



Chittenden Hall
466 W. Circle Dr. Rm 120
East Lansing, MI 48824

FY 2024-2025 Financials
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025



The 2024-25 COGS Executive Board:

Visit: https://cogs.msu.edu/about_us/#eboard

Miles Roberts – President

he/him/his - Genetics

president@cogs.msu.edu or office@cogs.msu.edu

Noah Lubben – Vice President, Internal Affairs

he/him/his - College of Human Medicine

Priyanka Kothari – Vice President, External Affairs

she/her/hers - Teacher Education

Nicholas Heilman – Treasurer

he/him/his - Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering

Saviour Kitcher – Secretary

he/him/his - Teacher Education

Rachael Pyram – Director of Equity and Anti-Discrimination

she/her/hers - Psychology

Vanessa Cardino – Director of Event Planning

she/her/hers - Food Science and Human Nutrition

Julian Sanders – Parliamentarian

he/him/his - College of Law

Liaisons - appointed by The Council of Medical Students and The College of Law, Student Bar Association (SBA):

Sebastian Loonen - Medical Schools Liaison

he/him/his - College of Human Medicine

Duncan Bjerke - Law School Liaison

he/him/his - College of Law

[Email: office@cogs.msu.edu](mailto:office@cogs.msu.edu)



The 2025-26 COGS Executive Board:

Visit: https://cogs.msu.edu/about_us/#eboard

Priyanka Kothari – President

she/her/hers - Teacher Education

president@cogs.msu.edu

Nic Heilman – Vice President, Internal Affairs

he/him/his - Computational Mathematics, Science, and Engineering

vpia@cogs.msu.edu

Paige Baisley – Vice President, External Affairs

she/her/hers - Plant, Soil & Microbial Science

vpea@cogs.msu.edu

Saviour Kitcher – Treasurer

he/him/his - Teacher Education

treasurer@cogs.msu.edu

Anna Lin – Secretary

she/her/hers - LAW

Secretary@cogs.msu.edu

Willy Chen – Director of Event Planning

he/him/his - Economics

doe@cogs.msu.edu

Jordan Parker – Director of Equity & Antidiscrimination

he/him/his - Criminal Justice

DoEA@cogs.msu.edu

Julian Sanders – Parliamentarian

he/him/his – LAW

Rebecca Popovski – Medical Schools Liaison

she/her/hers – Osteopathic Medicine

Liaison - appointed by The College of Law, Student Bar Association (SBA): TBD

Email: office@cogs.msu.edu

Council of Graduate Students

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2024 through June 2025

	Jul '24 - Jun 25	Budget
Income		
4-1999 · Prior Year Reserves	0.00	23,000.00
4-2000 · Investment Income	19,636.16	15,000.00
4-2100 · Student Fees	250,758.05	250,000.00
Total Income	270,394.21	288,000.00
Gross Profit	270,394.21	288,000.00
Expense		
6-1000 · Meeting Expense		
6-1200 · Full Council Meetings	5,042.58	5,000.00
6-1300 · E-Board Meetings	1,306.12	800.00
6-1400 · Staff Meetings	246.94	250.00
Total 6-1000 · Meeting Expense	6,595.64	6,050.00
6-2000 · Services Expense		
6-2100 · Legal Services	62,652.36	68,000.00
6-2200 · Event Funding Request	21,055.37	22,000.00
6-2300 · Conference Award Fund	19,194.36	24,000.00
6-2305 · Childcare Endowment	0.00	4,000.00
6-2680 · GAC	996.48	1,000.00
6-2800 · Social Events	35,466.45	34,000.00
6-2810 · Collaboration	6,967.28	7,000.00
6-2820 · Office Staff Training	0.00	50.00
6-2830 · Advertising - Social Events	300.00	300.00
Total 6-2000 · Services Expense	146,632.30	160,350.00
6-2440 · COGS Merchandise	5,998.69	6,000.00
6-2600 · Special Projects		
6-2610 · Max Monroy-Miller Endowment	0.00	0.00
6-2620 · Dreamers Program	605.00	2,500.00
6-2600 · Special Projects - Other	17,940.91	18,000.00
Total 6-2600 · Special Projects	18,545.91	20,500.00
6-3000 · Programs		
6-3110 · GSO Support Funding	150.00	200.00
6-3200 · COGS EBoard Retreat	999.52	1,000.00
6-3500 · EBoard Parking Reimbursement		
6-3505 · Eboard Parking Passes	4,229.00	3,000.00
6-3500 · EBoard Parking Reimbursement - Other	13.00	50.00
Total 6-3500 · EBoard Parking Reimbursement	4,242.00	3,050.00
6-3520 · Committee Service Parking	8.25	50.00
6-3700 · MSU Student FoodBank	8,000.00	8,000.00
6-3990 · Service Recognition Gifts	492.57	500.00
Total 6-3000 · Programs	13,892.34	12,800.00
6-4000 · Copy Expense		
6-4300 · Copier Maintenance	411.00	1,600.00

