

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

# President's Report to Senate

February & March 2013



*submitted by:* Dr. Brian Stevenson

## OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

### LAKEHEAD NAMES FORMER AMBASSADOR AS ITS EIGHTH CHANCELLOR

Lakehead University is proud to announce distinguished former career diplomat, entrepreneur and political strategist, **Dr. Derek Hudson Burney**, as its eighth Chancellor.

As Dr. Burney is an accomplished individual with a national and international reputation and deep roots in Thunder Bay, Lakehead is honoured that this former ambassador to the United States and Officer of the Order of Canada will now represent our great university at home and abroad.

As Chancellor, Dr. Burney will use his experience, contacts and wisdom to fulfill various duties, including the promotion of Lakehead University's diverse local, national and global interests.

"I am personally honoured to accept this appointment and look forward to representing Lakehead University as a beacon of academic excellence in my home town," said Dr. Burney at the official announcement from Senate Chambers, January 24<sup>th</sup>.



*Dr. Derek Hudson Burney, O.C.*

### AN EVENING WITH THE THUNDER BAY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

On January 24, our University, once again, sponsored an evening of classical music and voices as our Lakehead Vocal Ensemble joined the Thunder Bay Symphony Chorus on stage to wow a large audience at the Community Auditorium.

The successful soirée symbolized our partnership with the TBSO to promote the arts in our community. Following the concert, musicians, singers and special guests were invited to a reception at our campus's main cafeteria.



### UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI, TORONTO

On January 25th, I had the pleasure of meeting with the president of the University of Dubai, Toronto and its Board of Governors to reiterate the importance of our MOU with them. By emphasizing what Lakehead has to offer U of D, I encouraged them to send their students to Thunder Bay and Orillia and continue this mutually prosperous arrangement and relationship.

## COU PRESIDENT & CEO, BONNIE PATTERSON, VISITS LAKEHEAD



Council of Ontario Universities' (COU) president & CEO, Bonnie Patterson, spent a few days touring our Thunder Bay campus in early February.

During her tours of buildings, offices and labs, Patterson offered her wisdom and guidance on a wealth of issues while spending time with each of our vice-presidents. She was even gracious enough to speak with the Chronicle Journal—who wanted her view on the future of post-secondary education in Ontario—during which she lauded Lakehead for its strategic direction.

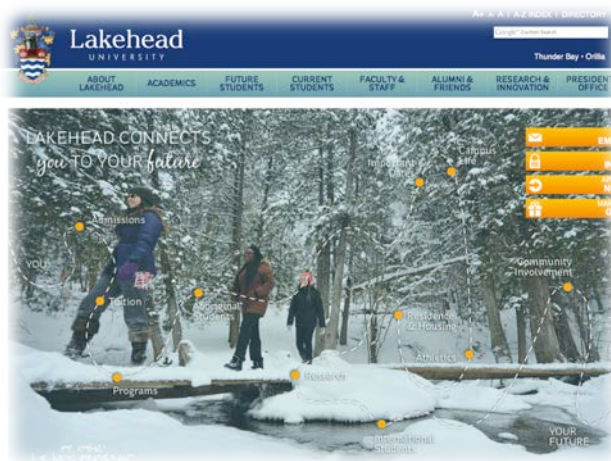
## FTE GROWTH IN 2012-2013

Lakehead is close to its objective of a 1% increase in overall number of FTE's.

Our number of FTE students has increased by 60 (8329 to 8389), or 0.7%. While all initiatives achieved their goals, the overall total was offset by a larger than expected decline in Education students; particularly in Thunder Bay. Details will be provided in presentations at our March meeting.

## NEW WEBSITE UP & RUNNING

Designed and built by our very own Web Development Services team, Lakehead's new website was put online to enhance the learner-centred experience for students, both existing and prospective.



## NEW VICE-PROVOST, ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

On February 26, the University announced the appointment of **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux** as our Vice- Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives).

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux has held the Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at Alberta's Banff Centre for the past four years. She is a Status Only Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto and an Adjunct Professor at Carleton University.

She is a former Advisory Member of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, a member of the Lake Simcoe Science Advisory Committee, a Lady of the Lake, and an active and engaging media representative.

