

Social Sciences & Humanities NEWSLETTER

NEW BEGINNINGS

The month of January represents the beginning of a new calendar year, and for the Lakehead University community it serves as a second start to the 2016-17 academic year.

Looking ahead at the term before us I am happy to report that we are approximately 90% of the way toward reaching our \$100K goal to purchase a new nine-foot Concert Grand Piano for the Jean McNulty Recital Hall in the William H. Buset Centre for Music and Visual Arts. Please read more on this page how you might become a donor as we enter the final phase of our campaign.

In this edition of the Newsletter we feature three of our alumni: Fiona Hough (ORPT'95, BA Geography); Claudia Belda (HBA'00 History and Political Science); and Goyce Kakegamic (NTEP'83, BA General Program'86, BEd'95), as well as three books recently published by Dr. Steve Jobbitt, Dr. Lori Chambers, and Dr. Tony Puddephatt.

We also profile our newest graduate program, the Master of Arts in Social Justice Studies, which is delivered as an interdisciplinary graduate program across many academic units in the University. The program is off to a strong start with an incredible 14 students registered in the inaugural year. I hope that you will be as proud as we are about this new academic initiative, and I would welcome your thoughts on the program.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many alumni from our Faculty who participated in our second annual Lakehead University Alumni Homecoming over the weekend of September 30, October 1, and October 2, 2016. It was nice to have a chance to speak with some of our alumni and to get caught up on their many successes since graduating from Lakehead University.

In closing, I would like to wish you all the very best over the coming year and remind you to send us your stories and updates. We enjoy hearing from our many alumni, wherever they may be, and learning about their many successes along the way.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans
Interim Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities
Email: djobinbe@lakeheadu.ca



Lakehead is just \$8,000 short of reaching its goal of raising \$100,000 toward the purchase of a new Concert Grand Piano.

The instrument will allow the Department of Music to...

- ✓ enable students to pursue advanced opportunities in music performance and education
- ✓ enhance professional recital series such as LUMNIA and New Music North
- ✓ support the recruitment of prospective new students
- ✓ be a dynamic focal point for the performing arts in Northwestern Ontario

If you would like to make a donation contact:

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ALUMNI PROFILES

Fiona Hough Outdoor Educator/ Adventurer



Since graduating from Lakehead University, Fiona Hough (HBOR/BA '95) has devoted herself to outdoor education. She loves taking groups into wilderness settings and “watching the alchemy that takes place as people connect to themselves, to each other, and to the natural world.”

Fiona Hough is an Advanced Instructor Trainer in moving water canoe and canoe tripping with Paddle Canada. Her certifications, which include being a Level 3 Guide with the Sea Kayak Guide's Alliance of British Columbia, enable her to run skills and instructor courses as an independent contractor.

What is her advice to current Outdoor Recreation students at Lakehead? Get some field experience in whatever way you can!

“Connect with people out in the field,” says Hough. “Go to conferences and make presentations (yes, even as a student). Start humble and stay that way. Become a mentor. Work as a Teacher's Assistant. Find out what you love and don't do it for ego. Do it because it brings you joy.”

While at Lakehead, Hough says she was “extremely lucky” to have been part of the 1993 Alexander Mackenzie Canada Sea to Sea Expedition organized by Professor Emeritus Jim Smithers.

“That experience really inspired me to pursue career options in education, specifically around how outdoor experiential learning can be integrated with other academic subjects.

“Lakehead and the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism (ORPT) also connected me to the Canadian Outward Bound Wilderness School (now Outward Bound Canada), which is where I ended up spending 20 years of my career, starting as an Instructor and, in later years, working as the Program Director in Ontario and British Columbia.

“Lakehead is a hotbed of professional connection to the outdoor field. There is not a job that I have had, or a conference that I have attended (even in such far away places as Hong Kong) that has not been heavily populated with ORPT grads.”



Claudia Belda Lawyer



Claudia Belda (HBA'00) knew from an early age she wanted to be a lawyer. These days you will find her working as a member of Randall Johns Law Office in Thunder Bay solving problems involving divorce, property, and child custody and access.

“You have to love it,” she says, when asked why she chose to practice family law. “Sometimes tensions run high, and it can be difficult navigating clients' expectations, especially when no-one is really clear-headed and focussed on finding an actual resolution to the problem.”

And yet, this mother of two young children aged 11 and 8, says she thoroughly enjoys her work, adding: “I joke with my friends when I say that working in family law helps me to keep my own problems in perspective!”

Belda was born in Lima, Peru, and came to Thunder Bay as a 12-year-old when her uncle, a Thunder Bay physician, sponsored her family's immigration to Canada. Although she did not speak English at the time of her arrival, Belda flourished in elementary school and later at St. Patrick's High School. Attending Lakehead University seemed like a logical next step because she had younger brothers at home and didn't want to leave her family.

