

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

President's Report to the Board

June 2013



submitted by: Dr. Brian Stevenson

VISITS FROM MINISTER DUGUID & PC LEADER TIM HUDAK

Numerous representatives from Queens Park were in Thunder Bay, recently, for the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association's Annual Meeting.

Members of PPG and I welcomed MTCU Minister **Brad DuGuid** with a presentation and round table discussion of Lakehead University initiatives. The Minister was very impressed that our ideas fit with his ideals. Following the meeting, DuGuid and I visited our Student Success Centre, where he had a chance to meet and chat with its Director, Heather Doyle, and several Lakehead students.



In the afternoon, I had the opportunity to sit down with Ontario's PC Leader, **Tim Hudak**, during his visit to Lakehead, as well.

INCOMING COU CHAIR, DR. MAX BLOWW, VISITS LAKEHEAD THUNDER BAY

On Monday, May 6, I hosted Wilfred Laurier University President & Vice-Chancellor, **Dr. Max Blouw**.

An avid outdoorsman, Dr. Blouw — who will soon become the newest Chair of the Council of Ontario Universities — thoroughly enjoyed our Thunder Bay campus and looks forward to his new role.



FACULTY OF BUSINESS RETREAT

The Provost and I participated in the Faculty of Business's retreat, May 2. The event, held at the Nor'Wester Resort Hotel, featured a Q & A session wherein Dean Dadgostar and his faculty could ask questions of me and Dr. Rod Hanley.

LAKEHEAD ORILLIA NAMES ITS 2013 CIVITAS AWARD RECIPIENT



Earlier this month I had the pleasure of announcing that Orillia business owner, artist and community leader, **Will McGarvey**, was the recipient of the 2013 Civitas Award.

The Civitas Award is given annually to a Simcoe County resident who has a record of community engagement that has significance or importance to Lakehead University Orillia. McGarvey will be presented the Civitas Award at Lakehead University's June 8 convocation ceremonies at Rotary Place in Orillia.

[Read media release...](#)

ORILLIA TO HONOUR ITS FIRST EVER FELLOW

The Chair of the Board of Governors of Lakehead University, Cameron Clark, was proud to announce that Toronto dentist, **Dr. Robert Bennett**, will be named a Fellow of Lakehead University in recognition of his important contribution to help establish and grow the Orillia campus.

This will be the first time the title of Fellow is bestowed upon someone who has contributed to Lakehead Orillia.

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LAKEHEAD ORILLIA'S *CampU* OFFERS KIDS A PEEK INTO UNIVERSITY LIFE

This summer, Lakehead Orillia's day camp is back, giving kids 6 - 13 years of age a sneak peek into university life. Starting July 8, the University is offering four one-week camp sessions, all designed around popular themes, including ArtsU (July 8 - 12), Super Science (July 15 - 19), Bizkids (July 22 - 26) and Nuts for Nature (July 29 - August 2).



New this year is BizKids, which culminates in a "Dragon's Den" style "Wolf Den" challenge for the day camp entrepreneurs. Current business students at Lakehead who make up the Business Orillia Student Society (BOSS) are busy planning the week's activities.

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CHANCELLOR MAURO HONOURED AT RECEPTION



Lakehead University's seventh chancellor, **Dr. Arthur Mauro**, was celebrated with a reception outside my Office, May 13.

Dozens of invited guests came to mingle and have pictures taken with our former Chancellor, including faculty members, representatives from our student union, PPG, Senate, and our Board of Governors.

To thank Dr. Mauro for his years of service to Lakehead, he was given an ornate international clock set to Eastern Standard Time to help remind him that our sincerest thanks and thoughts are with him.



EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECOGNITION RECEPTION

On Wednesday, May 15, in the Faculty Lounge, I had the pleasure of presenting Madge Chan with this year's Award to Staff for Outstanding Performance and/or Contributions at the Employee Service Recognition Reception.

Madge, Admissions Administrative Assistant, was recognized for her many contributions to the Lakehead community during her career, including the time she devotes to guiding and supporting our students and athletes, and embodying the spirit of the learner-centred student experience.



