

# Provost Report to Senate

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February 10, 2014

## Decanal Reviews

The Decanal Reviews have been completed. Dr. Lori Livingston has been renewed as the Dean of the Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences. Dr. Gillian Siddall has been renewed as Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.

## Faculty of Engineering

Dr. Rachid Benlamri from Software Engineering received an OCE/NSERC-Engage/Connect Canada research grant for his project "Automated Web Data Extraction for Canadian Fundraising Institutions." This research focuses on the need to develop sophisticated methods and tools to automatically locate, filter and extract the desired content, and transform it into structured knowledge that is advantageous to the business. These tools, known as Web scrapers, represent an active research field involving techniques from the Semantic Web, text processing, semantic understanding and Human-Computer Interactions (HCI). The project is in collaboration with industrial partner Charter Press Ltd in Orillia.

## Faculty of Natural Resources Management

In late fall the NRM Faculty was part of a evaluation program for the implementation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs or drones) for forest inventory updates with a variety of sensors including multi-spectral, hyperspectral, thermal and LIDAR. The results are now being utilized to enhance the hands-on components of a number of required and elective geomatics courses. The learning experience was also incorporated in an "enhanced Forest Resource Inventory training module for managers" executed in the beginning of February 2014 in Orillia. The NRM Faculty is now partnering with a UAV service provider for increased access to UAV data for teaching and research.

The NRM Faculty has reached agreements with two East-European schools for undergraduate NRM students to conduct their Fall 2014 two-week field school in Croatia and the Czech Republic.

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Symposium was held at the end of January with the topic being the Ring of Fire. The following external speakers were featured: Peter Hinz from the Ring of Fire Secretariat; Bryce Barker - Mineral Exploration & Development Consultant with MNMD; Kimberly Jorgenson - Environmental Assessment Officer with Four Rivers, Matawa; and Ramsey Hart - Canada Program Coordinator, Mining Watch.

## Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

Dr. Andrew Conly in the department of Geology was awarded a NSERC CRD grant for \$76,750, which was supplemented by another \$60,600 from Zenyatta Ventures to work on the company's Albany graphite deposit. Dr. Andrew Conly observed, "Evidence has shown that Zenyatta has discovered a unique sub-class of a hydrothermal graphite deposit unlike

any other. Igneous breccia-hosted graphite deposits like Albany are very rare, and to the best of my knowledge, none are currently being mined or even in an advanced stage of exploration globally. Our on-going research of the Albany deposit will establish the first genetic model for this distinctive type of graphite.”

## Orillia Campus

### Student Affairs

Congratulations to Meagan Higgins (Women's Extramural Hockey) and Casey Blanca (Men's Extramural) first two recipients of The Plastics Protect & HollisWealth Athletic Achievement Award.

Anna Lisa Martin (HBASc/BEEd) and Sammi Pritchard (HBASc/BEEd) have been selected to present at the 2014 Canadian Conference on Student Leadership hosted by McMaster University in March. Their topic is **6 Hats of Inclusivity**. This presentation is intended to enable participants to expand their understanding of inclusive leadership and how they can apply these new perspectives to create an inclusive campus. Through interactive activities that enable critical thought on leadership perspectives, students will take away new ideas about how to positively change their campuses through their individual leadership roles, and ideally work to create for a cohesive campus network.

A contingent of staff and students from Lakehead Orillia attend the 2014 Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering, hosted by Trent University.

## Student Affairs

### Enrolment Services

Preliminary Ontario High School (101) Application Update - The preliminary application deadline for Ontario high school students passed on January 15, 2014. Based on initial application numbers, Lakehead has declined -6.7% in applications compared to the same time last year. System-wide, the number of 101 applicants has decreased by -3.5% (-3,282 applicants) and the number of applications has also decreased by -0.8% (-3,453 applications) compared to the same time last year. This is the first time in many years (since 2004) that the sector has experienced a decline in 101 applicants.

These application numbers remain preliminary. Applications continue to be accepted and processed throughout the cycle.

Efforts aimed at continuing to recruit undergraduate students for Fall 2014 continue. Conversion efforts are also underway. The continued involvement and participation of the university community is critical to our overall success and greatly appreciated. To discuss recruitment and conversion opportunities, please contact Robert Perrier, Manager of Undergraduate Recruitment at ext. 8674 or email [robert.perrier@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:robert.perrier@lakeheadu.ca).

### Save the Date: Convocation 2014

Convocation is a special time to celebrate the achievements of our students. This year's Convocation ceremonies will take place as follows:

- Thunder Bay Campus  
Location: Thunder Bay Community Auditorium  
Dates:

Friday May 30, 2014 – 2:00 p.m.  
Saturday May 31, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

- Orillia Campus  
Location: Rotary Place  
Date: Friday June 7, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.

Additional details about Convocation will be sent out shortly.

### **Student Accessibility Services**

Just under 400 students have registered with Student Accessibility Services in Thunder Bay as of the end of December. An analysis of these students' programs reveals that the students come from all faculties.

Respectively submitted,

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