

Report to Senate – September 12, 2012 Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Decanal Appointments

I am pleased to welcome Dr. David Barnett, Dean, Faculty of Engineering and Prof. Lee Stuesser, Founding Dean, Faculty of Law to their positions as of August 2012.

Decanal Reviews

Terms will be ending in the spring 2013 for Dr. John, O'Meara, Dean, Faculty of Education and Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Dean, Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies. Both have indicated their desire to be considered for a second term. Under the terms of the policy established for Decanal Review, I will be establishing review committees shortly.

New Faculty Orientation (August 27-28)

The Deputy Provost, along with the help of numerous staff at both the Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses, recently hosted the annual New Faculty Orientation. The Orientation was designed to give our newest faculty members an introduction to the teaching and research mission at Lakehead, as well as an overview of the resources and services that the University provides to support their work. Once again, we would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest faculty members, and to express thanks to all the presenters, faculty and staff who helped with the delivery of the Orientation program.

Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives)

A Search Committee is being appointed and it is expected that recruitment for the permanent replacement will get underway within the next few weeks. Yolanda Wanakamik has been appointed Acting Vice-Provost Aboriginal Initiatives.

ELP (English as a second language) Program

The program is being coordinated by Lakehead University International, and will be offered fall, winter and spring terms during the 2012-2013 academic year.

This 14-week program prepares students to enter Canadian Universities, Colleges, and High Schools. Our program targets all four language areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students in our program improve their ability to read academic materials, write essays, take notes, and give presentations. With the successful completion of the highest level of Academic English Program students will: Meet the English Language Proficiency Requirement for Lakehead University's undergraduate programs and select graduate programs.

New Programs

Site visits are currently being organized as part of the institutional quality assurance review process for two new program proposals in Engineering - the MSc in Mechanical Engineering and the PhD in Electrical and Control Engineering.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

The Faculty has had a busy summer as usual with field work components for applied research projects and various ongoing tasks such as document preparation for internal reviews of our academic programs, facility upgrades and course materials modifications. Some noteworthy activities include:

- Hosting of seven YES (Youth Employment Service) high school students for 2 months
- Weekly training modules in softcopy image analysis (linked to the Provincial high-res forest inventory) for regional industrial forest professionals and technicians
- Building of geomatics training modules for province-wide DE delivery (2013)
- Establishment of training capacity for geomatics in Fort Frances – including evaluation for expansion to Hearst and Barrie in early 2013
- Establishment of database service with the City of Barrie for urban forestry expansion
- Execution of an intense month-long transition program (August) for technology students entering year 3 of our undergraduate degrees
- Site visits to two Indian universities for the establishment of unique exchange programs where students from 3 institutions. Student exchanges will commence early in 2013 with 8 Indian and 4 LU-NRM students
- We have established a formal Ecuador-based field component for our third year students. Currently 12 volunteer students (as well as two NRM faculty members) are part of 2-week field excursion in various parts of Ecuador.
- We are establishing two MOUs for 3+1 and 2+2 programming with two Chinese universities (Anhui and Nanjing) – the intent (after multiple site visits behind us) is to establish Chinese cohort classes with both institutions whereby groups of 30 Chinese students are started with a NRM-equivalent year 1 and 2 curriculum for subsequent entry into our third year programming at Lakehead. This will be followed up with a similar effort with a northern India (Solan) forestry institution.
- Our 4th year students are now travelling to Quebec City for participation in a Canada-wide assembly of natural resources researchers and resources professionals.
- We formally joined an industry-based consortium on forest stewardship certification and plan to become very active with a long-term outlook on environmental assessment opportunities and First Nations engagement with northern development
- After a thorough external accreditation evaluation of our Forestry undergraduate degree this past spring we have this week been granted a full 6 year accreditation with no conditions imposed
- We have initiated an ambitious program of visiting many First Nation communities with our students

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

Environmental Science and Environmental Studies Receives National Accreditation

[The Faculty of Science](#) is pleased to announce its Division of Environmental Studies has received national accreditation for both Honours Environmental Science and Honours Environmental Studies degrees from ECO-Canada.