Council of Graduate Students

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

July 2024 through June 2025

	Jul '24 - Jun 25	Budget
6-4000 · Copy Expense - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 6-4000 · Copy Expense	411.00	1,600.00
6-5000 · Payroll		
6-5100 · COGS Business Manager Salary	69,868.17	65,773.00
6-5200 · Student Payroll	2,529.47	4,077.00
6-5301 · Executive Board Fellowships	5,000.00	5,000.00
Total 6-5000 · Payroll	77,397.64	74,850.00
6-6000 · Office Expense		
6-6100 · Telephone	450.00	450.00
6-6200 · Postage	43.61	50.00
6-6300 · Office Supplies	1,453.67	1,500.00
6-6800 · Account Fees	739.51	750.00
6-6900 · Technology/Maintenance	498.96	500.00
Total 6-6000 · Office Expense	3,185.75	3,250.00
6-6700 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	100.00
6-7001 · L-T Investment Contribution	2,500.00	2,500.00
Total Expense	275,159.27	288,000.00
Net Income	-4,765.06	0.00



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COGS 2024-2025 Advocacy, Award & Event Data

ORIENTATION

COGS Eboard Members and Representatives spoke and answered questions about COGS in person and virtually at department 16+ orientation events and resource fairs this fall. COGS also participated in the Graduate Resource Fair on August 24, 2024.

REPRESENTATION

During 24-25, 57 graduate student departments, and 3 student organizations, appointed representatives on COGS Full Council. These graduate student representatives participated in 8 monthly full council meetings, passed **43** pieces of [legislation](#) and served on committees across campus to ensure the graduate student perspective is considered at every level. A list of these University Academic Governance and COGS Committee appointments is attached to this report.

REFERENDUM - 2025

COGS is a tax-collecting governing group at MSU, meaning that the governing body assesses a fee to all graduate and professional students enrolled in classes at MSU. This tax is approved by a vote open to all graduate and professional students every three years. The COGS tax renewal was most recently authorized in [April of 2025](#). The referendum passed, approving a continuance of the current tax: \$11 for the Fall Semester, \$11 for the Spring Semester, and \$5 for the Summer Semester. More information about tax collecting groups at MSU can be found here: [University Student Taxation Policy](#)

UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

COGS leadership has worked to recruit/nominate/place graduate and professional students, across disciplines, on hearing boards, judiciaries, standing and ad-hoc committees across the University. Graduate & Professional students served to represent the graduate-professional student community on Hearing boards, including AUSB, USAB, SFSB and UPGJ and UJG, and provided the graduate/professional student voice on over 25 committees across the University that affect a full range of the student experience, on such issues as research, curriculum, campus issues, safety, student wellness and mental health, insurance, transportation,



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community relations, university policy, key administration hires, and more. In 2024-2025, COGS facilitated and approved graduate & professional student service to serve on over 90 COGS and University committee positions across campus.

