

Social Sciences & Humanities NEWSLETTER

Looking Forward, Looking Back

As we turn the corner on another summer, Lakehead University is in full swing as we welcome our students back for the start of another exciting academic year. September, for many of us, is like a new calendar year where we look forward to a series of new beginnings: new students, new classes, and a host of new experiences. It is also a perfect time to reflect on the past academic year, and to celebrate our achievements and accomplishments over the past few months.

Since the last newsletter, our faculty has experienced an embarrassment of riches. In addition to all the stories contained inside, we have much to celebrate among our faculty members, such as Dr. Sandra Jeppesen's recent appointment as a Lakehead University Research Chair, and Dr. Serajul Islam's latest edition. We also congratulate our recent graduates, who are already making a difference on campus and beyond. Larissa Speak (HBA English '09) won the Dean's Medal in the Faculty of Law, as the top student in the law school's inaugural class and Kate Beaulieu (MA English '16) won this year's Poulin Award for outstanding citizenship.

In this edition of the Alumni Newsletter you will find updates on three of our distinguished alumni, as well as reviews for books recently published by our faculty covering a wide variety of topics reflective of the diverse areas of inquiry that makes up the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

I would also like to draw your attention to the faculty profile featuring Scott Pound, the winner of this year's Distinguished Instructor Award, Lakehead University's most prestigious teaching award, that recognizes Scott's contribution to teaching, educational innovation, and leadership at Lakehead University. I would invite you to read on to find out more about Scott's other accomplishments.

An important initiative in our Faculty is the Piano Project in the Department of Music. After nearly 50 years of use, the concert Yamaha piano in the Jean McNulty Recital Hall needs to be retired. We are pleased to announce an appeal to our Alumni and friends as we look to raise \$100,000 to acquire a Steinway concert grand to take us into the next 50 years. Please read on for more information on how you can contribute and make this goal a reality.

And finally, building on the overwhelming success of our 50th Anniversary Homecoming Event of this past fall, Lakehead University is proud to welcome our Alumni back to campus over the weekend of September 30, October 1 and 2. More information about the many events around Homecoming 2016 can be found by visiting the Lakehead University Website at www.lakeheadu.ca. I hope to see you there!

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans
Interim Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities



"We welcome our students back for the start of another exciting academic year"

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Carla Whillier

Mental Health Lawyer/ Advocate



Passionate about helping people, Carla Whillier (HBA Sociology '07) had a choice of several different career paths, including education, social sciences, and even academics. But ultimately she realized that her passion for helping others would have the greatest impact in law.

"Giving a voice to those who often go unheard is of the utmost importance to me," said Carla, who spends much of her time trying to break down the stigma around mental illness. "My career has been extremely rewarding, as it allows me the opportunity to help individuals assert their rights while making a sustained contribution to the development of public education and law reform.

Lakehead University played a key role in making Carla who she is today.

"I'm the first to say that I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for Lakehead," Carla said. She originally came to Thunder Bay for Lakehead's concurrent education program, but ultimately earned her HBA in sociology. "I think that the small classes helped me develop my confidence. Having professors who believe in you and support you – it's truly unique and what sets Lakehead apart from every other university."

Carla's interests in women's health, gerontology, and disability studies were shaped by the creative and diverse courses offered at Lakehead. She was saddened to hear of the passing of Professor Sharon-Dale Stone, who she describes as "a fearless leader and visionary".

"Professor Stone was a passionate advocate and demonstrated her commitment to the values of equality and equity. From the bottom of my heart, I am so thankful for the opportunity to have studied at a university which acknowledges students as valued leaders and employs professors who epitomize these principles."

Carla has forged a successful career in a relatively short time. After attending programs at several prestigious universities, she graduated from York University's Osgoode Hall Law School with a Masters in health law, and later completed a certificate in Elder (seniors) Law. Carla received a Young Alumni Award from Lakehead in 2015, the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers last January, and is now the Vice President of the Ontario Bar Association Health Law Executive. In her "spare" time, she is working towards becoming a certified specialist in health law.

Much of her drive and inspiration comes from her mother, who after a serious car accident was able to beat the odds and learn to walk again before launching a new career.

