MEMBER NEWS

Kudos

Congratulations to the following IAGLR members.

MICHAEL BACK (Kent State University) for receiving the NOAA Margaret A. Davidson Fellowship (2024–2026). Back will be conducting research on coastal wetland sediment nutrient cycling at the Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve for the next two years.

EMILIE DEROCHIE (River Institute) for completing her Master of Education with a specialization in environmental and sustainability education at Lakehead University.

LAURA JOHNSON (Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development) for her selection as chief science officer within the department's newly created Office of Agricultural Science and Research.

JAKE KIMMEL (Great Lakes Fishery Commission) for starting his new job as the commission's sea lamprey research program associate.

DEBORAH LEE (NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory) for receiving The Ohio State University College of Engineering 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award for Career Achievement.

ED RUTHERFORD (NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory) on his retirement. Throughout his esteemed career, Rutherford advanced our understanding of Great Lakes fish population dynamics, larval fish ecology, food web dynamics/modeling, and invasive species management.

EMILY VARGA (University of Windsor) for successfully defending her Ph.D. Varga's research focused on the environmental drivers of phytoplankton community structure and cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms along the Thames River - Lake St. Clair continuum.

AL STEINMAN, the Allen and Helen Hunting Research Professor at Grand Valley State University's Annis Water Resources Institute, for receiving the Niles R. Kevern Lifetime Achievement Award at the Michigan Inland Lakes Convention, awarded by the Michigan chapter of the North American Lake Management Society, for "significant contributions to the advancement of the understanding of lakes, providing leadership in addressing key lake issues, and exhibiting excellence in promoting lake ecology and/or management."

STEVEN WILHELM (University of Tennessee) for his election as a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada Academy of Science. This recognition is the RSC's highest honor in areas of arts, social sciences, humanities, and science. In selecting Wilhelm, the society cited his research in advancing the study of microbes in aquatic systems, including the roles of viruses as drivers of marine and freshwater biogeochemistry, and his contributions in biogeochemistry, molecular ecology, oceanography, and limnology.

In memoriam

CHRIS VANDERGOOT, director of the Great Lakes Acoustic Telemetry Observation System since 2019, passed away unexpectedly in September while in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to attend a conference. Vandergoot, 48, was especially known for his infectious enthusiasm for acoustic telemetry projects and for faith, family, and friends. A tribute to Vandergoot aptly states, "His innovative approach and contribution to the field of fisheries management has made global impacts and his research is highly valued by scientists and anglers alike. Great Lakes anglers distinctly know more about the fish that they chase because of the work that Dr. Vandergoot so passionately pursued."

Welcome new members

The following members joined IAGLR between August and October 2024.

Chunjiang An

Noah Bohl

Timothy Calappi

Mercy Chepkirui

Sarah Dobie

Owen Donnelly

Sara Guiher

Alyssa Haram

Anna Hill

Meghan Jeske

Julie Kastanis

Susanna Keilig

Jake Kimmel

Jessy Lugya

Don Felix Otieno

Augustus Pendleton

Daxelle Sakubu

Rachel Smith

Drake Ssempijja

Jai Tiarks

Zanko Zandsalimi

Share your news

IAGLR members, we'd love to hear what you've been up to. Did you write a new book, finish your degree, get a new job, or retire? Maybe you've been a guest on a recent podcast, written a magazine article, or been featured in the media? We invite you to submit your news to be featured in the Kudos section.

Also, if you're aware of a member who has passed recently, please let us know so that we can acknowledge them.

Please send your news to us at lakesletter@iaglr.org.