At Lakehead she studied English, political science, history, religious studies, and anthropology and graduated with an HBA in 2000. One of her favourite group projects that year (for a political science course given by Professor Laure Paquette) was to lay the foundation for a new university radio station. Five years later, in March 2005, that vision became a reality when LU Radio 102.7 FM finally hit the airwaves!

Claudia Belda's move to southern Ontario to study at Osgoode Hall Law School was also a smooth transition. She knew she wanted to specialize in family law and was able to focus her studies accordingly. When the time came to do her articles, she returned to Thunder Bay to work with Atwood, Shaw, Labine.

Belda's first job in Thunder Bay as a full-fledged lawyer was to work for Nishnawbe-Aski Legal Services Corporation where she managed a government-funded program to help residential school survivors manage individual financial compensation packages issued by Crown. During that time, she visited every NAN community in Ontario, and to this day continues to travel to remote fly-in communities to represent legal aid clients.

Her second job in Thunder Bay was with the Ontario Justice Education Network. There, she was responsible for educating the public on legal matters and making the law more accessible to elementary and high school students through seminars, law days, and mock trials.

Claudia Belda has been a member of several advisory groups including the Ontario Women's Native Association and the Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence Against Women. She is currently serving as Treasurer of the Thunder Bay Law Association.



Goyce Kakegamic Artist/Politician/ Educator

Goyce Kakegamic (NTEP'83, BA'86, BEd'95) is highly regarded for his accomplishments during the years he served on the executive of the Nishnawbe Aski Nation, including 12 years as Deputy Grand Chief. He is less well known for being a trail-blazing contemporary artist whose work can be found in the collections of many museums and galleries across Canada.

Born of Cree ancestry in Sandy Lake, Ontario, Goyce and his brother Joshim began painting as teenagers under the guidance of their Ojibwa brother-in-law Norval Morrisseau and fellow Cree artist Carl Ray. In 1973, along with their brother Henry, the two artists opened the Triple K Co-operative, a silk screening operation in Red Lake, Ontario, which operated for 10 years.

In an essay on the Kakegamic brothers written for the University of Manitoba's Gallery One One One, writer Catherine Mattes describes how the two men "literally exploded onto the contemporary art scene, impacting it, and their own communities with great fervour."

"The Triple K Co-op was based upon artistic control, self-representation, and self-determination," writes Mattes, and the Kakegamic brothers "continuously challenged their audience, opening their minds, as well as facilitating cultural empowerment through their art."

In 2007 Lakehead University awarded Goyce Kakegamic an honorary doctorate for his lifetime work for his art and his efforts to improve the lives of First Nation people.



The Legend of Red Lake: According to Ojibwa legend, two hunters came upon a large moose beside a lake. They believed the beast was Matchee Manitou (evil spirit) and tried to kill it. Wounded, the animal escaped by diving deep into the lake. A large pool of blood coloured the water red, and the hunters named the body of water Misque Sakigon, or Colour of Blood Lake. Over the years it became known as Red Lake. – *Red Lake Regional Heritage Centre*

BOOKS



Fodor Ferenc Önéletírásai [The Autobiographical Works of Ferenc Fodor]

Co-edited by Róbert Györi and
Steven Jobbitt

Published by ELTE Eötvös
József Collegium



Steven Jobbitt's new book examines the life of a conservative-nationalist geographer whose career in the early 20th century was shaped by war, political turmoil, and communism. His fascination with Ferenc Fodor (1887-1962) began with his love of the Hungarian language and his academic interests in critical theory and postmodernism.

Jobbitt spent three years teaching in Hungary before completing a master's degree in Canadian history with a specialization in environmental history at Lakehead University.

As a PhD student at the University of Toronto, he chose a thesis topic that would connect his interests in history, nationalism, the environment, philosophy, and psychology.

"Nations are invented," says Professor Jobbitt. "They are imagined communities and intellectuals such as Ferenc Fodor are important in sustaining them. But what psychological impact does political change have on the person? I wanted to explore that."

He found a treasure trove of Fodor's original writings at a small hydrological museum north of Budapest. With this collection of letters, diaries, field notes, news clippings, and unpublished manuscripts, Jobbitt was able to complete his doctoral thesis.

Since then, Jobbitt has been working with his colleague Róbert Györi, Chair of Social and Economic Geography at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Hungary, to complete this book and other scholarly works.

"We know that science, in this case geography, is never neutral," says Jobbitt. "It is filtered through personality, politics, knowledge, and culture. This book is important now because scholars like Róbert Györi and others in Hungary are beginning to use new critical theories to look more closely at the life histories of scientists and geographers."