"She enrolled herself in law school and tirelessly worked to provide a better life for her children. Twenty years later, not only is she walking but she is one of the most respected lawyers I know. I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for the mothers strength and determination."

Julie Cosgrove

Fine Artist/ Faculty Member



How can modern technology influence our artistic process – and our sense of place – in a traditional medium such as painting?

More and more, **Julie Cosgrove (HBFA '04)** has been exploring that question in her work. A graduate of Lakehead's Fine Arts program in 2004 and then the Master's Program at the University of Calgary in 2010, her distinctive landscapes evoke abstract expressionism.

"It's my natural style, but it's evolved over many years," Julie said. "It's heavily influenced by this idea of place and navigating the landscape we inhabit, whether that's the external landscape or our own internal one."

Today, "place" can be defined using technology, including photography, satellite imagery, and global positioning systems.

"Back when explorers charted and mapped new lands, there were so many distortions. There's an exactitude now that we didn't have before, but it's still prone to distortions for other reasons."

It's a balance between the natural world and the technological world that changes the experience, and perhaps in turn changes the artist – or at least the art. Julie took an artistic residency in Spain over the summer, during which time her husband and two kids joined up with her. She laments that gone are the days of "discovering" an out-of-the-way place. Now everything has been explored and described and debated on the Internet 10 times over.

"Even though there are huge advantages to technology... I find it kind of disturbing that we can't go and discover something new or follow an unpredictable

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Some Things Change, Some Things Don't, 2015

path. I guess that's one of the elements I'm trying to explore as a visual artist: how do we navigate our world now?"

"In the painting aspect (of mixed media work), I treat that as the romantic idea – the uncontrolled environment and travelling in places without the influence of technology."

Julie admits though that she is slow to incorporate technology into her life. She and Mark Nisenholt will often "swap apps" when they run into each other, she said. However, although she follows certain artists on social media platforms such as Twitter and Instagram, she is hesitant to use them to showcase her own work.

"It's a traditional medium, but now there's this digital imprint all along the way – it's kind of strange. Maybe if you talk to me in a couple of years..."

Last year, Julie won a Lakehead University Outstanding Young Alumni Award. She has taught at Lakehead as contract lecturer since 2012. Her work has been shown in many places, including Thunder Bay, Toronto, Calgary, Montréal, and Athens.

Norm Gale

City Manager, City of Thunder Bay



The remarkable thing about **Norm Gale (HBA History/Political Science, '08)** is not that he is now Thunder Bay's City Manager – most who know him would say it is the perfect fit. The remarkable thing is how he got there. After joining the Canadian Army Reserve, Norm went on to a career as a paramedic, eventually become Chief at Superior North Emergency Medical Services, and then took over as interim City Manager before accepting the position full time in January.

But the steps along his career path are more connected than they might first appear. "Service," Norm said. "Military service, service as a paramedic and paramedic leadership, and now service for the City of Thunder Bay. If there's a common thread, it's that."

Initially, he started his HBA at Lakehead without any career aspirations.

"I was an adult student, and got that four-year degree in eight years while working full time and with a family," Norm said. "The reason I did that was intellectual curiosity. I picked three subject areas – my history and political science double major with a sprinkling of philosophy – because I was interested in them. I just wanted to learn."

Perhaps that education wasn't geared towards his career at the time, but Norm sees it as crucial to his success today, along with the MBA from Lakehead, which he received three years later.

"A liberal arts education in the Humanities is so important. It has given me so much. It's broadened my world view, given me a better understanding of human behaviour, taught me how to read better, and taught me critical thinking."

Norm has served in many positions outside of his full-time positions as well. These include as Vice President of the United Way of Thunder Bay, Board Chair at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, and President of Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs.

Although he earned his degrees from Lakehead well into his work life – he became Superior North EMS chief in 2007, the year before he graduated with his HBA – Norm said it has helped shape him and his career.

"I'm not the person I am without Lakehead University. The influence of my undergraduate and graduate studies has been profound."

