



April
2014

President's Report to Senate



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY





OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Ontario Premier's Summit

On March 18, I attended Premier Wynne's Summit in Toronto that she had invited all Ontario universities' presidents. With keynotes by MTCU's Brad Duguid; the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, Eric Hoskins; and the honourable Kathleen Wynne, the Summit served to discuss various education issues, including the skills gap, graduate employment, and leveraging opportunities between research, commercialization and economic development.

University Town Hall

Senior Administration and I hosted our spring Town Hall, March 21. During the event, Kathy Pozihun, Vice-President (Administration & Finance), provided our Thunder Bay and Orillia audience with an overview of the budget, after which everyone was treated to the official launch of Lakehead's newest recruitment videos before moving on to Q & A's.

[Click here to watch Recruitment Video: Belief Statement...](#)

[Click here to watch Recruitment Video: Student Experiences...](#)

Success Through Giving Donor-Recipient Luncheon

Lakehead hosted its annual *Success Through Giving* Luncheon, March 27. The event provides the unique opportunity for donors who give to academic scholarships to meet with the student recipients of the financial awards the donor contributed to. The luncheon, hosted by Board of Governors Vice-Chair Murray Walberg, was also a chance for students to share their learning experiences with donors, so they can see, first-hand, how much of a difference their generosity means.

Province's Call for Proposals for New or Expanded Campuses

On March 27, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities and Premier Kathleen Wynne issued a public call for proposals for the Major Capacity Expansion initiative. The call incorporates the same criteria for evaluation set out in its Major Capacity Expansion policy framework released in December 2013. Lakehead University continues its discussions with Barrie, Ontario's Georgian College on how we may respond, together.

[Click here for Government of Ontario's media release...](#)



Government of Canada Funding to Seven Generations could find its way to Lakehead

Our Vice-President (External Relations), Deb Commuzi, and I traveled to Kenora, April 4, to attend MP Greg Rickford's (Minister of Natural Resources and Minister for the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario) announcement that the Government of Canada will be giving the Seven Generations Education Institute \$5.2 million to develop training programs for mining industry workers in Kenora. During roundtable discussions that we participated in, audience members talked about how the funding could make its way to other institutions, including Lakehead University and Confederation College, through partnerships with the Institute.

Lakehead Hosts Ontario's University Leadership

I was very pleased to host a two-day Council of Ontario Universities (COU) meeting of the province's University Presidents and Academic Colleagues at our Thunder Bay campus, April 2-3.

Event attendees included Deputy Minister Responsible for Francophone Affairs and Special Advisor: Strategic Mandate Agreements (Universities), Dr. Paul Genest; Acting Thunder Bay Mayor, Councillor Paul Pugh; current Lakehead Board of Governors' Chair, Cameron Clark; recently-named incoming Lakehead Board Chair, Murray Walberg; COU President and CEO, Bonnie Patterson; and numerous Academic Colleagues.

[Click here for media release...](#)



Ontario university presidents gather at Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus.



EXTEND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce

On March 25, I attended a Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce luncheon with Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment. Dr. Hoskins discussed ways in which Ontario's Jobs Plan is helping local economies grow, focusing on regional supports that encourage job creation in local communities.

Telepresence Demo Brings Cities and Mayors Together for Education

As we move closer to perfecting our telepresence classrooms for our students, I hosted a virtual meeting, March 26, to demonstrate these facilities' potential for mayors and councillors from Simcoe County and Northwestern Ontario.

The successful meeting included demonstrations from PolyCom staff in telepresence rooms in Washington D.C. and Toronto. It also served as an opportunity to ask questions and discuss how this technology can bring post-secondary education and training opportunities to remote communities, in addition to more immersive meetings between communities like Thunder Bay, Kenora, Pickle Lake, and Orillia.

An Open House for Thunder Bay and Orillia faculty and staff is scheduled for April 17.



Thunder Bay Mayor, Keith Hobbs, fist bumps City of Orillia Mayor, Angelo Orsi, during telepresence classroom demonstration.



EXTEND OUR INTERNATIONAL REACH

Lakehead University signs MOU with Shanghai Second Polytechnic University

On March 28, a delegation from Shanghai Second Polytechnic University (SSPU) in China visited Lakehead University to strengthen ties and sign a five year memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the two universities.

The SSPU delegation, which included its President, Dr. Tao Yu, and three other faculty members, were welcomed by myself, Board of Governors Chair, Cameron Clark, incoming Board Chair, Murray Walberg, and several deans.

Dr. Tao and I discussed several opportunities for collaboration between our Universities, including joint programming, exchanges, short-term visits by faculty members between our two institutions, and other academic and research initiatives.



From left: Ms. Wenjing Wei, Dean of School of Economics and Management at SSPU; Ms. Leigh-Ellen Keating, Director of Lakehead University International; myself; Dr. Tao Yu, President at SSPU; Ms. Leilin Yu, Director of President Office and Communication & Collaboration Office at SSPU; and Mr. Qinyuan Chen, Director of Assets Operation Centre at SSPU.



ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING, LEARNING, AND RESEARCH

Humanities 101 Students Celebrate Success

February 7 saw 18 Lakehead University Orillia students gather with family and friends at a local restaurant to celebrate graduation. The event marked the students' successful completion of Lakehead's Humanities 101 program, an outreach initiative providing adult learners with access to a university experience despite financial and other barriers, and who may never have believed that they could participate in post-secondary education. Each graduate was presented with a certificate of completion by Dr. Kim Fedderson, Dean & Vice-Provost, Orillia Campus.

Click here for media release...



Graduates of Lakehead University's Humanities 101 program gathered for a convocation dinner and celebration.



Battlefield Tourism Students Travel to Europe

This April and May, students from the Department of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism's Battlefield Tourism course will spend 10 days visiting monuments and battlefields in Normandy, Northern France, Belgium and Holland. Lakehead students will explore and gain a better understanding of the history of the events surrounding the First and Second World Wars.

Click here for media release...

Dr. Harvey Lemelin (front right) and his Battlefield Tourism class at Thunder Bay's Memorial Park, which commemorates veterans from the First World War.



Athletes gather at PACI's Patterson Auditorium, March 29.



Celebrating Lakehead's Athletes

Lakehead Athletics hosted its annual awards galas in Thunder Bay and Orillia on March 29 and 30, respectively. Ceremonies lauded outstanding Thunderwolves of the 2013-14 season, and crowned our male and female Athletes of the Year.

[Click here for Orillia Campus media release...](#)

[Click here for Athletics' media release...](#)

Jenna Sittek (centre), a member of Lakehead University's English equestrian team, receives an Athletic Achievement Award from Michelle Cowell (right) and Elvira Bushmakina, representing award sponsor, Plastics Protect and HollisWealth – Benson Kearley IFG.