A Legal History of Adoption in Ontario, 1921-2015

By Lori Chambers

Published by University
of Toronto Press



A *Legal History of Adoption in Ontario, 1921-2015*, is an accessible book on a complicated topic that author Lori Chambers is hoping will have wide appeal.

The book details the origins of the first Adoption Act passed in 1921 and traces the history of adoption law up to the present. It examines legal changes and controversies, from debates about the meaning of consent by birth mothers to same-sex adoption.

Many of these controversies – adoption of aboriginal children, international adoption, and secrecy in adoption records – have emerged in the last few decades, and so this is very much a modern history of adoption law.

Professor Chambers defines herself as a particular type of historian with a focus on gender and law. She is a Professor in the Department of Women's Studies at Lakehead and has written three books published by the Osgoode Society and University of Toronto Press.

Her first book, published in 1997, is entitled *Married Women and Property Law in Victorian Ontario*. The second, published

“Adoption is not a solution to the country’s welfare problems.”

in 2007, is called *Misconceptions: Unmarried Motherhood and the Ontario Children of Unmarried Parents Act, 1921-1969*.

Chambers says the idea for writing a book on the evolution of adoption in Ontario came while researching the topic of forced adoption for a chapter in her second book.

“Adoption is not a solution to the country’s welfare problems,” she says, “We have to get at the root of the issue and ask why children are up for adoption and how do we meaningfully hear from those in need of care.”



Microsociological Perspectives for Environmental Sociology

Edited by Bradley H. Brewster and Antony J. Puddephatt
Published by Routledge

What do star gazing, whale watching, and the sorting of trash have in common? All three topics, and ten more just as diverse, are analyzed in a new book on environmental sociology co-edited by Bradley H. Brewster and Antony J. Puddephatt.

Environmental sociology tends to be dominated by macrosociological theories to the point that microsociological perspectives have been neglected and ignored. This collection of 13 essays is the first book dedicated to demonstrating the utility of microsociological perspectives for investigating environmental issues.

“The book is the first to establish a platform for this emerging field of scholarship,” says Puddephatt, “It features the work of new and prominent scholars and it fills an important gap in the field of environmental sociology.”

Puddephatt specializes in sociological theory, particularly interpretive theorists such as George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer, and Bruno Latour, each of whom focus on how meanings for things (both material and immaterial) are generated in the social world. These interests led Puddephatt to help with this book project, in order to showcase the application of these and other theories to the evolving landscape of environmental sociology.

Professor Puddephatt has been teaching at Lakehead for the past nine years and is Chair of the Department of Sociology. He most enjoys helping students develop their analytical skills through supervising graduate level thesis work. By encouraging students in their own research areas, he is able to learn about a wide range of topics while watching his students develop and grow. Recently he secured federal funding (along with colleagues from the University of Toronto and McMaster University) to investigate the rise of open-access scholarly publishing and has since co-published three academic papers on the subject with Taylor Price, one of his master’s students.

PROGRAMS

Social Justice Studies

When asked why it is important to study social justice, Jenna Carew is quick to respond: “In a world filled with systemic racism, white supremacy, and other problems ... how is it *not* important?”

Jenna Carew is one of 14 graduate students enrolled in a new master's program in Social Justice Studies launched in the fall of 2016. She credits Dr. Kristin Burnett, a Professor working in the Department of Indigenous Learning, for helping her “to find her niche.”

“She genuinely cares about her students,” says Carew, “and goes out of her way to help us!”

It was Kristin Burnett who recognized Carew's interests and encouraged her to switch her major to Indigenous Learning, which would allow her to explore her passions fully.

Carew is of Mi'kmaq ancestry and grew up in Barrie, ON. With Burnett as her mentor, she soon became fascinated by research and went on to complete a thesis for her undergraduate degree in Indigenous Learning. For her graduate degree in Social Justice Studies, Carew plans to focus on sexual violence and the survivors of intimate partner violence within Indigenous communities.

Innovative and Interdisciplinary

The new interdisciplinary program prepares students to work, research, and advocate for a more socially just society – one that values equality, solidarity, and human rights, and recognizes the citizenship of each human being.

“It's an innovative program,” says Professor of Women's Studies Lori Chambers. “While Brock University offers an MA in Justice Studies, their program does not focus on Indigenous peoples or the North, issues which are central to our program.” Indeed, the new two-year master's program is fully aligned with the University's mission and vision, and supports the priorities contained in its Academic Plan.

The Social Justice Studies program was developed by faculty working in the Department of Women's Studies, including the Chair, Jenny Roth, and Lori Chambers.