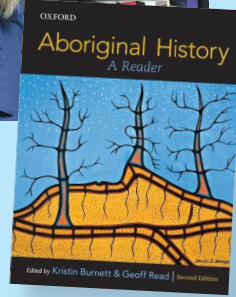
BOOKS



Aboriginal History: A Reader (Second Edition)

by Kristin Burnett and Geoff Read

Oxford University Press, 2016



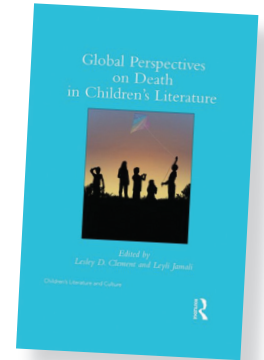
What makes this book important to the literature is the wide variety of topics it engages and its interdisciplinary approach. Breaking with past textbooks that privileged White perspectives, *Aboriginal History* centres Indigenous scholarship and worldviews. Of the 31 articles included, over half are original to this volume, exploring issues ranging from treaties, to health, to work, to residential schools, to perspectives on contact with Europeans. Primary documents accompany each reading to provide students with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the long and complex histories of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

Aboriginal History is part reader and part textbook. Pedagogical features such as “Chapter Objectives”, “Questions for Consideration”, and “Further Resources” contextualize the content and bring the experiences of Indigenous Peoples to life, helping students gain a new appreciation for the complex nature of the histories of Indigenous peoples on Turtle Island. New volume and chapter introductions also provide historical and contextual insights.

Indigenous Studies is a growing field, and the production of a new edition of *Aboriginal History* is a testament to the book’s timely contribution, and the crucial issues of colonialism and identity formation that it engages.

Kristin Burnett is an associate professor in the Department of Indigenous Learning. Her research interests include First Nations history in North America, women and gender history, and post-colonial history. Geoff Read obtained his Ph.D. from York University in 2007 and brings a wealth of experience as an editor to this project.

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/aboriginal-history-9780199015337?lang=en&cc=ca>



Global Perspectives on Death in Children's Literature

Edited by Lesley D. Clement and Leyli Jamali
Routledge, 2015

How do different cultures around the world present the concept of death to children?

Essays examining children’s literature from Canada, the US, Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, the UK, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Brazil, the former Czechoslovakia, the former Soviet Union, India, and Iran display a diverse range of theoretical and cultural perspectives. Considering both textual and pictorial representations of death, contributors focus on the topic of death in children’s literature as a physical reality, a philosophical concept, a psychologically challenging adjustment, and/or a social construct. Carefully organized sections review how classic texts have been adapted for the twenty-first century: how death has been politicized, ritualized, or metaphorized; what visual strategies for representing death have been used, and how death has been represented within the context of play.

Global Perspectives on Death in Children's Literature is part of the *Children's Literature and Culture* series, the longest-running series devoted to the study of children’s literature and culture from an international perspective. The series promotes original research in children’s literature and children’s culture, and seeks to explore the legal, historical, and philosophical conditions of different childhoods. This volume visits death in children’s literature from around the world making a substantial contribution to the dialogue in the expanding fields of Childhood Studies, Children’s Literature, and Death Studies.

Dr. Lesley D. Clement is a faculty member in the Department of English at Lakehead-Orillia and is co-editor of L.M. Montgomery’s *Rainbow Valleys: The Ontario Years, 1911-1942*. Leyli Jamali is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English Literature and Translation Studies at Islamic Azad University in Tabriz, Iran.

<https://www.routledge.com/Global-Perspectives-on-Death-in-Childrens-Literature/Clement-Jamali/p/book/9781138815247>



Civilization and Its Discontents

Edited & Introduced by Todd Dufresne (written by Sigmund Freud and translated by Gregory C. Richter)
Broadview Press, 2015

Todd Dufresne has written of Freud that “no other notable figure in history was so fantastically wrong about nearly every important thing he had to say”. Yet he concedes that Freud has utterly transformed the way we think about ourselves, and that Freud’s ideas cannot be avoided. For example, Dufresne admits that talk therapy works as a treatment, although not for the reasons Freud originally claimed. According to Dufresne, Freud may be a pseudo-scientist but his impact on the humanities and on Western culture cannot be underestimated.

