

Report to Senate – May 14, 2013 Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

Lakehead International

Science Without Borders Scholarship Program Update

As of May 1, there are 79 Science Without Borders Scholarship (Brazil) students at Lakehead participating in research and industry internships in Thunder Bay. In addition to our own students Lakehead has been able to place 21 Science Without Borders (SWB) program students from other Canadian Universities into research internships on the Thunder Bay campus. The Brazilian government's support of these internship positions has contributed significant research support funding as well as funding for administrative support.

Starting July 1, there will be over 40 new Science Without Borders Scholarship winners joining Lakehead University through the English Language Program. SWB students study in Canada between 12 - 18 months on full scholarship from the Brazilian government.

China Recruitment

Recruitment efforts continue in China with our Field Officer, Jason Chen visiting more than 15 schools in April and attending a dozen study abroad fairs. Recruitment in China of both undergraduate and graduate continues until the middle of July and then resumes again in early September.

Provost Task Force

The Provost Task Force (PTF) has been meeting regularly and is making good progress towards a set of recommendations on governance, unit structure and the relationships between academic programming on the two campuses. The PTF is on track for an early summer report.

Orillia Campus

Economic Development

A Business 2 Innovation event will be held at the Orillia's University Avenue campus. Lakehead University and Georgian College, in cooperation with the County of Simcoe, the City of Orillia and the Ontario Centres of Excellence, are hosting the Thursday, May 16 event. This third annual event promotes partnerships in Central Ontario and is open to all area businesses that are interested in accessing expertise and funding to support the growth of their business and economic development in the region.

Interdisciplinary Studies

An innovative industry/research partnership will be featured at the upcoming Business 2 Innovation event. Dr. Chris Murray (Interdisciplinary Studies/Science) is leading a research team that is working with EcoPoly Solutions Inc. on a collaboration supported by the Ontario Centres of Excellence. Dr. Murray, along with research students, is working with the company to improve their degradable plastic film products. The team

recently developed an experimental research garden on campus to test one of their groundbreaking products – a biodegradable agricultural mulch film. This represents the first time such a research lab has been developed on campus. Read more in this Packet & Times newspaper story: <http://www.orilliapacket.com/2013/05/08/lakehead-helping-firm-with-cutting-edge-research>

Student Affairs

We have now been officially accepted into the Ontario College Athletics Association (OCAA). Our first varsity team with the OCAA will be men's and women's curling 2013-2014 followed by Varsity Golf in 2014-15.

Faculty of Business

In June 2013, the Faculty of Business Administration will have the first graduating class of Honours Bachelor of Commerce students from the Orillia Campus. The group of five students has been pivotal in assisting in evolving the program, and was in on the ground level in establishing the Business Orillia Student Society (B.O.S.S.). Congratulations to these students!

Student Affairs

Admissions & Recruitment

The number of applicants and applications continue to be ahead of last year, although the number of applicants who have confirmed their acceptance is down. This is a pattern similar to other universities. Much effort is focused on working with those students who have not yet confirmed their acceptance. Demographic trends, the economy and shifting patterns of student behaviour are contributing to this effect.

Student Accessibility Services

As the academic year ended, Student Accessibility Services had 440 students with disabilities registered with the department. This represents a 15% increase for support and testing services from last year.

Student Health and Counselling Centre

In April, the Centre's professionals saw 475 students for almost 700 appointments. Considerable efforts were made transitioning/directing care and supports to 'home' and community professionals for students going home for the summer, graduating or completing courses.

Nine staff and faculty attended the *Mental Health First Aid* training offered on May 1 & 2. The training is a joint venture of Residence & Conference Services and Student Health & Counselling Centre.

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre welcomed The Honourable Brad Duguid, Minister of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, who met with some current students to discuss their experiences at Lakehead.

The Writing Centre experienced an increase in the number of student visits in winter term, with 308 visits, and 125 distinct students utilizing the Centre services.

The new Lakehead University Job Bank has now been launched at:
<https://mysuccess.lakeheadu.ca/employers/overview.htm> This Job Bank will provide more enhanced services to both students and employers.

EDGE 2013

Explore, Discover, Get Involved & Ease Your Mind - the summer orientation that will help new students prepare for their new year at Lakehead - will take place on July 4 & 5. We look forward to welcoming new students, their family and friends to campus. Individual invitations and requests will be sent out this month.

Respectively submitted by,

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