The program is being championed by academics from various Faculties,



Jenna Carew

“The program prepares students to work, research, and advocate for a more socially just society – one that values equality, solidarity, and human rights, and recognizes the citizenship of each human being.”

including Dr. Kristin Burnett who teaches two courses in the first year of the program: *Theories of Social Justice* and *Methods in Social Justice*. Her own research interests include Indigenous history, race and colonization, settler studies, women and gender history, the social history of health and medicine, and western Canadian history.

Program Objectives

The program's objectives are to develop research capabilities and advocacy potential, and to offer advanced learning opportunities in the area of Social Justice Studies at Lakehead University.

There are four streams students can choose from in the program: coursework, a research project, a creative project, and a practicum. Students can also undertake a Specialization in Women's Studies.

“The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities has consistently maintained high enrolment in its undergraduate programs and has attracted students from across the country,” says Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, Interim

Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

“Existing graduate programs are also strong, but many departments are too small to have individual graduate programs. This new graduate program provides an opportunity for disparate units and individuals within them to benefit from teaching and learning with exceptional graduate students. It will also serve to promote the research capabilities and capacity of the faculty and provide increased competitiveness in granting council funding.”

Classwork is designed to facilitate discussion and critical thinking. Students appreciate the depth and breadth of class discussions. In fact, Carew believes the intellectual exchange is the whole point of the program. “We all come from such different backgrounds,” she says, “and many of us are planning to continue our studies at the PhD level.”

Valeria Panina is from Woodbridge, ON. She completed an undergraduate degree in Women's Studies at Lakehead and wanted to expand her knowledge in areas such as anti-racism. Currently, she is thinking of a research project in the field of fat studies along the lines of “the lived experience of fat phobic trauma and resistance.”

Cheryl Suggashie, originally from Pikangikum First Nation, studied law, justice, and political science at Algoma University in Sault Ste Marie before moving to Thunder Bay with her husband and three children. She enjoys sewing and beading and is considering a creative project involving textile arts.

As for Professor Lori Chambers, she is gratified by the interest the program has generated to date among students wanting to make the world a better place. And, with 14 graduate students currently in the charter class as well as a healthy number of applicants for next year, she is confident the new program will enhance Lakehead's student recruitment and retention.

But most of all, Chambers is excited about the comprehensive nature of the program. “It's a way of examining intersecting oppressions and barriers to equality – such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, homelessness, mental health, illness, – and focusing on ways of overcoming them.

“We should all have the same right to be fully human and have full enjoyment of whatever years we have on this planet,” she adds.



Valeria Panina



Cheryl Suggashie

Social Sciences & Humanities NEWS & NOTES

Philosophy Major honoured with Saaltink Memorial Award

Rheanna Geisel says she is honoured to be selected as this year's recipient of the Heather Saaltink Memorial Award. The Award is given each year to a fourth-year student athlete who is active at the Varsity or club level and demonstrates a commitment to environmental protection and social justice, inspiring others to make a difference.

Geisel is a middle blocker on the Lakehead women's Varsity volleyball team. She is also the first Philosophy major to receive the Award, which honours the late Heather Saaltink, a First Class Honours student in Philosophy and former athlete who passed away in 2008 at the age of 22.

"Being a student athlete is one of the toughest, yet most rewarding challenges I have taken on," says Geisel. "Volleyball is what allowed me to get a postsecondary education, which will, in turn, help me achieve my career goal of becoming a lawyer. I'm thankful for all that volleyball and academics have given me thus far and I cannot wait to see where they take me in my future."



Philosophy Professor Todd Dufresne and Anthropology Professor Clara Sacchetti-Dufresne congratulate Rheanna Geisel on receiving the Heather Saaltink Memorial Award

Social Justice and Activism in NWO

An interdisciplinary conference attended by 85 participants was held in Thunder Bay on December 6, 2016. Students, faculty, community members, elders, activists, and artists gathered in the Bora Laskin Auditorium to discuss food insecurity, environmental degradation, ally-ship (ally to/for marginalized communities) and anti-oppression education, birth, mothering, and sex education in Northwestern Ontario. The conference was organized by students of the Social Justice Studies program, the Women's and Gender Studies Student Association (WGSSA), and the Department of Women's Studies.



"We included Lakehead University in our will because we believe in the transformative power of education."

Dr. Bill Heath, Professor Emeritus, Lakehead University
Ms. Betty Heath, Lakehead Alumna

YOUR WILL IS A GIFT

Creating a Will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. Not only can a Will protect those you care for, it can also detail how you would like your estate managed.

A gift in your Will to Lakehead University can provide future financial support to a student, create a lasting legacy and provide significant estate tax benefits. Your Will is a Gift.

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