In October of 2011, Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux served as Lakehead Thunder Bay's Aboriginal Scholar in Residence. During that time she visited many high schools within Lakehead Public Schools and the Thunder Bay Catholic School Board to do presentations about protecting the environment, celebrating Aboriginal arts, and positive youth engagement.

Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux's teaching and academic writing has focused on historic and intergenerational trauma within the Aboriginal community, and she is a member of the Chippewa of Georgina Island First Nation in Lake Simcoe, Ontario. She is interested in environmental and humanitarian causes, is actively engaged in a variety of initiatives across Canada, and co-founded and chairs the Canadian Roots Exchange ([www.canadianroots.ca](http://www.canadianroots.ca)) out of the University of Toronto.

She will assume her new responsibilities, which will be based at the University's Thunder Bay campus, effective July 1, 2013.



*[Click here](http://communications.lakeheadu.ca/news/?display=news&nid=941&unitid=1) for the original media release of the announcement, or visit <http://communications.lakeheadu.ca/news/?display=news&nid=941&unitid=1>*

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS APPROVES STRATEGIC PLAN (2013-2018)

After over two years of development and consultation with the University community and its various stakeholders, Lakehead's Board of Governors approved the final draft of our Strategic Plan for 2013-2018.

The Strategic Plan will dovetail with the University's Academic Plan passed by this Senate in March 2012. Together with Lakehead's operational plans, the Strategic Plan's priorities will foster vibrant community partnerships and greater economic development for Northwestern Ontario and Simcoe County.

The Plan, entitled, *Nurturing a Passion to Lead*, embodies the bold, new vision that will oversee the collective vision of the University for the next five years: ***'To provide a transformative university experience that is far from ordinary.'***

The University invites the Lakehead community, as well as its friends and partners, to submit their stories of collaboration with Lakehead through the Strategic Plan's new website:

[www.lakeheadu.ca/presidents-office/nurturing-passion](http://www.lakeheadu.ca/presidents-office/nurturing-passion)



## LAKEHEAD'S POWWOW CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

The Lakehead University Native Student Association hosted its annual Powwow at the C.J. Saunders Fieldhouse, last weekend (March 15 - 17). This year's theme focused on the event's 25 years of Powwow at Lakehead University and featured Inuit performers for the first time ever.

The free of charge Powwow invites all communities to experience local Aboriginal talent and entertainment, and to immerse themselves in traditional aspects of Aboriginal culture, such as drumming, dancing, singing and giving thanks.



## UNIVERSITY CLUB OPENS

In an effort to create a place where faculty and staff can unwind, get together, share stories and build camaraderie, we've established the University Club. No membership is required as all University staff and faculty are already members!

One hundred people enjoyed themselves at the Club's launch, this week. Attendance will be encouraged via sponsorships, wherein each week an office, department, or faculty will take the lead in gathering as many people as possible for the next Club day.

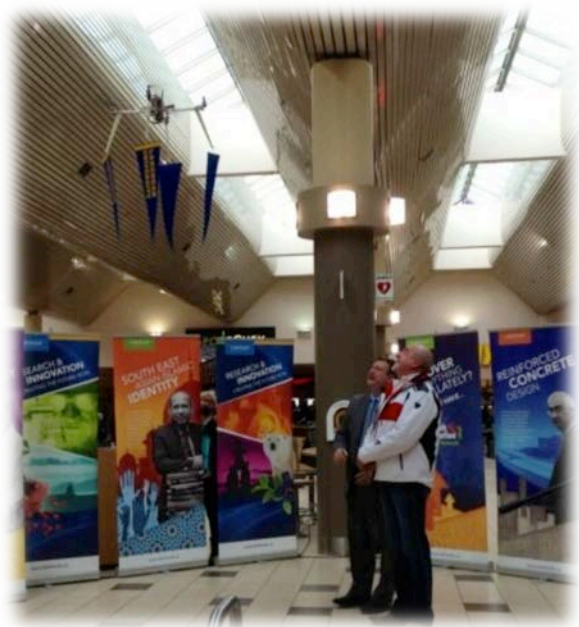
The University Club, which takes over the Faculty Lounge on Thursdays from 4-7pm, will offer a cash bar and appetizer menu, as well as free popcorn. The first regular University Club date is slated for April 4.

## RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### LAKEHEAD'S 8TH ANNUAL RESEARCH & INNOVATION WEEK

Our Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses celebrated the stars that are our University's researchers, this past February, during our annual Research & Innovation Week.

Research and Innovation Week's highlights included exhibitions and workshops at the Intercity Mall (Saturday, Feb. 9), which allowed scholars and scientists of all ages to see and interact with the amazing research and innovation projects happening at Lakehead University. Other highlights included a presentation by science broadcaster and writer, Jay Ingram; a discussion with Robert King, an innocent man who served more than 30 years in prison before being exonerated; and IBM's John Longbottom, who discussed Smarter Cities.



The week, which was kicked off with a pair of media conferences—one in our Agora and another at the InterCity Mall—featured politicians, provincial academics and, of course, our researchers. Numerous events and announcements recognized the scientific and economic impact Lakehead research has on the city and region. Below are a just some of the highlights.

## NSERC GRANT AWARDED TO BIOMASS RESEARCHER

Dr. Han Chen, Lakehead Professor in Natural Resources Management, and his co- applicants have received a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada strategic project grant worth \$620,761 over three years.

Biomass harvesting uses the tops and limbs of trees, as well as small diameter trees, felled by regular tree harvesting to produce bioenergy and biochemical products.

## DONATION CREATES NORTHERN LAKE SUPERIOR RESEARCH AWARDS

A generous donation to Lakehead University's Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies has allowed the creation of the Northern Lake Superior Research Awards.

With various University departments matching the contribution, the Faculty has received almost \$400,000 to provide research stipends and awards to undergraduate and graduate students' research projects pertaining to Northern Lake Superior. Research topics can range from fish conservation, the effects of climate change, invasive species, or the economic and social impacts of resource development.



Up to 10 undergraduate students will receive research stipends of \$600 to help with the costs associated with their respective honours theses. Additionally, every year up to five \$12,000 awards will go to graduate students in the Faculty who are in their Masters or Doctoral programs.

The awards will allow several students to do exciting projects that will have outcomes relevant to the region scientifically, socially and economically. The recent accreditation of the Environmental Science and Environmental Studies degrees by ECO-Canada and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Canada will be further enhanced by the Northern Lake Superior Awards.

Recipients will be chosen by a three-member panel of senior Science and Environmental Studies faculty members. The awards will be offered for the next six years starting in March.

## 2012'S TOP 10 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS:

### **1) Ranked #1 in Canada for publishing in area of Aboriginal Studies**

A study of 71 universities across Canada (Making Research Count: Analyzing Canadian Academic Publishing Cultures. Toronto: Higher Education Strategy Associates) was released in 2012 to determine which universities were the top publishers in a particular field or discipline. The measurement used was known as the H-index which measures both productivity and impact of academic publications. Within the H-indexes in the Social Sciences, Lakehead University was ranked Number 1 for publishing in the area of Aboriginal Studies.

### **2) Ranked among Top 10 Most Inventive Universities in Canada**

Lakehead University was named one of the Top 10 Most Inventive Universities in Canada (The Impact Group's report, August, 2012) for its success in invention disclosures per research income. Invention disclosures are disclosures made by researchers to their institution about research outcomes that may have commercial potential. The full report is available at [www.impactg.com/pdf/identifyingcanadasmostinventiveuniversities.pdf](http://www.impactg.com/pdf/identifyingcanadasmostinventiveuniversities.pdf)

### **3) Dr. Aicheng Chen Wins 2012 Keith Laidler National Chemistry Award**

Dr. Aicheng Chen was awarded the 2012 Keith Laidler Award of the Canadian Society for Chemistry in recognition of his distinguished contributions to electrochemistry and catalysis. The Keith Laidler Award, established in 1963, recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of physical chemistry.

### **4) Dr. Mary Lou Kelley Receives Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal and Is Named Citizen of Exceptional Achievement**

Dr. Mary Lou Kelley received Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her outstanding commitment to the advancement of hospice palliative care in Canada. This award was presented to Dr. Kelley by the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) on Oct. 11, 2012. Dr. Kelley also received a Citizen of Exceptional Achievement Award from the City of Thunder Bay for her work.

### **5) Food Security Research Network Receives National Community-Service Learning Award**

Lakehead University's Food Security Research Network (FSRN) received the 2012 Community Service-Learning (CSL) Award from the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation for its dedication to community-service learning through research. Lakehead's FSRN is a collective of students, community members, and University faculty and staff committed to creating sustainable food systems in Northwestern Ontario.



