

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

President's Report to Senate

April 2013



submitted by: Dr. Brian Stevenson

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CANADIAN-MEXICAN UNIVERSITIES' ABORIGINAL CONFERENCE

As reported at the last Senate meeting, there will be a national conference bringing ten Canadian universities and ten indigenous universities from Mexico together in Lethbridge, Alberta (June 21-22). The conference will provide opportunities for Lakehead and other Canadian universities to build relationships and develop exchange programs with the Mexican indigenous universities.

The Canada-Mexico round table is a follow up to the first annual conference of university presidents and directors, held in March 2012 in Mexico City. This year's conference begins on **June 21, Canada's National Aboriginal Day**, and will continue the dialogue on Aboriginal higher education. Lakehead is currently in discussion with three indigenous universities from Mexico as we work to build future partnerships.

Joining me at the conference will be our new Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives), Cynthis Wesley-Esquimaux, as well as an elder to be appointed by our Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council.

2013 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Lakehead University recently announced its 2013 honorary degree recipients. All honourees will be awarded their respective degrees during our Thunder Bay and Orillia campus Convocation ceremonies, this May and June.

- Former Canadian Prime Minister, **The Right Honourable Paul Martin**
- Holocaust survivor, **Dr. Eva Olsson**
- Lakehead alum (Geology, HBS, 1975), and Project Manager-Mining Services with Thunder Bay's Community Economic Development Commission, **John Mason**.
- Chris Cromarty Award-winning, Sioux Lookout radiologist, **Dr. Dermot McLoughlin**.

[*Read more...*](#)

ENGINEERING'S BRIDGE-BUILDING TEAM TAKES 1ST PLACE

Lakehead University's Steel Bridge Team placed first overall against eight other teams in the annual competition at Iowa State University, last month. The regional competition was part of the American Society of Civil Engineers' Midwest Regional Conference.

With the victory, our team of Civil Engineering students advances to the U.S. National Steel Bridge Competition in Seattle at the end of May for the 13th time in the past 15 years of competing.

[*Read more...*](#)

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

FACULTY OF LAW PHILANTHROPY TASK FORCE

The External Relations Committee has been working to create a Faculty of Law Philanthropy Task Force. The purpose of this short-term Task Force is to provide strategic and practical advice to the External Relations Committee regarding the development of a strategy for engaging local, regional and greater law community in support of Lakehead University's Faculty of Law initiatives and where appropriate, engage with existing and potential donors to advance the strategy.

Mr. Richard Buset will chair the Task Force and report to the External Relations Committee. This committee will include representatives from our legal community.

EMPLOYEE & RETIREE DONOR LUNCHEON

On Monday, April 15, 50 Lakehead employees and retired employees were invited to our Faculty Lounge to be thanked for their ongoing donations and generosity. Each donor received a certificate of appreciation.

Emceed by Deb Comuzzi (Vice-President, External Relations), speakers included myself; Board of Governors Vice-Chair, Murray Walberg; Lakehead employee donor, Kerrie-Lee Clarke (Director, Institutional Analysis & Government Relations); and Lakehead student donor Carmelo Bono (Humanities major in concurrent Education).

ALUMNI & APPLICANT OUTREACH IN NATION'S CAPITAL

A terrific time was had by 140 alumni, some undecided Lakehead applicants, our new Chancellor, the President of Lakehead's Alumni Association, and members of our administration as we all enjoyed a Senators game at Scotiabank Place, Thursday, April 18.

Organized by our offices of Alumni Relations and Advancement & Recruitment, guests included a couple of families whose members received offers of admission to Lakehead but were still undecided. The evening-long outreach activity allowed myself, the Chancellor, as well as alumni from as far back as the 1960's and recent graduates, to share what Lakehead is all about while enjoying a great hockey game.

The Senators beat the Capitals, 3-1.



ATHLETICS



ATHLETICS AWARDS CEREMONY

On Tuesday, April 9, I joined our esteemed Athletics coaches, instructors and staff as they celebrated the champions and championships of our Lakehead Thunderwolves' 2012-2013 season.



These athletes have not only exhibited excellence on the track, trails, courts and communities they competed on and in, they have demonstrated themselves as worthy ambassadors of our University.

The event, which included an awards ceremony and reception, recognized achievements as individuals, teams and the whole competitive den of Thunderwolves they are both in and out of uniforms. Their capacity to balance studies, family, work, and even volunteering within our community, gives us much to be proud of.

Looking at them, one can see how hard work turns into success and how success builds champions.



Over 150 athletes, coaches and staff attended this year's Athletics Awards Ceremony.