

## **Report to Senate – April 19, 2013 Provost and Vice-President (Academic)**

### **China**

A delegation of Dr. David Barnett, Dr. Ulf Runesson, Dr. Bahram Dadgostar and Mr. Tony Williams recently travelled with me to China to explore transfer agreements, short-term opportunities and exchanges for students and faculty and our English Language Program. We met with a number of institutions including the EIC Agency (one of Lakehead's education recruitment agents). The delegation also visited with two high schools: Beijing Concord School and Maple Leaf School. There were visits to three universities as well: Hunan University, Nanjin Forestry University, and Anhui Agricultural University. This was an extremely productive trip that gave Lakehead University the opportunity to continue to strengthen our relationships and will have a positive effect on recruitment efforts.

### **Aboriginal Initiatives**

#### **Aboriginal Self-declaration Statistics 2012-20113**

In 2012-2013, 1203 students have self-declared as Aboriginal at Lakehead - a 5.5% increase of the projected 1175. In 2011-2012 there were 1140 students. Congratulations to the staff of Aboriginal Initiatives and the recruiting offices in both Thunder Bay and Orillia.

#### **Community Relations**

The 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakehead University Native Student Association (LUNSA) Pow-Wow took place March 16-18<sup>th</sup>. With over 1100 participants taking part, the Pow Wow also featured: 22 drum groups, 171 dancers, and 18 traditional feast cooks/hunters. There were countless community organizations, companies and groups who supported the Pow Wow financially and with in-kind contributions to make this a truly successful community event.

A special guest, Becky Qilavvaq of the Qikiqaani Inuit Association Regional Youth Program an Inuit Organization that represents Inuit of Baffin Island under the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement was in attendance demonstrating Inuit throat singing.

#### **Aboriginal Student Recruitment and Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services**

Lakehead University is a member of Council of Ontario Universities (COU) working group who have been developing recommendations and approaches that could be used to guide Ontario's postsecondary self-identification practices. The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives has participated as a resource on this project. The primary purpose of the project was to provide recommendations and approaches that could be used to guide Ontario's postsecondary practices towards a common self-identification mechanism. A report to MTCU on the final recommendations will be forthcoming.

Aboriginal Initiatives staff attended the Feathers of Hope Youth and Career Forum which brought together 50 youth participants to explore future career opportunities and further the Outreach/Recruitment Officer and the Aboriginal Cultural & Support Services Coordinator facilitated workshops on recreation programming and cultural identity.

Plans are underway to develop an Aboriginal Mentorship Program in collaboration with the Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies, Northern Ontario School Medicine and Ottawa University.

### **Fall 2013 Application Update (Undergraduate)**

Applications continue to be received and assessed for Fall 2013. The following highlights the preliminary undergraduate application numbers current as of April 2, 2013 compared to the same time last year:

- Ontario High School (101) Applications and Applicants have increased by 2.4% and 3.6% respectively compared to the same time last year. The deadline to accept an offer is June 3rd.
- Non-Ontario High School (105) Applications and Applicants are trending positively with a growth of 9.7% and 7.6% respectively. First choice applicants have also slightly increased by 1.6% amongst this group.
- One-Year Bachelor of Education (TEAS) applications are experiencing a decline of -21%. Universities across Ontario are also experiencing this type of decline in application numbers amongst this particular applicant group.

### **Faculty of Education**

Dr. Pauline Sameshima, Associate Professor has been awarded a Canada Research Chair in Arts Integrated Studies. The Canada Foundation for Innovation Leaders Opportunity Fund to develop an Arts Integrated Research Lab has also awarded Dr. Sameshima more than \$25,000.

### **Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences**

The Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences has recently been awarded two Tier II CRC Chairs – one in Aboriginal Mental Health and the other in Road Safety.

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Wesner and the Department of Psychology who have recently been approved to form Canada's newest chapter of Psi Chi. Psi Chi has three chapters in Canada – the University of Victoria, UBC, and now Lakehead. Psi Chi is the International Honour Society in Psychology, founded in 1929 for the purposes of encouraging, stimulating, and maintaining excellence in scholarship, and advancing the science of psychology. Psi Chi functions as a federation of chapters located at over 1,000 colleges and universities in the USA and Canada.