**6) Research Capacity Building at Lakehead University**

Lakehead built research capacity by appointing two additional Canada Research Chairs (CRC) in 2012. Dr. Pauline Sameshima is a CRC in Arts Integrated Studies and Dr. Sudip Rakshit is a CRC in Biorefining and Bioenergy.

**7) Major SSHRC MCRI Grant Awarded to Dr. Chris Southcott**

Dr. Chris Southcott, together with a team of Lakehead researchers, was granted \$2.5 million in 2012 to investigate the social, environmental and economic challenges facing Arctic communities in Canada and the rest of the circumpolar world. Contributions from other sources increase the total funding for the project to more than \$6 million. This international project is known as Resources and Sustainable Development in the Arctic. Its mandate is to develop ways to ensure that a larger share of the resource development benefits stay in the region for the people of the North with fewer costs to communities.

**8) Major NSERC CREATE Grant Awarded to Dr. Alla Reznik**

Dr. Alla Reznik was awarded a \$1.6 million grant by NSERC's Collaborative Research and Training Experience Program (CREATE). The CREATE funding will allow Lakehead University, in partnership with the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, the Universities of Saskatchewan and Waterloo and other organizations, to offer collaborative training of highly qualified personnel that consolidates medical imaging-related science and engineering research into a unified program covering medical imaging techniques and technologies.

**9) Major NSERC CRD Grant Awarded to Dr. Ellie Prepas**

In February 2012, Dr. Ellie Prepas received NSERC's prestigious Collaborative Research Development grant of nearly \$1.4 million for the FORWARD III project. Together with partner contributions, the FORWARD III project has received a total of \$2.8 million in funding. Dr. Prepas' work focuses on the development of best practices for the resource industries to ensure intensive resource extraction activities do not negatively impact the environment.

**10) New SEM Installed in Lakehead University Instrumentation Laboratory**

A field emission scanning electron microscope (SEM) with an x-ray elemental analyzer was installed in Lakehead's central analytical laboratory. The SEM is new to Lakehead and fundamental to many research projects in the fields of Natural Resource Management, Science, Environmental Studies, and Engineering. In its first year, the microscope has contributed to new discoveries in plant science, nanostructures, the development of new products, and mineral deposits. The facility will be used for years to come to train undergraduate and graduate students in this advanced electron microscopy skill.

## LAKEHEAD NAMES ITS 2012 DISTINGUISHED RESEARCHERS OF THE YEAR

Dr. Sonja Grover, Professor in the Faculty of Education, and Dr. Aicheng Chen, Chemistry Professor and Canada Research Chair in Material and Environmental Chemistry, were named Lakehead's 2012 Distinguished Researchers of the Year—the highest honor conferred by Lakehead University for research and scholarly activity.

**Dr. Grover's** work is making a significant contribution to the promotion of children's basic legal and other fundamental human rights internationally.

Dr. Grover's research focuses on international humanitarian, human rights and criminal law, specifically on children's fundamental human rights and child rights advocacy. She has published 11 single authored books, 85 refereed journal articles, and a number of book chapters. Dr. Grover has presented her work at various international conferences including UNESCO.

**Dr. Chen** is interested in electrochemistry, biosensors, green chemistry, materials science and nanotechnology.

With strong support from NSERC, CFI, FedNor, the Ontario Research Fund and industry partners, Dr. Chen established an advanced Electrochemistry Laboratory. His research team has made great progress in the development of high-performance electrochemical sensors for biomedical applications and green technologies to address the pressing environmental and energy issues.

## LAKEHEAD HOSTS COMMUNITY BUILDER AND AUTHOR, PAUL BORN

Internationally recognized author and community builder **Paul Born** hosted a free public presentation to inspire dialogue, hope and true connections between people whose energies might otherwise go unharnessed. Paul is a social entrepreneur, director of [Tamarack – An Institute for Community Engagement](#), and co-founder of [Vibrant Communities](#).

The presentation was co-sponsored by a myriad of Lakehead University and local organizations, including the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association, the Lakehead Social Planning Council, Centre



for Place and Sustainability Studies, Thunder Bay Crime Prevention Council, Thunder Bay Anti-Racism Advisory Committee, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Lakehead University's Aboriginal Initiatives and Lakehead's School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism.