In this latest book, Dufresne turns his critical attention to *Civilization and Its Discontents*, Freud’s most expansive work, which clarifies his stance on topics such as religion, human unhappiness in contemporary civilization, the importance of the death drive theory, and the significance of guilt and conscience in everyday life. Dufresne believes that philosophy and psychology are related and that a strong understanding of one will provide a better understanding of the other. In fact, part of what makes this critical edition of Freud so interesting is that it is made by a philosopher, not a psychologist. Dufresne’s detached viewpoint, written in full recognition of Freud’s shortcomings, nevertheless underlines why we still bother to read Freud today.

Dr. Todd Dufresne is Professor of Philosophy at Lakehead University. The new critical edition of Civilization and Its Discontents is Dufresne’s third Freud volume for Broadview.

<https://broadviewpress.com/product/civilization-and-its-discontents/>



Thrashing Seasons

Sporting Culture in Manitoba and the Genesis of Prairie Wrestling
by C. Nathan Hatton
University of Manitoba Press, 2016

Long before today’s televised Wrestlemanias, wrestling was a popular cultural practice in Western Canada. Horseback wrestling, catch-as-catch-can, glima – wrestling was never merely a sport in Manitoba. The simple act of two people struggling for physical advantage on the mat, in the ring, or in a grassy field, embodied the human struggle, especially poignant in the frontier territory of Manitoba.

Wrestling was also entertainment. In *Thrashing Seasons*, C. Nathan Hatton documents the story of wrestling in Manitoba from its early origins in the 18th century to the Great Depression. In addition to chronicling the colourful exploits of the many athletes who shaped the sport’s early years, Hatton explores wrestling as a social phenomenon intimately bound up with debates around respectability, ethnicity, race, class, and idealized conceptions of masculinity. Wrestling was both popular and controversial, but it proved adaptable to the rapidly changing social conditions in Western Canada during its early boom period.

Thrashing Seasons illuminates wrestling as a complex and socially significant cultural activity, one that has been virtually unexamined by Canadian historians looking at the 19th and early 20th centuries. Jim Blanchard of the *Winnipeg Free Press* called Hatton’s style “readable and accessible”, and noted its importance to Manitoba’s academic history. The book was also reviewed in *Maclean’s* last spring.

Dr. C. Nathan Hatton is a faculty member in the Department of History. Dr. Hatton’s main research interests are in the history of combative sports in North America, with a particular focus on their social significance.

<https://uofmpress.ca/books/detail/thrashing-seasons>

Exploring Intellectual Geography with Dr. Scott Pound

Teaching Political Science to Undergraduates

Active Pedagogy for the Microchip Mind
by Laure Paquette
De Gruyter, 2016



“Much has been written about the effect of the Internet on students, sometimes at considerable length. At the time of this writing, the most recent research shows that having even one other student using the Internet in the room decreases the capacity to concentrate. But digital technologies are here to stay. It therefore behooves those working in higher education to make the best of their presence, and a good place to start would be to seek opportunities these technologies present.”

So begins the introduction to a book discussing how the digital revolution will affect the way students respond to higher education. *Teaching Political Science to Undergraduates* explores why it is so important for the university classroom to engage students – and why the classic lecture format alone might not be enough to do so. It also addresses the relevance of today’s classrooms and how university students can learn in the classroom what they cannot learn in any other way.

Teaching Political Science to Undergraduates proposes an active pedagogy for political science at a time when active pedagogy is more important than ever. The book explores options inspired by other disciplines including science, performance art, and visual art as well as ideas such as interactive problem solving, case studies, and simulation exercises. It is the first comprehensive book on teaching political science at the university level in many years.

Dr. Laure Paquette is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Lakehead. She has published extensively in four languages including this, her sixteenth book.

<http://www.degruyter.com/view/product/465498>



St. Paul’s Roastery is surprisingly busy for a Tuesday mid-afternoon. The whir of the bean grinder is oddly comforting (in the way that an otherwise-annoying screech of metal wheels on tubular steel might be to a roller coaster addict). It is perhaps a touch loud, putting a frothy cap on the perky crowd and the vinyl music.