LAKEHEAD RESEARCHERS RECEIVE NSERC FUNDING AWARDS

Lakehead University scientists will receive more than \$1.899 million from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for ground-breaking research projects relating to forestry, the consequences of environmental change, mining, and more.

[Read media release & complete list of recipients...](#)

GEORGIAN & LAKEHEAD CELEBRATE INNOVATIVE BUSINESS SUCCESS

On May 17, business leaders from across Simcoe County gathered at Lakehead Orillia's University Avenue campus yesterday for a *Business 2 Innovation* event that brought together researchers from Georgian College and Lakehead University with local business leaders. This was the third annual event presented by the two institutions to encourage collaboration and partnerships to support business success in the region.



The event, presented in cooperation with the County of Simcoe, the City of Orillia, and the Ontario Centres of Excellence, provided information on business and funding opportunities and highlighted innovative partnership projects currently underway.

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Showcasing Lakehead Orillia's "Research Garden" are Dr. Herman van den Berg; Derek Rynard, EcoPoly Solutions Inc.; Dr. Chris Murray, Lakehead Orillia; Dr. Brian Stevenson; and Baldev Pooni, Georgian College. Vice-President, Academic.

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY'S ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

Lakehead Thunder Bay's alumni were honoured, May 29, during our annual Alumni Awards Dinner.

While the evening was filled with toasts to four alumni and our Volunteer Recognition Award recipient, alums only received their respective awards over the course of our three Thunder Bay Convocation ceremonies.



TESL PROGRAM GRADUATES ITS FIRST COHORT

Students enrolled in Lakehead University's newest program are set to finish their coursework this Thursday and use what they've learned across Canada and around the world.

The Teaching English as a Second Language certificate program requires 100 hours of in-class work and 20 hours of practicum. The in-class work finishes this week, and students are currently working to set up their practicum.

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ESL PROGRAM PLANS TO GROW

I am pleased to report that during our Fall 2012 semester (Sept - Dec), Lakehead University International's English Second Language (ESL) program had 40 students enrolled. In December, 10 of the ELP students had graduated and moved on with their respective full-time academic programs.

During our Winter 2013 semester (Jan - April), the number of ESL students expanded to 88. Out of the 74 who completed the program in April, some decided to get a head start on their full-time academic programs by taking spring/summer courses.

With the intent to increase the number of ESL students, further, the program is continuing to develop our current curricula by creating new courses and expanding our customized programming.

GROWTH POTENTIAL IN ASIA: VIETNAM

In a successful effort to foster Lakehead's further growth in Asia, I visited potential university and government, as well as current high school partners in Vietnam, May 18 - 24.

