I started my position at the Vick-Majors lab in the summer of 2024. I graduated from Northern Michigan University in May of 2023 with a B.S. in Environmental Science where I was involved in undergraduate research evaluating the influence of climate and Lake Superior on coastal wetland water tables, as well as investigating Fe plaque formation as a diagnostic comparison between natural wetlands and mitigated wetlands. I decided to take a year off for professional experience and during that year I worked for the Superior Watershed Partnership and interned as an undergraduate researcher at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory looking at Fe-OM interactions and how they can provide a mechanism for lateral DOM transportation following saltwater inundation.

In the Vick-Major’s lab, I work on the Winter Grab project. This novel and ambitious project is in its second sampling year and seeks to provide physical, chemical, and biological data about the great lakes during winter. This data would be a boon to limnologists as a benchmark for how the great lakes currently operate and allow us to evaluate changing conditions due to climate change. I am hoping to utilize a relatively novel technique called bioorthagonal non-canonical amino acid tagging (BONCAT) to better understand the microbial activity of the great lakes.