Dr. Scott Pound has already finished a latté, the milky foam residue settling like Monet’s answer to a tea leaf reading. He’s come early to his favourite coffee shop to decompress after a day of marking. We introduce ourselves and I sit across from him at the high-top table, admiring what looks to be a real brick wall beside us – sandblasted, but real – and do without my own latté for the moment, though he assures me it is very good.

What we come to learn that afternoon is that we are perhaps looking at ourselves along the other road taken. We are both in our 40s, both married raising teenage boys, and both deeply attracted to exploring books as vehicles for storytelling as well as objects themselves. We are also both interested in trying to define what “literature” means in the 21st century, in exploring its place among new media, and in pushing the boundaries of the printed word.

Only we swerved down a different fork at the crossroads.

“Before I got my first academic job – it was a tough market – I thought, ‘Okay, either I get an academic job or I become a writing consultant.’ It was very close. I started building an image of what that might look like. Those were the two roads that diverged.”

Luckily for us – and for his students especially – it was Scott who took the academic route. As an associate professor, he’s taught a variety of subjects at Lakehead

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University including creative writing, poetry, and creative non-fiction. On Leap Year Day this year, he accepted his 2015 Distinguished Instructor Award, a peer award that recognizes teaching excellence, educational innovation, and leadership. In March 2016, he accepted the university's inaugural Building Research Capacity Award, which recognizes scholars who further research in the university as a whole.

Scott's academic road isn't even one travelled by many lit professors. For one thing, he didn't become a big reader until high school. Scott was born in Prince Edward Island and grew up just outside of Charlottetown. He had a literary bent, even if he didn't know it at the time. He was immersed in sports, especially hockey, as a kid. But Scott was also a self-described daydreamer, exploring what he calls the "intellectual geography" of his mind.

"I think once I discovered literature and philosophy, it just became my new location," he said. Physically, that location changed from the hockey rink to a used bookstore downtown. "I became actively interested in the great books. I loved those Penguin Classics, and I started collecting those. It was uncharted territory for me."

Poets of the Romantic Movement were an early interest. "They were walkers. There is something about the fact that they would go for 20-mile walks and that they wrote while they walked. I had these pastoral fantasies of walking and exploration and nature. I think that might have been a spiritual thing as a lapsed Catholic."

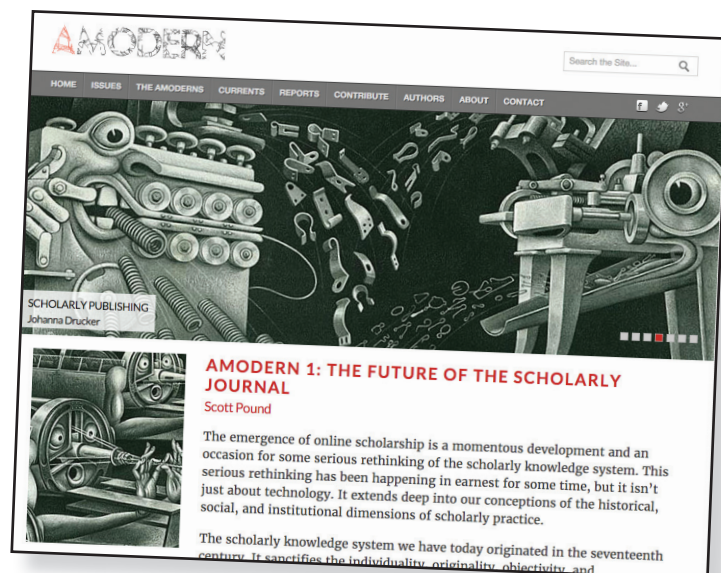
The Romantic poets were active as well as intellectual, much as Scott is. Before university, Scott lit out on an adventure of his own, biking Western Europe in a circle-tour that stretched from Flaubert's Normandy to the Austrian Alps where Hemingway once skied.

Scott majored in English and Philosophy at the University of Prince Edward Island, then went on to pursue his PhD in poetics (the study of approaches to writing) at the University of Buffalo. He describes his time in Buffalo as a deciding factor on his decision to become a professor.

"What brought me back into academia was the opportunity to study with the poets I admired and to inhabit that intersection between the critical and the creative, which is where I like to be. It's where I am as a teacher and as a scholar, and it's the position I hold down in my department."

