research activities at CFRE.
4. CFRE hosted three events (in-kind support) including a scholarship reception for the LSSU Foundation and a meeting for the Michigan State Extension program.

### **Social Media Activity and Publicity**

1. The Detroit PBS's Great Lakes Now series showcased how CFRE researchers are diligently preparing for the possibility of an oil spill in the Great Lakes. Dr. Ashley Moerke and Commander Kit Pace (US Coast Guard Center of Expertise housed in Barch CFRE) both are interviewed in this exciting series. Watch the show [here](#).
2. The Sault News and Cheboygan Daily Tribute covered Dr. Jon Doubek's research on winter limnology. [New LSSU Limnology Study Aims to Better Understand the Great Lakes in Winter](#)
3. The University of Michigan's press release focused the Indigenous Education Youth Collective program, which is a pioneering collaboration among the University of Michigan, Anishinaabe youth, and Lake Superior State University. Dr. Chloe Kannan, an adjunct instructor and CFRE collaborator, leads the project. This impactful initiative not only inspires participants to envision their college pathways but to actively turn that vision into reality for many more Native students. Check out University of Michigan press release highlighting our partnership: <https://news.umich.edu/braiding-heritage-and-education.../>

## College of Health and Emergency Services

### Events

1. The School of Criminal Justice, Fire Science, and Emergency Responders hosted the Upper Peninsula Emergency Medical Services (UPEMS) Conference on the LSSU campus November 1-2, 2024. Over one hundred guests and presenters were on campus, including Paramedic and EMS service providers and educators from around the Eastern Upper Peninsula. Professor Bryan Fuller worked with his team to organize and host this conference, hopefully the first of many.
2. The School of Nursing held an Induction Ceremony for the Sigma Honor Society where 14 nursing students from both LSSU and Sault College were inducted into the Sigma. LSSU and Sault College partner together to have one of the few International Chapters of the Sigma – a Global Nursing Honor Society.
3. The School of Nursing collaborated with Sigma Honor Society of Nursing to host an educational event on ‘Mitigating Documentation Bias’. This event connected current LSSU Nursing faculty, staff, and students with alumni and other Sigma members.
4. Professor Jaimee Gerrie co-chairs the [Katie Robinson Memorial Hockey Showcase](#). This hockey showcase began 3 years ago with 4 female hockey teams and has grown to 20 teams in its 4th year. This year, 340 female hockey players with their families will be in Sault Ste. Marie and on campus and engaging with LSSU ACHA D1 women’s team, LSSU clubs, and others on campus Feb 14-16, 2025.

This event is a collaborative event with many agencies and volunteers. Board members and others in the community are invited to join us for the Marquis event Friday the 14th at 7pm at the Pullar Arena where an Event photo with all registered teams, Lady Lakers, and Aquinas College take to the ice together and to stay for the game between the Lady Laker and Aquinas.

### Service

1. Professor Jaimee Gerrie (Nursing) has been invited to serve on the UPHS Marquette Hospital Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity for Professor Gerrie to serve within the Healthcare field, but also make connections for student learning opportunities.
2. LSSU Nursing Students collaborated with the LSSU Healthcare Center to provide flu vaccines and blood pressure monitoring at the LSSU Employee Health Fair held this past fall.

### Publications and Reviews

1. Searight, H. Russell (2025) has an article and book review out in the Journal of Social Action in Counseling and Psychology: “Challenging Mental Health Professionals to Look Beyond the Consulting Room” and “Becoming a Citizen Therapist: Integrating Community Problem Solving into Your Role as a Healer (Doherty and Mendenhall).

## Graduate Successes

1. Petty Officer James Himes (December 2023 Magna Cum Laude Psychology graduate) was awarded the 2023 Coast Guard Inspirational Student of the Year award, which is given to only one person in the entire service.

Petty Officer Himes serves as a Pollution Responder, advancing regional initiatives to bolster oil spill response capabilities with the ecologically sensitive Straits of Mackinac Waterway. He was the recipient of the distinguished Amy Ignatowski Memorial Scholarship Award, named after AMT3 Ignatowski who was working on earning her wings, at the time of her death.

Petty Officer Himes is currently employed to assist with the California wildfires where he will be flying drones over the burn zones, specifically looking for basements that may contain hazardous materials. He will be one of the leads for the household hazmat removal teams working in the Palisades.

Petty Officer Himes reached out to connect with Dr. Russ Searight (Psychology Professor) to thank him for his support during his time at LSSU as well as after graduation.

