

Provost's Report to Senate

February 2018

Strategic Enrolment Management (SEM)

The Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis and I are continuing to meet with Department Chairs, the Acting Vice Provost of Student Affairs, and the Director of Student Affairs to discuss projected enrolments for the academic units for 2018/2019, discuss opportunities, challenges and best practices related to the enrolment projections, recruitment, retention and graduation of students and to continue the dialogue initiated last year on Strategic Enrolment Management by department. To date, we have met with Engineering, Health and Behavioural Sciences and a number of departments in the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies. These meetings will continue with all academic units over the coming weeks.

In early February, the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis provided Faculty-specific results for select 2017 National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) data for first and senior year students for discussion within the Faculty. Lakehead will once again be administering NSSE for first and senior year students March 1 - March 31.

In addition to the discussions we'll be having at the Faculty and academic unit level, implementation of Strategic Enrolment Management will include ongoing alignment to the Strategic and Academic Plans; review of recruitment, retention and student success initiatives; continued improvements to data/information accessibility, collaboration and transparency, communication, engagement and partnerships across the University; and ongoing process improvement with a focus on supporting enrolment goals.

Your participation, input and feedback on the implementation of Strategic Enrolment Management are welcome as Lakehead University continues to implement evidence-based enrolment planning.

Disrupt It Weekend

The second annual *Disrupt It Weekend* was held February 2 - 4. This year the teams were challenged to come up with business ideas that would lead to positive environmental impact and keep the theme of environmental sustainability in mind. Forty-five participants registered, 15 ideas were pitched to the audience, and seven ideas moved forward to be developed into a business model by Sunday afternoon.

The overall grand prize of \$5000 went to Divyland, a subscription based garden installation and maintenance service. The team behind Divyland was Thomas Veneruz, Marc DeGagne, Madison Shyiak (students from the Faculty of Business Administration), Sweta Patel (a Computer Programmer student from Confederation College), and Lakehead Alumni Josh Tinkler-Josephi, and Ben Tranter.

Aboriginal Initiatives

Native Access Program (NAP)

The NAP students visited the Fort William Historical Park, to participate in experiential learning activities that included snow shoeing and team building activities. In the teaching wigwam, students learned about Indigenous astronomy and various regional animals through storytelling.

Aboriginal Outreach & Recruitment

The team visited six Intercultural Universities in Mexico to learn about how the universities are working with and for Indigenous peoples and their communities. Intercultural Universities born roughly 16 years ago in Mexico, have created innovative programs that work with the Indigenous communities to revitalize arts, languages, and culture, as well as, create linkages for alternative tourism and community driven research.

During the visits, the institutions shared wise practices and barriers to Indigenous student recruitment and success. The work of Aboriginal Initiatives at Lakehead University mirrors the work being done across the Intercultural Universities in Mexico. This visit reaffirmed our need to continue building a strong sense of community, connection and culture on our campus, and in our larger community, for Indigenous students.

Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services (ACSS)

An Open House was hosted on January 10 to welcome new and returning students to campus. Students enjoyed lunch and prizes while meeting staff and faculty, including Rob Thompson, the new Ombudsperson for Lakehead University who shared information about his services.

A Graduate Student Gathering was held on January 19 for Indigenous students enrolled in graduate studies. Nineteen students and staff attended to hear Dr. Paul Cormier, Faculty of Education and Dr. Lana Ray, Department of Indigenous Learning, speak about their journeys through graduate and postdoctoral studies and onto their professional career. This was followed by a panel of four Ph.D. Candidates (Bryanna Scott, Brandi Shorthouse, Staci Person, and Melissa Twance) speaking about their challenges and successes through their respective masters programs.

In collaboration with the Maadaadizi Committee (with representatives from Confederation College, Eabametoong First Nation, Fort William First Nation, Matawa Education, Northern Nishnawbe Education Council, Oshki-Pimache-O-Win, and 7 Generations Education Institute), a student feast was held in the Aboriginal Student Lounge on January 23. Over 75 participants attended. Elder Gene Nowegejick shared a smudge and prayers. The continuation of feasts at each institution over the academic year is an effort to address food insecurity amongst our Indigenous students.

Throughout November, January and February students have been participating in Moccasin Making Workshops. Students have learned to bead their moccasin vamps to create a pair of moccasins for themselves.

A *Movies for Mental Health* event will be held on March 6 and will include pizza, short films, and discussion on various mental health topics. A panel of community mental health providers including Lakehead Health & Wellness, will be in attendance.

