

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

President's Report to the Board

May 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), Cynthia 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...](#)

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).

NURTURING SCHOLARSHIP

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...*](#)

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.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM WELCOMES CLASS OF 2013

Our Department of Athletics and Office of Aboriginal Initiatives hosted our Achievement Program's first 'Day On Campus' activity of the year, May 1st, for 39 students currently enrolled in the program. The on-campus event offers youth the opportunity to explore Lakehead University and participate in hands-on activities with our Faculty of Engineering, School of Kinesiology, and the Department of Athletics.

Schools involved in the Program include Gron Morgan, Sherbrooke, Algonquin, Agnew-Johnson, C.D. Howe, McKellar Park, and Ogden.

Each school's principal selected students based on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit status, and those facing barriers to post-secondary education. Many of the kids enrolled in our Program never saw graduating from Grade 12 as a possibility.

Achievement Program students must satisfy three conditions to remain in the program:

- Pass their grade
- Participate in school or community activities
- Participate in at least one "Day On Campus" event at Lakehead

Special guests at the event included the Lakehead Public School Board's (LPSB) Director of Education, Catherine Seminic, and LPSB Superintendent, Sheri-Lyn Pherin.



Dr. Stevenson asks students what they want to be when they grow up.

Read all about the Achievement Program...

GROWTH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

DELEGATION OF LAKEHEAD DEANS VISIT CHINA

A recent delegation of Lakehead representatives — including Dr. Rod Hanley, Dr. David Barnett, Dr. Ulf Runesson, Dr. Bahram Dadgostar and Mr. Tony Williams — joined our Provost and Vice-President (Academic), Dr. Rod Hanley, as he traveled to China to explore transfer agreements, short-term opportunities, and exchanges for students and faculty with our English Language Program. They met with a number of institutions including the EIC Agency.



Our delegation also visited two high schools (Beijing Concord School and Maple Leaf School), three universities (Hunan University, Nanjin Forestry University, and Anhui Agricultural) it what was an extremely productive trip that provided Lakehead the opportunity to strengthen our relationships and will have a positive effect on recruitment efforts.

ABORIGINAL STUDENT NUMBERS UP

Congratulations go out to our Aboriginal Initiatives and recruitment offices in both Thunder Bay and Orillia. In the 2011-2012 academic year Lakehead had 1140 Aboriginal students. Our objective for this year was to increase that number to 1175 students. I am proud to report that not only did Lakehead meet this objective during the 2012-2013 academic year, we surpassed it with a total of 1203 Aboriginal students — a 5.5% increase.

NEW OCAA STATUS BOOSTS ATHLETICS AT LAKEHEAD ORILLIA

The athletics program at Lakehead University's Orillia campus just got a huge boost, with the recent announcement that the campus was accepted as an affiliate member of the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA). Lakehead Orillia's official membership status is effective as of May 1, 2013 and opens up opportunities for expanding varsity sports and athletic competition.

"We are extremely pleased to have Lakehead University's Orillia campus as a new member," said Blair Webster, OCAA Executive Director. "Lakehead's membership will not only contribute to sport competition in the province, but will also enhance the Lakehead Orillia student experience."

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



LEARNER-CENTRED STUDENT EXPERIENCE

ALUMNI & APPLICANT OUTREACH EVENT 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.)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FACULTY OF LAW PHILANTHROPY TASK FORCE

The External Relations Committee has been working to create a Faculty of Law Philanthropy Task Force. Its purpose is to provide strategic and practical advice to the External Relations Committee regarding the development of a strategy for engaging the local, regional and greater law communities in support of our new **Faculty of Law** initiatives and, where appropriate, engage with existing and potential donors to advance the strategy.

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

MEETING WITH CONFEDERATION COLLEGE'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS

At the invitation of Confederation College President Jim Madder, Lakehead's Provost & Vice-President (Academic), Dr. Rod Hanley, and I recently met with the College's Board of Governors to discuss how our institutions can work more closely in the future.

Our presentation included a comprehensive look at Lakehead — faculties, departments, aboriginal initiatives, student affairs — in addition to putting forward various possible ways in which the College and University might collaborate.

Proposed partnerships included ventures in applied research, the success of K-12 education, international recruitment, co-branding (where appropriate), and telepresence.

THUNDERWOLVES REACH UP! TO BEARSKIN LAKE STUDENTS

Bearskin Lake First Nation was recently touched by **Athletics' Reach Up!** program when our athletes met with students and staff from Keewaytinook Internet High School and Michikan Lake Elementary, March 22-24.

[Read the media release...](#)

This *Reach Up!* story will be featured in an upcoming issue of *Sagatay*, the *Wasaya Airways* In-flight Magazine.