Some Highlights Include:

- Miles Roberts, COGS President, served on the 2/13 Permanent Memorial Committee
- COGS President, participated in President Guskiewicz's Investiture
- Laleh Dinpazhouh, BMB COGS representative, served on a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) for the Office for Civil Rights and Title IX to provide input related to policy changes needed in response to federal Title IX changes.
- Rep. Sabrina Curley, CHE (23-24), and Rep. Nic Heilman, CMSE (23-24/Treas 24-25) developed a survey to assess the degree of safety practices as it applies to daily research among graduate students at MSU. Their findings were presented during FS24 at a full council meeting. Information linked on the COGS Website here: [Advocacy & Affiliations – Council of Graduate Students \(msu.edu\)](https://www.msu.edu/cogs/advocacy-affiliations)
- COGS appointed representation to provide the graduate student perspective on the University's Free Speech Hate Speech Committee
- COGS Eboard members convened with other stakeholders to provide input for advancing the growth and impact of the MSU Student Food Bank (MSUSFB).
- COGS members served on the MLK Jr. Commemorative Committee as well as Committees related to planning the Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Commemorative Celebration and Juneteenth Celebration
- Noah Lubben, COGS VPIA and student in the College of Human Medicine, and Saviour Kitcher, Secretary, co-chaired and directed the 2025 Graduate Academic Conference held on February 22, 2025. The event was planned and staffed by multiple COGS members!
- COGS members participated in providing input in the University searches for a new Provost and VP of Student Affairs (VPSA)
- COGS facilitated nominations of graduate students to the 2025 - 2026 President's Student Council
- Paige Baisley, PSMS representative, attended the MSU Student Health Symposium 2025 to ensure graduate-professional student concerns had a voice.



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- COGS representatives served on the Student Wellness Activator Network (SWAN), playing a crucial role in promoting and enhancing the health and wellbeing of graduate & professional student peers.
- COGS helped to recruit graduate student members to serve on the Office of Research Regulatory Support Graduate Student Advisory Committee - a new initiative from the Office of Research & Innovation.
- Paige Baisley, rep PSMS, served on the City of East Lansing University Student Commission
- Rachael Pyram, COGS DoEA, served on the workgroup for Students and Employees Affected by Pregnancy, Childbirth and Other Pregnancy Related Conditions Policy Review & Feedback
- Rachael Pyram, COGS DoEA, served on the Student Excellence Committee, which is part of MSU's DEI Strategic Plan and focuses on graduate & undergraduate students.
- Vincent Liu, COGS Representative for the Department of Criminal Justice, served on the Campus Survey Committee to formally review large-scale surveys before they're sent out to large portions of the campus.
- Angelina Benli, COGS Representative for the dept. of Political Science , served as liaison to MSUVote which helped to support MSU Student voter education and awareness campaigns, and kept the COGS full council apprised of the work and impact to constituents.

ADVOCACY

In 2024-2025, COGS leadership has made an impact in the lives of graduate and professional students, including:

- Responding to increased need and food insecurity, COGS maintained their increased annual donation of \$8000 to MSU Student Food Bank to assist operations which serve all MSU students, including Graduate & Professional students.
- COGS Collaborated with the Graduate School to subsidize registration costs for the annual *Write Winning Grants* workshop for graduate students to attend
- COGS voted to cover the costs for graduate & professional students to attend a tax preparation webinar & workshop series: *How to Complete Your Graduate Student Tax Return and Understand It Too*
- Sponsored the InJoy Gala - celebration for graduate students



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- Sponsored grad/professional student attendance at the HEAL Sexual Health Conference.
- Sponsored 15th Annual Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta Commemorative Celebration
- Sponsored the 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration
- Sponsored ComSciCon25-MI
- Successfully passed a Spring 2025 tax renewal referendum, which held the COGS tax to its current semesterly rate of \$11 for fall and spring and \$5 summer
- Created a new service available to Graduate Student Organizations (GSO): COGS Lending Library. GSOs can apply to borrow COGS items such as yard games and collapsible easels for events. Located on the [GSO Funding page](#)
- Expanded the GSO Support Award to help GSOs with expenses toward enhancing their membership and transition processes and with a goal to provide stability of their programs.