Upcoming events:

- Mijjim Noongom - February 14
- Sweat Lodge Ceremony - February 27
- Elders Council meeting - March 5

Toastmaster Storytellers

The Toastmaster Storytellers Club has a display in the first floor of the Chancellor Paterson Library for the month of February. A Club Open House will be held on February 16. Plans are underway to host an All-Club Open House in late February in collaboration with the other five Thunder Bay Toastmasters clubs.

Aboriginal Mentorship Program (AMP)

AMP continues to work with six local high schools in the Lakehead District and Thunder Bay Catholic District School Boards. In February, students will be focused on Engineering, Climate Change and Energy, as well as participating in Lakehead's "A Day in the Life of a University Student" Program. AMP students will also be participating in "Lets Talk Energy Week" (February 17 – 24). In March the focus will be on National Engineering Month with discussions and activities with Lakehead Engineering students.

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

The following individuals have been recognized for their achievements:

- Dr. Jennifer Jarman, Department of Sociology, Orillia - Jennifer Jarman and Paul Lambert (eds.) 2017. *Exploring Social Inequality in the 21st Century, New Tools, New Approaches and New Opportunities*. London: Routledge.
- McKenna Boeckner (undergraduate student) Department of English, supervised by Drs. Monica Flegel and Judith Leggatt - co-authored a paper titled "'Not my Captain America': Race-Bending, Reverse Discrimination and White Panic in the Marvel Comics Fandom". In addition, a series of YouTube Videos was created, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NNUxKKF5VnU&>. Boeckner will present his work at the Undergraduate Network for Research in Humanities annual conference in Michigan in February.
- Drs. Monica Flegel and Judith Leggatt presented "Fans versus Rotten Tomatoes: How the Internet has Changed Reviewing Culture." a well-received "In Conversation" talk at Brodie Resource Public Library in January.
- Dr. Michel S. Beaulieu, Department of History appointed President of The Champlain Society. <http://www.champlainsociety.ca>

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services

Undergraduate Recruitment

The Recruitment team is back on the road in January and February visiting Ontario colleges. The team is attending both college fairs and presenting to classes that have multilateral or articulation agreements with Lakehead. In addition to ongoing recruitment efforts to drive applications, the following conversion initiatives are underway:

Applicant Receptions: Twelve Applicant Receptions will be hosted throughout southern Ontario during late February/early March and are designed to connect with students (and their parents) who've applied to Lakehead in an effort to influence their decision to choose Lakehead. Recruitment staff will be joined by residence professionals, alumni, and current students for many of these applicant receptions.

Revisits and Early Outreach: From March to May, the team will be returning to high schools across Ontario. The purpose of the revisits is to connect with applicants from each school, to connect and strengthen relationships with guidance counsellors, and to conduct early-outreach initiatives with students of younger grades.

Facebook Live: Recruitment hosts weekly Facebook Live webinars on different topics of importance to students that are in the midst of making their university decisions. Topics for February will include: All about Thunder Bay, All about Orillia, Mature Students, Residence, Lakehead Orillia Student Services, and Lakehead Orillia Residence.

Grade 11 & 12 Day - Thunder Bay Campus*: Typically, Grade 11 Day is an opportunity for students in Thunder Bay to visit our campus for a day of programming, lectures, and labs to excite them about the prospect of becoming a Lakehead student. Due to the cancellation of Preview Day in December, a Grade 12 stream will be incorporated into the day.

College Transfer Day - Orillia*: Similar to a Preview Day for high school students, College Transfer Day offers students the opportunity to further explore their options after graduating from college. Potential students can tour campus, meet with faculty and staff, and learn more about how they can transition into a degree program at Lakehead.

March Break Open Houses*

- March 12 – 14 Thunder Bay Campus
- March 14 – 15 Orillia Campus

On both campuses, March Break Open Houses will include campus and residence tours, Faculty-specific tours and Faculty meetings/academic units, along with interesting mock lectures designed to excite and interest future Lakehead students. High school students and their parents will be invited.

*Undergraduate Recruitment will be in contact with academic units to discuss how we can work together to showcase Lakehead, our programs and what it is like to be a student at Lakehead.

Student Awards & Financial Aid

The following awards are now available for students to apply to – please encourage students to apply!

Participation Awards: The Robert Poulin, Lloyd Dennis, and the President’s Awards are available for students who demonstrate community/school leadership and service. All of the awards are available to undergraduate or graduate students, but the President’s Award is only available to a student who is graduating in June 2018. If you know a student who is qualified encourage them to apply through the myAwards portal in myInfo. Application deadline: March 31.