The certification decision was recently made by the [Canadian Environmental Accreditation Commission](#). This accreditation is for five years and verifies that the programs have met the National Standards as determined by the [Canadian University Environmental Science Network](#). Lakehead University will join Carleton University, Trent University and the University of Toronto

(Scarborough) as the only universities in Ontario to have achieved accreditation. Lakehead University will be **the first university in Ontario** to have both Environmental Science and Environmental Studies degrees accredited. While accreditation ensures that the program has met rigorous standards, it also helps graduates with school-to-work transitions and with careers in the Environmental area. Students graduating from these degrees are able to apply for Environmental Professional Certification in an accelerated time-frame.

Summer School on Medical Imaging

August 17th marked the culmination of Thunder Bay's 16-week Summer School on Medical Imaging, jointly hosted by Lakehead University and the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute (TBRI). The program attracted students from different departments and levels of study and was attended by 32 undergraduate and graduate participants- as well as one keen high school student.

NSERC CRD Grant - Dr. Gautam Das, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics is the recipient of an NSERC CRD Grant for his work on greenhouse gas emissions. CRD Grants support well-defined projects undertaken by university researchers and their private-sector partners. Dr. Das' project is with Agrium, a fertilizer company. The grant is over 200,000\$ and will provide training to one graduate student, one postdoctoral fellow and one technician/summer student.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Upcoming Event: Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Distinguished Speaker Series

The Faculty of Health & Behavioural Sciences is pleased to announce a guest presentation by Dr. Patrick McGrath on September 27, 2012, at 4:00 p.m., entitled "Health Research in Canada: Moving Forward". Arrangements have been made to videoconference with the Orillia Campus and NOSM-East Campus. This is a must see for active and aspiring researchers alike. Details may be found in the [attached poster](#).

Honours for Dr. Mary Lou Kelley, School of Social Work

On August 13, Dr. Mary Lou Kelley will receive a Citizen of Exceptional Achievement Award from the City of Thunder Bay for her work as a Lakehead University Social Work Professor and a researcher with the Centre for Education and Research on Aging & Health (CERAH). As the former Centre Director, she has been instrumental in helping this dynamic organization achieve its mission of advancing health and social care for an aging population and promoting the health and well being of people aging across the life span.

In addition, Dr. Kelley has been selected to receive the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her hard work and passion for hospice palliative care, and for advancing issues of hospice palliative care in Canada. Nominated by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA), she will receive the award at the Annual General Meeting of the CHPCA in Montreal on October 11.

Faculty of Graduate Studies

There is positive news regarding applications in the Faculty of Graduate Studies to report. As of the end of August, considering domestic students, Master's and Doctoral applications were up, compared with last year (631 vs.628). The increase was even more marked with international applicants (compare 606 with 448). Programs that have shown the most growth in applications include but are not limited to Education, Biology, Psychology, Geology, NEC, and others, so the larger numbers reflect no particular Faculty or School, but rather are broad-based. This reflects the growing maturity of the Faculty of Graduate Studies as a whole. Many individual faculty members deserve congratulations for being so welcoming of graduate applicants into their programs.

Highlights from Student Affairs

Preliminary Update on Enrolment (New & Returning Students):

New and returning student registrations as of Tuesday, September 11th reflect 7,111 full time students (of whom 715 are graduate students) and 1507 part time students (of whom 18 are graduate students). **This appears comparable to the same time last year but these numbers will continue to change daily as students have until September 19th to register for fall classes.**

Student Health and Counselling

The *Wellness Zone*, the Centre's new health promotion area, is almost ready for occupancy. Look for us in UC0020 (the former location of The Junction).

A number of mental health initiatives are in progress (e.g. Scott Chisholm, speaker and advocate for suicide awareness is being scheduled for a visit to campus in early October; *Healthy Mornings at the Outpost* – a joint effort with LUSU and Residence; offering yoga and meditation sessions; safeTALK training opportunities).

Student Success Centre

Orientation 2012: *My Lakehead, My Legacy*, saw a 12% increase in participation this year, with a noticeable growth in the number of off campus students participating. There has also been an increase in faculty involvement, with more "academic" themed events included as part of the Orientation schedule. Activities have been extended throughout the entire first week of classes this year, culminating with the President's Dinner. Other notable events throughout the week included: a packed house for Midnight Madness, as well as our twist on the academic game show "Reach for the Top (Giant)", hosted by Dr. Berg.