CONFERENCE AWARDS

- For 2024-2025, over \$20,000 in conference awards were awarded to 68 students who traveled to 33 cities, 18 states and 6 countries to present their research.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

- Total dollars allocated (By Graduate School) FY24-25: \$32,000.00 Thank you Graduate School!!
- Awards of up to \$500 each were dispersed to 61 students who attended workshops and other professional development opportunities (both virtual and in-person)

GSO SINGLE-HOST EVENT FUNDING

- COGS is excited to support diverse and exciting programming provided by Graduate Student Organizations across campus.
- In FY 24-25, over \$20,000.00 was allocated to 25 student organizations hosting events for graduate & professional students.



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- COGS additionally supports GSOs with a fund to help programs/events that promote transition and long term stability of the org with a separate COGS [GSO Support Award](#). The program was updated this past year.
- COGS started the new [COGS Lending Library](#) to offer large yard games and some other equipment for graduate student orgs to borrow for their events.

CHILDCARE ENDOWMENT

- COGS reaffirmed support in the 2024-25 budget for \$4000 to be provided over and above dollars earmarked from the endowment funds should more students apply for this award than funding is available. The COGS Childcare funding comes from investment interest dollars generated from a fund started by COGS over a decade ago. Graduate and Professional students that are not able to complete the [MSU Childcare Grant](#) application for lack of SS documentation or other non-financial based reasons, can opt in to be considered for this award. The Office of Financial Aid manages this process and both COGS and The Graduate School collaborate to provide additional funds when the need arises.

DISCIPLINARY & DEI LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- 9 students are awarded \$1,000.00 (ea.) for this award which is funded by COGS and managed by The Graduate School.
- Three COGS representatives (from the Full Council) were chosen to serve on the application review/selection committee for both awards, along with faculty and staff from The Graduate School.

COGS WORKSHOPS



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- **Graduate Resource Series:** A virtual workshop series presented by the Graduate Welfare Committee, connects graduate & professional students with vital campus resources through informal, expert discussions, providing insights, Q&A opportunities, and practical guidance for student success and well-being. Sessions took place on Tuesdays, during February and March. Recordings of the sessions can be viewed [HERE](#)
- **Virtual WORKSHOP: Quarterly Estimated Tax for Fellowship Recipients:** COGS has partnered with Dr. Emily Roberts and Personal Finance for PhDs to offer this workshop for students on fellowships to learn how to manage quarterly taxes.
- **Complete Your Grad Student Tax Return (and Understand It, Too!):** This workshop breaks down how to calculate your taxable income from your salary, stipend, fellowship, grant, and/or scholarships; minimize your tax liability using education tax benefits; and report your income, qualified education expenses, and estimated tax paid on your tax return. Presented by Dr. Emily Roberts, personal finance educator specializing in early-career PhDs, workshop was appropriate for US citizens, permanent residents, and residents for tax purposes (International students), and comprised pre-recorded videos, worksheets, and live Q&A calls.

2024-2025 COGS SOCIAL EVENTS

COGS social events are often coordinated or proposed by the Director of Event Planning & COGS President. COGS leadership worked hard to incorporate many types of events to engage graduate and professional students and provide meaningful opportunities for connection and fun.

SUMMER EVENTS: 2024

This past summer, COGS teamed up with friends from the Graduate School, including [GROW](#) and [GREAT](#) to host several opportunities for informal gatherings of graduate students who stayed on campus during the quiet summer months. Activities included: Coffee & Connection on the Patio, outdoor Yoga, lunchtime group walk, Summertime Grad Paddle event at MSU Sailing Center, picnic meet up at the July summer Carillon Series at Beaumont Tower, and our summer fun Block Party! We found this to be a great time to meet new Spartan grad students who came to

Report for FY period ending June 30, 2025



campus early! We plan to continue this partnership on summer programming for Summer 2025+.