Congratulations to Professor Kristen Jones-Bonofiglio and her research colleagues at CERAH for recently receiving funding from the SIM-ONE Ontario Simulation Network to purchase simulation mannequins for the purposes of training Personal Support Workers in the areas of palliative care, dementia and geriatric mental health support. Access to SIM-ONE funding is normally restricted to the province's community colleges. However, CERAH was deemed eligible due to its longstanding and effective role in educating health care professionals in the community.

## **Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies**

The Lakehead University Museum of Zoology was recently granted membership in the Canadian Museums Association (CMA), which is the national organization for the advancement of Canadian museums. The CMA provides their members with training and professional development programs, conferences, publications, and networking and collaborative possibilities. The Lakehead University Museum of Zoology houses more than 15 invertebrate and vertebrate collections comprising an estimated 15,000 specimens that are used extensively for teaching and community outreach. In addition, there are several public displays on campus in the Centennial Building. Expansion is anticipated as opportunities arise.

## **Orillia Campus**

### **Department of Interdisciplinary Studies**

Dr. Sandra Jeppesen, Interdisciplinary Studies/Media, Principal Investigator has been awarded a \$497,482 SSHRC Insight Grant for 2013-2018 - "Indymedia 2.0: New media activism in the global digital economy". The Studies Collaborator is Dr. Adrienne Hurley, McGill University, East Asian Studies. This program of research will help develop Canada's digital content advantage, expand media capacities and literacies, and extend access to media production opportunities for a diversity of individuals, groups and communities. Analysing the motivations, mechanisms and outcomes of grass-roots media groups is crucial to understanding the profound implications of the political economy of digital media in Canada.

### **Student Affairs**

Lakehead Orillia students Anna Lisa Martin from Nobleton, Ontario, and Sami Pritchard of Cambridge, represented the University at the Canadian Conference on Student Leadership. Brenda Melick, Student Information Assistant attended as well. The students were chosen to attend because of their leadership potential and their current leadership activity on campus. Martin and Pritchard are members of the University's student ambassador team and are also involved in athletics, residence life and student union activities. The University of British Columbia's Okanagan Campus hosted this year's conference.

Orillia Student Affairs hosted "A Major Affairs Week", March 4-8, a week long program to highlight academic programming, provide academic and career advisement to current students.

Lakehead University participated in the annual Simcoe County Regional Science and Technology Fair for the first time.

## **Student Affairs**

### **Admissions & Recruitment**

Applications for spring, summer and fall continue to be received. Extensive conversion efforts are fully underway aimed at moving admitted students to confirmed students for this fall. Recruiters are visiting over 200 high schools this month to re-connect with

students that have applied to Lakehead. A series of Applicant Receptions are also being held throughout the province. On-campus Applicant Receptions will take place on April 24<sup>th</sup> (Thunder Bay) and May 2<sup>nd</sup> (Orillia).

### **Student Health and Counselling**

- Almost 1000 appointments in March.
- Students with significant health issues continue to present and be supported at the Centre; this includes an increase in the number of “urgent” sessions for counselling.
- Mental Health First Aid training planned for May 1 & 2, 2013 – spaces are still available.
- The Centre and the Faculty of Health & Behavioural Studies have submitted a funding proposal to the *Bell Community Fund* for ‘Walk the Wellness Talk on Campus’ – a mental health initiative. The Office of Human Resources will be a partner on this project.
- ACHA-National College Health Assessment student survey concluded with ~20% return rate. The results are pending.

### **Student Success Centre**

The Canadian Association for Co-operative Education (CAFCE) has completed their annual “Co-op” Week. Of the Lakehead 2013 Co-op Week participants, 100% answered YES to the statement: “I believe I have a competitive advantage over students who have not participated in Co-op”. In addition, 100% also answered YES to the statement: “Participating in Co-op has had a positive impact on my academic studies”.

Over the past academic year, the Student Success Centre has hosted the following employers on campus at these various recruitment events:

- 80 employers attended the Career/Education Fairs
- 16 employers had information sessions/booths on campus
- Over 40 employers conducted on campus interviews

The Writing Centre will continue to offer hours in the Library Commons throughout the summer.

Rodney S. Hanley  
Provost & Vice-President (Academic)