Highlights from Aboriginal Initiatives

Fall Harvest

Aboriginal Cultural-Support Services hosted the Annual Fall Harvest event on September 8 at the Sweat Lodge site. With approximately 300 students, staff, faculty and community members present everyone enjoyed and experienced a small sampling of cultural foods, traditions and storytelling. The teachings came by way of the O-AGC Elders Council membership.

Youth Empowerment & Engagement

On September 18, 2012 at the Lakehead Campus will host a large Aboriginal youth empowerment event. In collaboration with the Council of Ontario Universities, Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and the Aboriginal Postsecondary Information Program (APSIP) we are bringing three sessions to the students. First is an Information Fair focused on academic opportunities after high school, the second is a session on the importance of self-declaration of Aboriginal ancestry and finally the final event will conclude with inspiring key messages and entertainment by A Tribe Called Red and Wab Kinew. Further we will also have professional photographer and inspirational speaker, Nadya Kwandibens of Red Work Studios assisting with sessions throughout the day.

Academic Programming

Collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies in exploring new certificate programs that address regional needs and broader demands for professional development, training, lifelong learning and alternative pathways into higher university qualifications.

Orillia Campus Highlights

Student Affairs

Lakehead University led Ontario in its year-over-year high-school application rate with an increase of slightly more than 12%. (Based on Ontario Undergraduate Application Centre's - OUAC numbers as of August 1, 2012)

Special thanks to the office of Admission's and Recruitment who did everything they could to help us reach our target of 1300 full-time equivalent (FTE) students in Orillia. Substantial increases in applications from Barrie and Newmarket were the direct result of geographically targeted marketing efforts. Our improved marketing within key demographic and geographic regions seems to have worked.

CampU was a success:

Liz Ross, our Athletics and Recreation Facilitator and her team of camp counselors did an outstanding job of creating and then delivering our first summer camp with over 46 campers who benefitted from a rich mix of activities. We were also able to provide 15 spots to Orillia youth who would not otherwise have been able to participate.

FastPass 2012:

We created "Fast Pass" – our mid-summer new student orientation program - as a way of getting prospective students onto the campus and introducing them to us within a friendly environment filled with deliberate informational pieces. The program was then capped off by online registration. The program exceeded all of our expectations with just over 200 students participated and a roughly equal number of friends and family.

Faculty of Education

Enrollment in Professional Year:

As of the TEAS report of Aug 31, there were 217 consecutive students enrolled. Combined with 85 students from the Concurrent program, projected enrollment stood at 302 students.

Cohort 8:

Negotiations were held in the summer to add an 8th cohort in the Orillia PY program to accommodate the TEAS students above our target of 280.

Convocation 2012:

A total of 267 Orillia Education graduates received their degrees in June 2012.

Orientations:

A full-day contract lecturer orientation was held on Aug. 28, 2012. A half-day student orientation was held on Sept. 5.

External and Internal Reviews:

Having undergone an external review by the Ontario Council of Teachers in 2011-12, the Education program is preparing for a Quality Assurance review in 2012-13.

Math Update:

The Math Content Exam was held in Orillia on Saturday, Sept 8. A special thank you goes out to the volunteer invigilators.

Faculty of Business Administration

The Faculty of Business Administration in Orillia (FOBA) will be implementing the fourth year of the Honours Bachelor of Commerce Degree this Fall adding an additional 10 0.5 FCEs to the list of business courses.

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies**New Undergraduate Programs:**

Media Studies Major received Ministry approval. A decision with respect to our Criminology Major program has been deferred.

Graduate Studies:

A new Biology Masters student joins us in addition to the two continuing their second year. The program is offered through Department of Biology, Thunder Bay campus and students are supervised by Orillia's Biology faculty Dr. Sree Kurissery and Dr. Nanda Kanavillil.

Summer of Sustainability Series (SOS):

Dr. Thamara Laredo successfully organised a public lecture series featuring documentary films and expert-led discussions that focused on environmental sustainability.

School of Social Work

This academic year, Social Work will be implementing the fourth year of the four-year degree program.

Residence

We currently have 150 students registered in our 271 bed residence.
We are accommodating two Georgian College students in our residence this year.

Rodney Hanley, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)