Fall Welcome Celebration - August 24, 2024

- Over 600 attendees
- DJ & Music from Impact Radio
- A visit from SPARTY. Caricature artists, face painting and delicious food from Morton's Fine Catering
- VIP remarks from the MSU President, Interim President & Provost and Dean of the Graduate School and AVP of Student Life & Engagement
- Over 40 prizes from community businesses were donated and given to attendees.
- Event included, Lawn Games, prizes and giveaways, and activities & resource tabling from: MSU Library-Makerspace & DSL, Broad Art Museum, Student Organic Farms, Women*s Student Services, The Bug House, FRIB, Abrams Planetarium, Student-Parent Resource Center, Rec Sports & Fitness, GROW, The Graduate School, demos by the MSU Swing Dance Society and MSU Roundnet Club.

COGS Craft and Connection - Fall & Spring Semester

- Students enjoyed a zen-inducing afternoon of arts and crafts with food and beverages. A multitude of activities were done in the spring semester including rock painting, origami, pumpkin painting, friendship bracelets, stamped cards & postcards, painted Totebags and pressed flower art (and a tour!) at the MSU Herbarium. Held approx. monthly throughout spring semester.

Coffee & Connection - Fall & Spring Semester

- Held bi-weekly coffee hour events at various locations on and off campus fall, spring and summer 24-25
- Designed to encourage students to explore campus beyond their department buildings and to engage with other students across disciplines



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- Provided treats and beverages. Had a consistent cohort of students throughout. Plans to continue this popular program in 25-26.
- Locations included MSU Horticulture Gardens, MSU Bug House tour/Nat Sci bldg, Impact Radio (studio tour!), STEM Bldg, MSU Museum, MSU Law College Boardroom, Fosters Coffee, Hooked, Strange Matter Coffee, Haraz, Moki, Grand Traverse Pie Co.

Spartan Nature Walks with Dept. of Forestry

- Led by Graduate Students in the Dept. of Forestry, COGS coordinated grad student meet ups to attend these regular [nature walks](#) together.

Forest Bathing Walk Series - Fall & Spring Semester

- Hosted by COGS, students were invited to a fall and spring series of 1.5 hr guided walks starting at the Beal Botanical Gards. Our guide was graduate student, Ly Duong (PhD student in CITE), who created this unique series of themed, guided walks invoking a nature connection experience inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin Yoku.

COGS Tailgate - Fall 2024

- Students enjoyed music, food, games and camaraderie in front of Chittenden Hall - Game Date Sept 28, 2024

Check Out the Library With COGS! - Fall 2024

- Arranged tour and informational session for graduate students to get acquainted with 2 West Main Library services, including the Digital Scholarship Lab and Makecentral

COGS - Dairy Store Meet up - Fall 2024

- Gave students Dairy Store coupons who showed up to this informal COGS meet up in September

COGS Night Out at MSU Volleyball Game - Fall 2024

- COGS coordinated a meet up place and company for graduate & professional students who wanted to check out the game! MSU v Penn State. Go Green!



COGS Bonfire @ Fenner Nature Center - Fall 2024

- A bonfire, graduate & professional students, marshmallows & COGS!

COGS Night Under the Stars - Abrams Planetarium - Fall 2024

- A full house of graduate & Professional Students (and their accompanied guests) enjoyed a free show courtesy of COGS at Abrams Planetarium once during fall semester.

COGS After-break @Lansing Shuffle - Spring 2025

- Students enjoyed a varied sampling of Lansing Shuffle appetizers. Played board games and shuffleboard.

COGS Tickets for 9-5 Musical (MSU Theatre Dept) - Spring 2025

- COGS distributed free tickets (up to 5 pp) to the spring musical to graduate & professional students, courtesy of MSU Theatre Dept. and the Office of the Provost.

Ice Skating at Munn with COGS - Spring 2025

- COGS reserved Munn for 2 hours of skating for graduate & professional students, their friends and families. Costs were covered for skating and equipment. Over 80 students/their guests took advantage of this fun opportunity!

COGS Trivia Night at Harrison Roadhouse Pub - Spring 2025

- Students enjoyed substantial appetizer buffet and trivia hosted by Michigan Trivia Productions during Graduate Professional Student Appreciation Week (GPSAW)

Grad Night @ Hooked Bookstore - Spring 2025

- COGS teamed up with Hooked to provide a fun night out during GPSAW. COGS had giveaways and Hooked offered food & beverage specials. Students could hang out and play table games and chat.

