

October 2022 Highlights

The Department of Biological Sciences



Biology and Environmental Science students toured the conifer forest biome as part of BIOL 442/542 Flora of Minnesota. They were able to visit the University of Minnesota's Cloquet Forestry Center and worked with foresters to understand biodiversity, management and prescribed fire practices in the biome.



Biology graduate students Ashley Selee (left) and Alex Kirsch (right) had the opportunity to travel to Las Cruces, NM to present research to the International Oak Society with mentor Dr. Matthew Kaproth (middle).

Ashley Selee and Matthew Kaproth published "Biogeography of functional traits and fire regimes in oak (*Quercus*) species across the United States." in *International Oaks*, 2023.

Alex Kirsch and Matthew Kaproth published "Defining plant ecological specialists and generalists: Building a framework for identification and classification." in *International Oaks*, 2023.



Intern Spotlight: Madeline Wersal

Crop Scout, Shotton Crop Advisory Services

Summary of responsibilities: Scouting fields for weeds, insects, and diseases as well as growth staging plants and estimating yields.

Advice to future students: The agriculture industry is always going to have a need for people to fill jobs. If you are willing to work hard, you have pretty good job security. It is also very diverse with many career options. Start looking at different careers, talking to people in those careers, and do internships.

The Department of Construction Management



Dr. Mohamed Diab (above), recently served on a panel at the PMI Mega Projects and Sustainable Infrastructure Summit in Dubai. The panel discussed some pain points from a talent-building perspective, best practices in hands-on and industry training, and the solutions offered with Project Management Institute (PMI)'s the newest offering, the Construction Professional in Built Environment Projects (PMI-CP) certification. The panel also discussed how talent acquisition could begin early through industry partnerships with educational institutions.

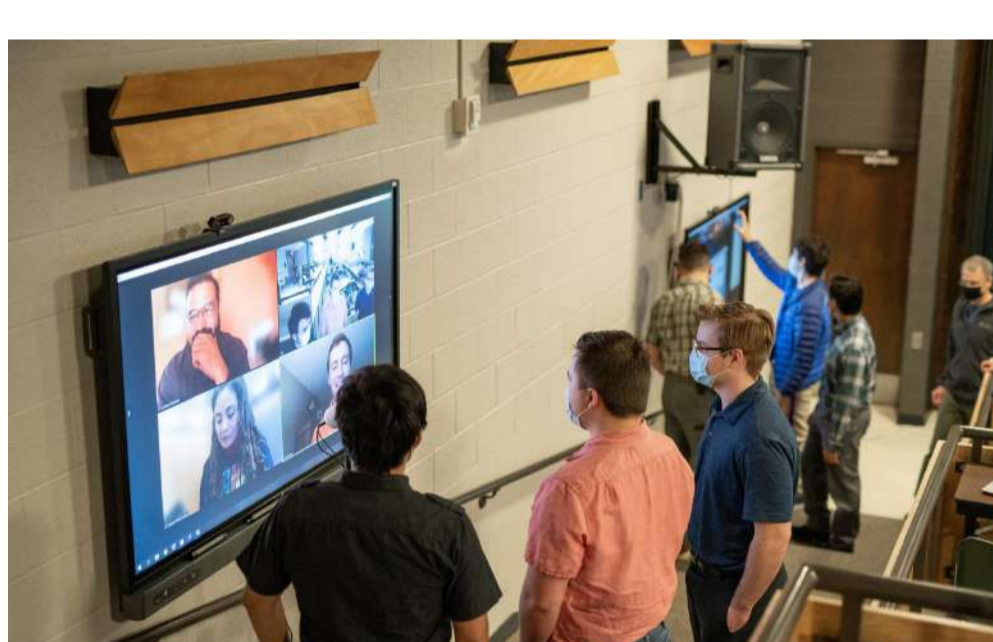
The Department of Integrated Engineering

Dr. Darcie Christensen presented a paper titled "Peer Mentorship: Exploring the Unmet Needs of Current Mentees During COVID-19" at SEFI 2022 in Barcelona, Spain. Her co-author, Dr. Idalis Villanueva Alarcón, is from the University of Florida. Maria Sabina Vitola Paredes and John (JT) Garcia, both students in the Iron Range Engineering program, also supported the intercode agreement activities for the data analysis.

Iron Range Engineering Program Kicks Off School Year with BenQ RP Series Interactive Displays

The Iron Range Engineering program connects student engineers to the world through the use of 12 BenQ RP Series Interactive Displays (pictured below). In Fall, 2021, IRE faculty members Dr. Dennis Rogalsky and Dr. Catherine Spence upgraded IRE huddle rooms to include 10 65-inch RP6502 displays and two 86-inch RP8602 displays. Each is loaded with interactive productivity tools to help the students develop a real-world professional skill set.

In the synergy of technical learning, hands-on project work, and co-op learning, each student works with a professional industry partner who may be located anywhere in the world, making it critical to invest in technology that enables distance, hybrid and active learning. Dr. Ron Ulseth, Director of the IRE Program said, "As the world of education shifted beneath our feet, our program needed to provide high-quality, interactive team learning to a hybrid audience. BenQ boards have been the perfect answer, allowing student engineers from across the country to solve complex industrial problems in real-time."



Iron Range Engineering students use the BenQ Hybrid Learning Boards to connect with remote learners and industry partners.



Ninety-nine KEEN Leaders (pictured above) gathered in Milwaukee for the annual KEEN Leader Meeting. Acting Dean Aaron Budge and Elizabeth Pluskwik (IE) represented our college and joined the activities around building a culture of learning throughout the network and in our college.

Interested in learning more?

Contact Elizabeth.Pluskwik@mnsu.edu to explore the many professional development opportunities through the Kern Family Foundation. Golden Tickets to the KEEN National Conference are available. More information on the conference, which will be held in Atlanta from Jan 26-28, 2023, can be found [here](#). A virtual option is also available.



KMSU Radio Interview with Jacob Swanson

Integrated Engineering Professor, Jacob Swanson (left) was featured during the "Every Day is Earth Day" segment on Minnesota Morning at 89.7 KMSU! Swanson received an Environmental Education grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to work with students to monitor air quality. As a result of the grant, new sensors will be used to teach students about climate change.

[Listen to the Interview!](#)

Upcoming Events

The 17th Annual Earth Conference hosted by the Environmental Committee and Living Earth Center will be held on Tuesday, November 5th from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.! Learn more about the strength of diversity in nature and in human society.

[Learn more!](#)

Please encourage your students to attend the Women In STEM Luncheon on Monday, November 7 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. in CSU 253! This will be a great opportunity for students to network with their fellows and to gain needed resources from the campus community. The luncheon is sponsored by CSET and the Women's Center and is free to all students.

[Registration Link](#)

Looking for help promoting your program, organization or upcoming event? Need photos? Want to submit an update for our newsletter or have an idea for our magazine? Reach out to Emily.Fredrick, Communications & Marketing Director.

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