## Office of Sponsored Programs

### New Grants since November Board Meeting

#### 1. U.S. Coast Guard

External Grant Awards				
Sponsor	Amount	Award Period	Budget Highlights	PI
U.S. Coast Guard: Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise	\$ 249,954	01/06/2025-01/05/26	Salary/Fringe: \$33,032 Indirect Costs: \$18,498	Bo Liu

The research project, *Physicochemical Changes of Oil during Weathering Processes in Freshwater Wetland Mesocosm*, will address the knowledge gap in oil migration between saline and freshwater environments. In most environments, the matrix of freshwater, in terms of salinity, density, nutrients, and organic matter, are distinctive from that of seawater. These differences affect oil migration. Crude oil in low saline water has higher solubility thus increasing the initial dispersion rates. This research will measure the physicochemical changes of oil during different weathering processes for the evaluation and prediction of oil transport and impacts in the aquatic environment.

## Marketing

The marketing department will join the division of Enrollment Management and Student Success under the leadership of Dr. Jamie Zamjahn in the coming weeks. The Director of Marketing resigned in December, leaving the department short-staffed. During this transition period, marketing has focused on the following initiatives.

1. LSSU's video production project, in collaboration with MI Playground, ended in December. MI Playground produced 12 videos and over 80 photos of students using high impact practices, applied learning, and working closely with faculty. These videos are featured on the LSSU website and one video is released each week on social media.
2. In addition to the changes on the webpage related to the production project, updates to the website continue. These include revisions related to scholarship pages, the application for the MBA, the Michigan Assured Admissions Pact, the Banished Words List, and academic program pages, among others.
3. Marketing released ads for Village Media and the Soo Visitor's Guide.
4. Press releases:
  - a. [LSSU Academic Showcase Invites Future Business, Engineering, Computer Science & Mathematics Students](#)
  - b. [Lake Superior State University Arts Center Welcomes Stephen Kramer Glickman for Exclusive Event](#)
  - c. [Lake Superior State University Unveils 2025 Banished Words List](#)
  - d. [LSSU's Online MBA Program Earns High Praise after First Semester Success](#)
5. Social media
  - a. Facebook (44,542 views, 25,400 reach, 691 content interactions, 82 new follows in the last 28 days)
  - b. Instagram (27,703 views, 1,226 interactions, 1,327 profile visits in the last 30 days)
  - c. TikTok (25K video views, 636 profile views, 1001 followers in the last 28 days)
  - d. Youtube (708 views, 13.1 hours of watch time, 742 subscribers in the last 28 days)
  - e. LinkedIn (16,474 Impressions, 274 Reactions, 710 profile views, 126 new followers in the last 30 days)





**Academic Affairs Report**  
February 21, 2025

**Appendix A: Candidates for Degrees for the Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025 Semesters**

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**Registrar's Office**

**TO: Dr. Kimberly Muller**  
**FROM: Katie Kelsey**  
**DATE: January 28, 2025**  
**SUBJECT: Candidates for Degrees for the Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025 Semesters**

The attached list of candidates is submitted to the Board of Trustees for the granting of the appropriate degrees. The respective chairs certify these candidates have completed all major departmental requirements and I, as the Registrar, certify these candidates have completed all University requirements.



# LAKE SUPERIOR STATE UNIVERSITY

## Fall 2024 and Winter 2024/2025 Graduates

Jack Adams	Associate	General Engineering
Connor Arnold	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Nicholas Arsenicos	Bachelor of Arts	Social Science
Madelyn Baker	Associate	General Studies
Madelyn Baker	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Alexander Davidovich Baumann	Bachelor of Science	Accounting
Brittnay Sue Bellville	Associate	Criminal Justice Law Enforce
Brittnay Sue Bellville	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Mariana V Bezerra	Bachelor of Arts	Creative Writing
Anne Kathleen Bowes	Bachelor of Science	Psychology
Alexandria Elaine Bowyer	Bachelor of Science	Criminal Justice
Sydney M Briney	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Sydney M Briney	Bachelor of Science	Integrated Science
Brooke Louise Burdick	Associate	General Studies
Brooke Louise Burdick	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Kaylin Marie Burton	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Terra Chancey	Bachelor of Science	Psychology
Tyla Bryn Coates	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Jason Cossette	Bachelor of Science	Fire Science Generalist
Nikolas Curlett	Bachelor of Science	Electrical Engineering
Tamara Dautel	Bachelor of Science	Business Administration
William Dautremont	Bachelor of Science	Social Science
Allison Deiter	Certificate	Social Emotional Learning
Allison Deiter	Associate	General Studies
Allison Deiter	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education
Leo J Dudeck	Bachelor of Science	Mechanical Engineering
Kaitlyn Ann Edington	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Craig Edsall	Bachelor of Science	Business Adm-Entrepreneurship Manufacturing Eng Technology & Mechatronics
Julia Fraile Raton	Bachelor of Science	Mathematics
Katie Fuson	Bachelor of Science	
	Associate of Applied Science	Aquaponics Entrepreneurship
Aleister Goodboo-Pether	Bachelor of Science	Individualized Studies
Aleister Goodboo-Pether	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Taylor Gross	Bachelor of Science	