Bowling with COGS @Spare Time - Spring 2025

- COGS reserved The Capital Room for 2 hours of bowling and fun for graduate & professional students, their friends and families. Costs were covered for food buffet, bowling and equipment. (GPSAW)



COGS - Tour of FRIB - Spring 2025

- COGS arranged for a spring tour for graduate & professional students to learn about the newly opened FRIB.

COGS SERVICES:

WHARTON CENTER SHOW TICKETS

- Graduate & Professional students were able to purchase discounted tickets through COGS for the following 24-25 Wharton Center shows: *Les Miserables*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, *STOMP*, *Shucked*, *The Peking Acrobats*, *Life of Pi*, *Chicago*.
- Over 180 tickets sold to these performances, giving graduate and professional students an opportunity to experience theater at a reduced cost (\$5 off student pricing and no additional fees!)

LEGAL SERVICES FOR GRAD STUDENTS

- COGS continues to fund free legal services through [Student Legal Services](#) for Graduate & Professional Students.
- COGS also supports the Student Rights Advocate system, providing funds to pay for a Student Rights Advocate (SRA) to assist Graduate & Professional students engaged in the judicial process for violations of University regulations. Here is a link to the [SRA Report](#) received in September 2025 for FY 24-25..

SHORT-TERM LOANS

- COGS funds a \$500 (interest free for 60 days) loan program that the Office of Financial Aid administers. Applications for the \$500 loan are available in 252 Student Services, and take 2-3 business days to process.
- COGS was also able to access a \$300 (interest free for 8 weeks) loan program that the ASMSU Office administers - thank you ASMSU! (Those loans are only available during the first 6 weeks of classes.)



COGS GRADUATE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE (GAC) - February 22, 2025

- COGS held its signature event on Saturday, February 22nd at the MSU Union.
 - 74 student presenters participated with over 80 presentations. [More Info HERE](#)
 - COGS is proud of the *GAC Committee*, headed by Noah Lubben (CHM), and co-chaired by Saviour Kitcher, for their creativity, dedication and professionalism, not to mention hundreds of hours of work during the year to make this event a great success.
 - COGS awarded \$2300 in prize money for winning presenters at this annual conference.
 - COGS is proud of Hazel McGuffin, a doctoral student in the Department of Microbiology, Genetics & Immunology, who finished FIRST in the virtual 3MT competition. The Graduate School and COGS sponsored Hazel to compete at the Midwest Assoc of Graduate Schools regional competition in Indianapolis held on April 4, 2025. <https://mags-net.org/three-minute-thesis-award/>
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- Download the [Program Booklet](#)
 - Full GAC Information here: [Graduate Academic Conference – Council of Graduate Students \(msu.edu\)](#)