Lakehead University Experiential Learning Award: An award available to students who are representing Lakehead University at a conference, at a school, or in the community. The purpose is to build upon some of the great things that our students are doing and to help them with some financial backing. The application is available through myInfo, but if you know of a student encourage them to talk to Student Central.

Lakehead Entrance Awards: Lakehead University is the only Ontario institution that offers renewable free tuition scholarships for students entering directly from high school. If speaking with a potential high school student, please encourage them to apply for our Entrance Bursaries. Entrance Scholarships, on the other hand, are guaranteed and automatically awarded at the time of application to the University.

Student Loans and OSAP: The deadline for submitting applications for student loans for the 2017/2018 September – April academic year is February 22. Students taking Spring/Summer courses may qualify for a student loan extension. In either case direct students to speak with a Student Central Professional if they have questions and to review their student loan funding.

Student Health & Counselling

Aimee Jaun has been appointed Director, Student Health & Wellness. She comes with diverse experience that spans mental health and addiction, public health, management consulting, training and development, adult education, organization development, human resources and environmental science.

As we approach mid-term season, remember that this can be a very stressful time for students. Please remind students of the services available and encourage them to seek support if they are feeling stressed or overwhelmed.

Meditation continues to be offered to students four times a week as follows:

- Mondays 3:15 - 3:45 pm, International Student Centre
- Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:45 am - 12:15 pm, Student Health & Counselling, Prettie Residence Building
- Fridays 3:45 - 4:15 pm, Student Health & Counselling, Prettie Residence Building

The Centre would like to thank everyone for their support in promoting and participating in *Mindful Eating* and *Bell Let's Talk* events held in January.

Student Success Centre (SSC)

The Student Appreciation Committee will be hosting another “Lakehead♥U” event (Thunder Bay Campus) for all students. This two-day event will feature activities, games, treats and crafts to help students unwind and decompress from their studies.

The Lakehead Leader Recognition Program will be accepting nominations until March 1, for a *Lakehead Leader or Lakehead Luminary* award. A “Sustainability” category has been added to the awards program with nominations being accepted in the categories of Innovation, Academic Excellence, Diversity & Inclusion, Citizenship & Community and Sustainability. The awards ceremony will take place on April 11 in the Faculty Lounge in Thunder Bay and the Learning Commons in Orillia. These awards are open to all students at the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses.

Orillia Student Affairs

Student Appreciation events will be held February 12 at Heritage Place and February 14 at University Avenue. Events will include sweet treats and drinks, prizes, Lakehead photo booth, cohort photos for Education students, Food for Library Fines, and more for our students to show them we care.

Aboriginal Initiatives - Orillia

Two Aboriginal Mentorship Program events will be held in February, including: *Engaging Youth through Hip Hop*, and *Family Winter Games Day*. These events, held in local elementary and secondary schools through the Simcoe County District and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic School Boards as well as on-reserve schools, are designed to align Indigenous knowledge with curriculum through intergenerational learning.

Upcoming on campus events include the Student Circle every Monday and Pop Up Indigenous Resource Centre every Friday. The first annual Lakehead-Orillia Pow Wow will be held in March, in partnership with local schools, First Nations and Indigenous organizations.

Athletics & Wellness - Orillia

The Youth Mental Health Forum, aiming to facilitate the participation of youth in this very important conversation, was held on February 8. Local high school and postsecondary youth were invited to come together through youth-led interactive dialogue, a panel presentation, and an exciting keynote speaker, Team Canada's former goalie Kendra Fisher, to actively engage with what often exists 'Behind the Mask'. This event is a collaboration with the Office of Community Programs, Peer Wellness Educators, Mental Health Outreach Team, and the Wellness Centre.

Teaching Commons

Lynda.com, an online education company/platform offering over 6,000 video courses in software, technology, business, and creative skills – all taught by industry experts, is now available at teachingcommons.lakeheadu.ca/lyndacom.

Library

Archives

In February, several new collections have been made available for research in the Archives. The David Belrose fonds contains information about Thunder Bay's LGBTQ+ history, and consists of both physical and electronic records. The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority fonds shows environmental protection work in the 1960s. The Lakehead University Web Archives collection is our first collection of websites and online-only material, and will be regularly strengthened to preserve the University's recent history.

Respectively submitted,

David Barnett
Acting Provost and Vice-President (Academic)