Todd Allen Grubbs II	Bachelor of Science	Mathematics
Jimi Harris	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Kylie Hoffman	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Marianna Rosabelle Horrigan	Associate	General Studies
Marianna Rosabelle Horrigan	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Nicole Lynn Houghland	Associate	Health/Fitness Specialist
Nicole Lynn Houghland	Bachelor of Science	Kinesiology
Rachel Marie Huizinga	Associate	General Studies
Rachel Marie Huizinga	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Hannah Elizabeth Jenema	Associate	General Studies
Hannah Elizabeth Jenema	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Marcus Richard Johnson	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Management
Maila Jokinen-Packer	Bachelor of Science	Kinesiology
Sierra Rose Jordan	Bachelor of Science	General Studies
Ashley Nicole Kabke	Bachelor of Science	Criminal Justice
Noah Kemler	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Clairessa Rose Kenwabikise	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Management
Ryan Anthony Keup	Bachelor of Science	Electrical Engineering
Rachel Keys	Bachelor of Science	Cannabis Business
Rachel Keys	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Marketing
Lorena Klann	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Brooke Landis	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Ronald Ledwell Jr	Bachelor of Science	Accounting
Sean Ryan Madell	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Claire Maltby	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Management
Hannah Carra Marble	Associate	General Studies
Hannah Carra Marble	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Abigail Ruth Marshall	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Faith Marie Mason	Bachelor of Science	Criminal Justice
Amanda Claire Mathur	Associate	General Studies
Amanda Claire Mathur	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Kyler L Maurer	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Raven Skyler McKechnie	Certificate	E-Marketing
Raven Skyler McKechnie	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Marketing
Raven Skyler McKechnie	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Tyler Andrew Mroz	Associate	General Engineering
Tyler Andrew Mroz	Bachelor of Science	Mechanical Engineering
Megan Murray	Bachelor of Science	Business Admin-Management
Aaron Woodruff Nachazel	Bachelor of Science	Mathematics
Makenna Nelson	Bachelor of Arts	English Language Literature
Omar Ahid Nobani	Bachelor of Science	Electrical Engineering

Melissa Sue O'Connor	Associate	General Studies
Melissa Sue O'Connor	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Brooklyn elise Patchin	Bachelor of Arts	Creative Writing
Brenna Jolene Pavey	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Emily Carolyn Perilloux	Bachelor of Science	Biology
Dillion Keith Pohl	Bachelor of Science	Mechanical Engineering
Shiann Proffitt	Associate	General Studies
Shiann Proffitt	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Isabella Raginia	Associate	General Studies
Isabella Raginia	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Brooke Ann Richard	Bachelor of Science	Nursing
Eric Richardsen	Associate of Applied Science	Aquaponics Entrepreneurship
Megan Michelle Russell	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Robert Schwartz Jr	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Zachary William Stepp	Bachelor of Science	Computer Science
Ashley Stille	Associate	Early Childhood Education
Hope Sydney Swenor	Bachelor of Science	Teacher Education
Beck Thomas Tapert	Bachelor of Science	Robotics Engineering
Beck Thomas Tapert	Bachelor of Science	Computer Engineering
Nicholas Michael Tilley	Bachelor of Science	Cannabis Chemistry
Wendy Trotter	Bachelor of Arts	English Language Literature
Nicholas Ronnie Vines	Bachelor of Science	Fisheries Wildlife Management
Alex Patrick Ware	Bachelor of Science	Geology
Matisin Marie Wieland	Associate	General Studies
Benjamin Bradley Yeomans	Associate	General Studies
Benjamin Bradley Yeomans	Associate of Arts	Liberal Arts