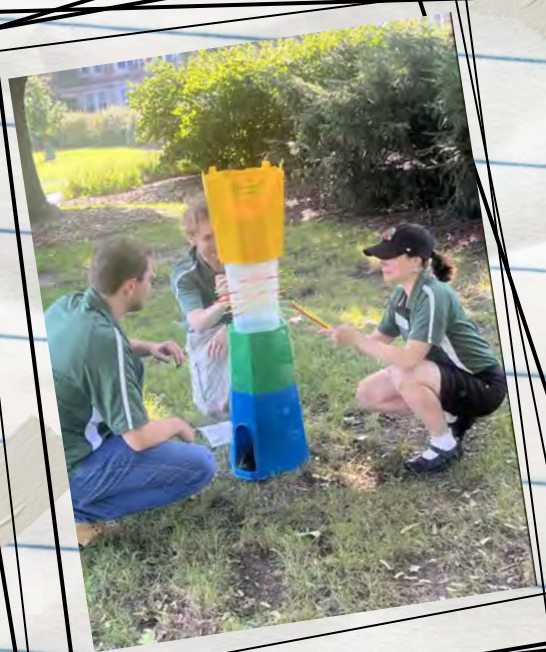
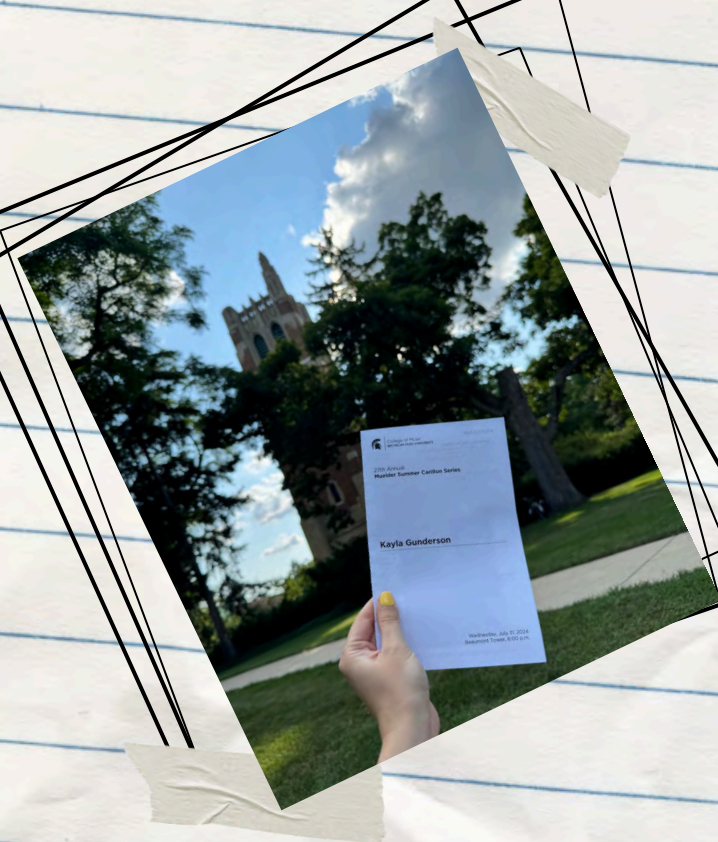