## CESME OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED AT PDAC 2013

Lakehead University's Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining & Exploration (CESME)—launched at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada's annual convention in Toronto, March 4—will play a lead role in economic development by bringing together Northern communities and the mining industry to build better relationships.

The Centre, with Lakehead Geology Professor, **Dr. Pete Hollings**, as its founding director, will lead the way to support and nurture the growing mining sector through mineral deposit research. CESME will recognize and address the sociological challenges and economic potential of the industry in this region; develop solutions for the environmental impacts of mineral exploration and northern infrastructure development; and create new mining technology and approaches that consider all of these concerns.



CESME is the evolution of our efforts to lead the region by helping prepare mining companies, communities and citizens for the boom that will occur when the Ring of Fire and other mines start producing.

### The Centre's three pillars are:

- Mining and Exploration
- Environmental Impact
- Collaborate with First Nation, Metis and local communities

Visit <http://cesme.lakeheadu.ca/index.php> for more about CESME.

## ATHLETICS

Lakehead University's Athletics Department continues to implement their strategic plan for program and initiatives for the 2012/2013 academic year. These include Reach Up! (our Northern Community Sport and Leadership Program), our Achievement Program, ActiveU and many other community programs and partnerships.



### REACH UP!

Reach Up! is a collaborative initiative between Lakehead University Athletics and Wasaya Airways to provide on-site instruction in sport-specific coaching and general leadership strategies for youth in Northern Ontario First Nations communities serviced by Wasaya Airways. Athletics is currently working with Sandy Lake First Nation and Bearskin Lake First Nation to bring hockey and volleyball programs to their communities.

A scheduled trip to Sandy Lake First Nation (Dec 15-16) was unfortunately cancelled due to weather. More trips are planned for February and March.

### ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – DREAM IT. BELIEVE IT. ACHIEVE IT.

Lakehead University created the Achievement Program to ensure that First Nation, Métis, Inuit and other children facing barriers to higher education have the opportunity to pursue a world-class education.

During the 2012/2013 year, the Achievement Program has made progress in program development and eligibility. Currently there are thirteen students enrolled from Lakehead Public Schools and joining us shortly will be an additional thirty-five students. An ActiveU day on campus session is scheduled for May in which the forty-eight students will participate in activities to earn tuition credits. The beginning phases of a Memorandum of Understanding is underway with the Keewatin Patricia District School Board and the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.



*Students play at ActiveU's launch event in Thunder Bay (June 2012).*

## ACTIVEU

Since its inception and first successful summer in 2012, ActiveU has continued to cater to a wide variety of children with a wide variety of interest and skill level. ActiveU explores fun-based, recreational and educational programming in diverse settings right here at Lakehead University. It encourages youth through inclusive physical activity and interactive educational programs, to improve their self-confidence and social skills.



This year we will offer a March Break Camp and summer camps. Our registration for March Break camp is now open.

On Jan 28th, in collaboration with the Girl Power program run by the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead Athletics hosted an ActiveU Girl Power Day. This initiative gave girls the opportunity to meet some of our Thunderwolves athletes and participate in a variety of activities in our facilities.

## OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

Athletics is currently working with the Coaches Association of Ontario to provide a Super Clinic. This Super Clinic will provide individuals and coaches in Thunder Bay and surrounding communities the opportunity to participate in courses and networking opportunities that they would otherwise have to travel to Southern Ontario for.

Another area of focus for this clinic is promoting the program in Northern Communities. The Super Clinic will utilize our entire facility and is scheduled for June 14-16.

Athletics is also working with an after school program in Atikokan that will be travelling to Thunder Bay in March to attend a sport clinic put on by our men's and women's basketball teams. There will be approximately forty students from this program from grades one to six.

## MARKETING: VARSITY EVENTS

The second half of our varsity season has started with crowd participation that continues to grow. Our Think Pink: Shoot and Spike for the Cure event continued to gain continual community support with many new fans participating in our event. Over \$5,000 was raised, this year, surpassing previous records. We're gearing up for the possibility of hosting basketball playoff games and planning is underworks for the OUA Nordic Skiing Championship.