By that time, his interest in new media's impact on literature was growing as an extension of his studies in poetics. He is the co-editor of online open journal, *Amodern* (amodern.net). "We're interested in how media and media change affects cultural practices from the point of view of poetics," Scott said. "That's the focus of my research, too."

Currently, Scott is compiling that research into a book called *On Speech: Intermedia Poetics and the Reinvention of the Literary*, which stretches back to literary modernism and those writers' attempts to change the rules of literature at the dawn of new media. He hopes to have it



completed in 2017, though parts have been already published in scholarly journals.

"I really got interested in the way that 20th century poets become disenchanted with print as a medium and try to make print operate like film and radio. They try to put literature into the orbit of new media as a way to sustain literature and to make it viable in this new mediascape."

As compelling as research is for Scott, teaching was the bigger draw. "I was really interested in a career in teaching. I thought I would be good at it, and I thought it would be rewarding."

Things have changed in the relatively short time between now and when he was an undergraduate. There are the nuts and bolts of school – the Internet plays a larger role, of course, and students look for more specific direction in assignments. But there seems to be a fundamental change in students' approaches to post-secondary education, at least in the humanities.

"The biggest problem I have as an educator right now is that there is so much emphasis on grades that students are afraid to freewheel. The single-most detrimental affect on people's education is an unwillingness to experiment for fear of not getting a good grade."

That's particularly distressing in a field like creative writing – or indeed any creative vocation – where experimentation and risk play a big part in pushing the boundaries of what works and what doesn't.

"The thing that makes me happiest as a teacher is when a student tells me, 'I stopped thinking about my grade. I didn't care about my grade. I just wanted to try this.' If that happens, to me, that's as good as it gets."

Students, take note.

We wrap up our conversation, I think both of us enjoying the couple of hours more than we had expected, exploring some intellectual geography together. Scott goes home to have dinner with his family and perhaps do some more marking. I head home to my family and my writing office. Before I leave, I get a latté to go and drink it in the car. He's right; it is good.

NEWS & NOTES

Outdoor Rec Summit a Success



In February, the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism hosted a regional Therapeutic Recreation summit, bringing together students, professionals, employers, and educators to exchange knowledge, discuss employment opportunities, and share insights regarding the Therapeutic Recreation profession in Thunder Bay.

French Theatre Club Stages Huis Clos



The French Theatre Club of the Languages Department presented *Huis Clos* by Jean-Paul Sartre to an enthusiastic group of 80 students, faculty members, and members of the francophone community. Special thanks to Directors Dr. Molleen Shilliday and Cédric Jeanpierre.

National Panel Discusses Women's Issues



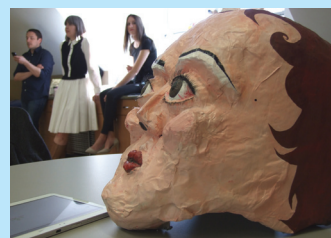
Feminisms at the Lakehead 2016, hosted by the Women's Studies Department and the Gender Issues Centre, was held in April. The Canadian Minister of Status of Women, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Slutwalk founder and sex trade activist Heather Jarvis, transnational activist Teresa Gomes, and local speakers met to discuss contemporary women's issues.

Undergrad Research Journal Launches



The Post, Lakehead University's Undergraduate Research Journal, published its inaugural issue in April. Check it out at <https://post.lakeheadu.ca>. Special thanks to English students Kate Beaulieu (Editor) and Ron Tommason (Managing Editor).

Orillia Campus Hosts Research Conference



Approximately 90 scholars, activists and artists converged on the Orillia campus to take part in the Media Activism Research Conference in May. Funded by a SSHRC Connections Grant and organized by the Media Action Research Group, it culminated in a pop-up art show at the Orillia Museum of Art and History. Many of the presentations

and workshops were livestreamed and can be viewed, unedited, at <http://mediaactionresearch.org>



Website: facssh.lakeheadu.ca

Email: ssh@lakeheadu.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lakeheaduniversity/>

Twitter: [@LakeheadAlumni](https://twitter.com/LakeheadAlumni)

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lakeheadalumni/>



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