COGS 24-25 RECAP

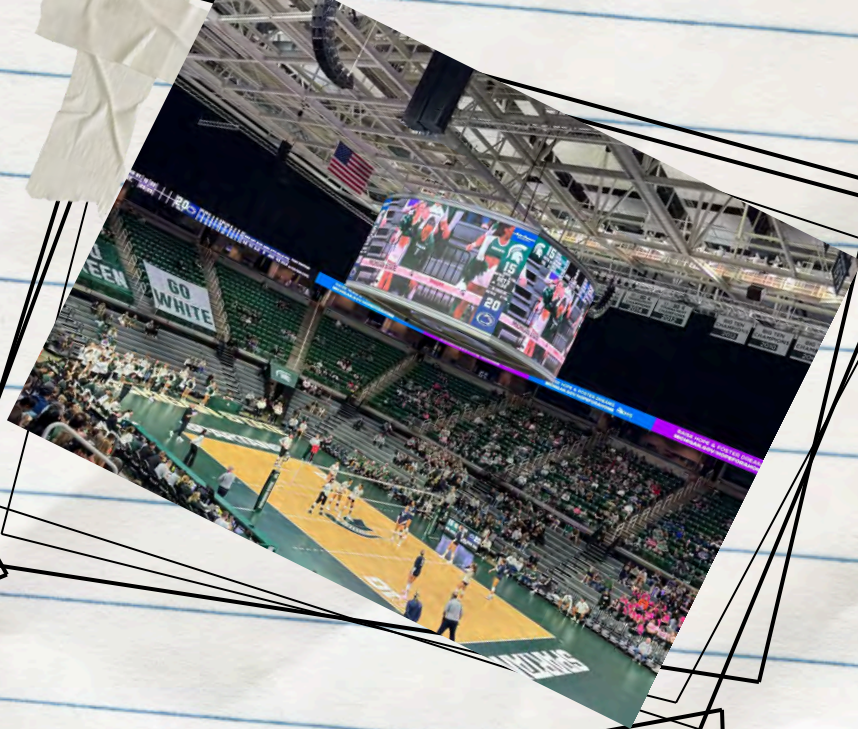


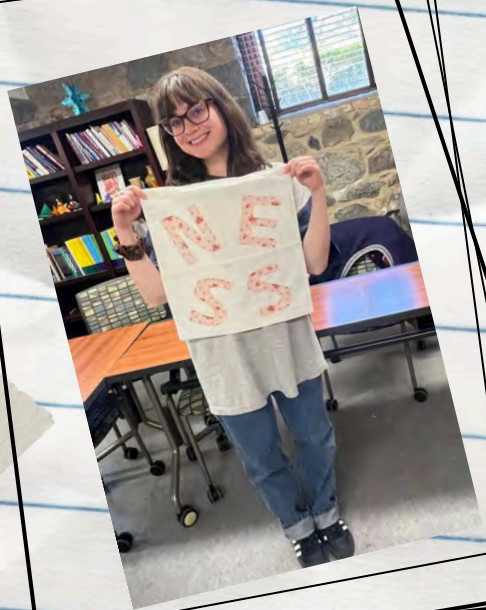


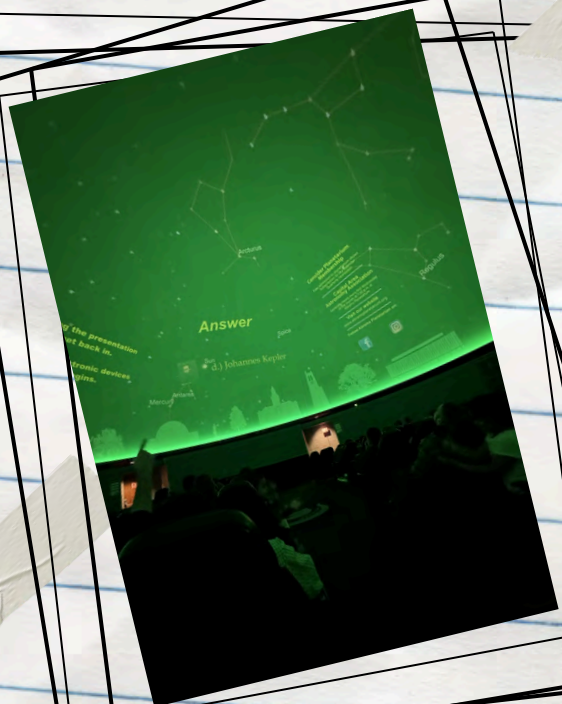




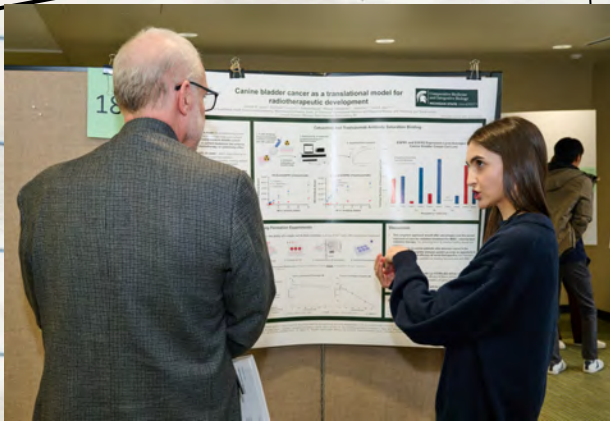













17th Annual

GRADUATE ACADEMIC CONFERENCE

SHARPEN YOUR PRESENTATION SKILLS
LEARN TO COMMUNICATE YOUR RESEARCH TO A GENERALIZED AUDIENCE
NETWORK & GET FEEDBACK FROM MSU ALUMS, PROFESSIONALS AND PEERS
CHANCE TO WIN PRIZES!
WORKSHOPS, RESOURCES & MORE!

SAVE THE DATE!
FEBRUARY 22, 2025
MSU UNION

cogs.msu.edu/gac/

COGS COUNCIL OF GRADUATE STUDENTS
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