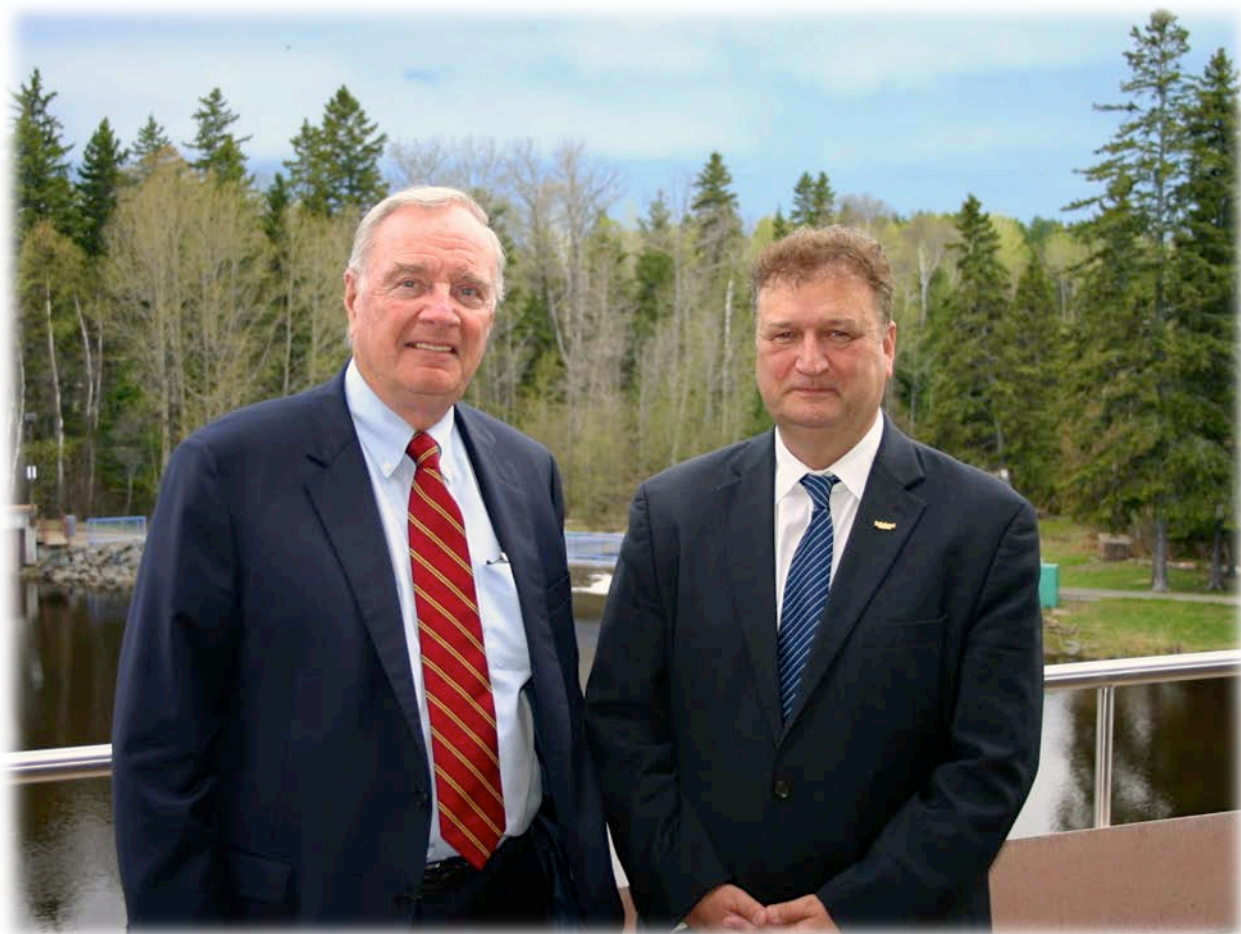
Vietnam is a rapidly developing country with growing base of young people. Economic growth and demographic growth have led to the need for more Vietnamese to obtain education and training from outside of Vietnam and for further investments in the Vietnamese education system at both the K-12 level and in the higher education sector. Today, Vietnam is very similar to China in the early 2000's, with many opportunities opening up for Canadian universities to recruit undergraduate students, opportunities to engage with funding agencies for graduate recruitment and build partnerships with Vietnamese universities on specific program development and training of faculty and administrators.

During my trip, I was able to meet with the the national Ministry of Education and Training, Provincial Education offices, including funding agencies for overseas study; these agencies fund Vietnamese students for degree study abroad. Meetings were held with the Canadian Embassy in Hanoi and the Canadian Consul General's office in Ho Chi Minh City, including market briefings and discussions regarding the Canadian governments efforts to attract more students from Vietnam to Canada.



As for potential partner schools and universities, I began with a visit to Hanoi University. Hanoi University has expressed an interest in working with Lakehead University on further development of their teacher education program, curriculum development and faculty training. From there, I was able to meet with many high school principals who have, themselves, visited Lakehead in the last couple of years, so these follow up meetings led to new opportunities for us to recruit students from these schools to our English Language Program and directly to our undergraduate programs.

Overall, Vietnam is a rapidly developing market for higher education and presents a new opportunity for Lakehead University. By making connections in Vietnam, today, we will see long term return on this investment through students and groups to our English Language Program, recruitment of undergraduate students, funded graduate students, and opportunities to provide training. Finally, Lakehead University International will be participating in this fall's Canada recruitment events in Vietnam.



***The Right Honourable Paul Martin** with Lakehead President & Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Brian Stevenson, prior to Mr. Martin receiving his honorary doctorate (Laws) at our Saturday morning Convocation ceremony in Thunder Bay.*