

Provost Report to Senate

March, 2014

Strategic Mandate Agreement

Following the release of *Ontario's Differentiation Policy Framework for Postsecondary Education* (November 2013), the second draft of the Lakehead University's SMA was submitted December 20, 2013. Senators were invited to review the SMA and provide feedback earlier this term. We are in the final stages of preparing the revised draft and plan to post the document on MyInfo for your review.

Faculty of Education

Dr. Ann Kajander, Associate Professor, was honoured with the 2014 Margaret Sinclair Memorial Award Recognizing Innovation and Excellence in Mathematics Education by the Fields Institute, one of the world's leading independent mathematical research institutions. Established in 2013, the annual award recognizes Canadian educators who have demonstrated innovation and excellence in promoting mathematics education.

Dr. Pauline Sameshima, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Arts Integrated Studies, was presented with a framed letter congratulating her on being appointed as a Tier II Canada Research Chair at the Research and Innovation Awards Reception. The Reception was held during Lakehead's Research & Innovation Week. The Canada Foundation for Innovation Leaders Opportunity Fund to develop an Arts Integrated Research Lab awarded Dr. Sameshima more than \$25,000.

The Faculty of Education held another successful Grad Student Conference on March 5, 2014. Dr. Mary Breunig (Associate Professor, Director of the Social Justice Research Institute, Brock University) gave an inspiring keynote presentation to faculty, and MEd and PhD students on "Educating for Change: Social and Environmental Justice Research and Praxis".

Faculty of Law

The Faculty of Law continues to grow and attract quality staff. As the Faculty moves forward to expand its program into year 2 they have hired two new academic staff:

Assistant Professor Ryan Alford – an Associate Professor at Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida. Professor Alford currently is a Visiting Professor at the University of Victoria. Before accepting a position at Ave Maria in 2010, Professor Alford obtained a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a Master of Studies in Legal Research from Oxford University. He is enrolled in a Doctor of Laws program at the University of South Africa College of Law with expected graduation this year. In addition to his academic studies Professor Alford worked as an Associate with a large Wall Street law firm and clerked with the U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals (2nd. Circuit). Professor Alford is Canadian and looks forward to returning to Canada. He has written a number of law review

articles, with a focus on legal research. His teaching areas include Consumer and Corporate law, Property Law, Business Associations and Restitution.

Assistant Professor David Blaikie -- is currently an Assistant Professor at Schulich School of Law, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Professor Blaikie brings with him a wealth of experience having taught at the Schulich School for 15 years. He also has considerable practical legal experience, called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1993. Professor Blaikie has graduate degrees in theology and law from Harvard Divinity School and Harvard Law School. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws from Dalhousie University. He is the author and co-author of four books, including the very well regarded collection of essays, *Why Good Lawyers Matter*. His areas of teaching interest and research include: Professional Responsibility, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Torts and Civil Procedure.

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

This past month the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies have been engaged in two significant outreach programs. On Tuesday March 4, the Faculty welcomed 36 First Nation students from high schools in the city and region to the First Aboriginal Mentorship Day. This program is being offered in collaboration with the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and Cancer Care Ontario. Students met with their science mentors, toured labs, visited NOSM and had some great talks from officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources. One of the highlights was a demonstration by a very energetic dog that sniffed out contraband and other items that are hidden by poachers.

On Thursday March 6, the Faculty hosted over 220 students, grades 9 to 12, from high schools through out Northwestern Ontario for the annual Gairdner Day. Dr. Michael Salter, Senior Scientist from Sick Kids Hospital was the guest speaker who gave a well-received talk "Chasing the Dream in Science". A lunch with the department chairs hosting tables was held in the University cafeteria followed by engaging and interactive talks from faculty in Geography, Geology, Chemistry and Anthropology. This was the fifth year of hosting this event in partnership with partnership with the Office of Admissions and TBRRI.

Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

Dr. Chris Parkes, Department of English has won the Children's Literature Association's 2012 Book Award for his *Children's Literature and Capitalism: Fictions of Social Mobility in Britain, 1850-1914*. The Children's Literature Association is the leading scholarly association devoted to the study of children's literature.

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities was pleased to feature award-winning fiction writer Joseph Boyden as part of Research and Innovation Week. His talk, "The Past and the Future are Present: Race Relations in Canada" drew an audience of over 500 people. While he was still here in Thunder Bay, his novel *The Orenda* was voted the winner in the Canada Reads contest.

Orillia Campus

Lakehead University Award

Lakehead University won the Orillia & District Chamber of Commerce award for "Strengthening Our Communities" at the Chamber's annual Business Achievement Awards event, held on February 27 in Orillia. The award recognizes the University's partnership with

the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs, which was officially signed at the Institute's 2013 Summer Conference at Geneva Park in Orillia. Lakehead Orillia also participated in the awards event by presenting the "Green Award" to Thor Motors of Orillia.

Research & Innovation Week

This year, a new Undergraduate Research Day was held, which featured presentations and displays by student researchers in a wide range of disciplines. All activities during the week were open to the public, giving the community an ideal opportunity to learn about the interesting research taking place on campus by students and faculty.

Student Affairs

On Thursday, March 6 fourteen Lakehead students from both Orillia and Thunder Bay, along with Lakehead Orillia staff members, Kelli Gray, Acting Director Student Services, and Neil Quinn, Athletics & Recreation Facilitator, attended the three-day Canadian Leadership Conference on Student Leadership at McMaster University. Two students from the Orillia campus, who attend last year's conference in British Columbia, **Sami Pritchard** and **Anna Lisa Martin**, were chosen as conference presenters this year. They presented a workshop called "Six Hats of Inclusivity," to help delegates understand the role of inclusive leadership in creating a cohesive campus network.

The Orillia Campus Programming Committee hosted **Student Appreciation Day** on March 4 and 5. Programs and events were organized and supported by Orillia Student Affairs, LUSU, Residence Life, Aboriginal Initiatives, Communications, Bookstore & Madison County Food and Beverage Co.

Orillia Student Affairs will be hosting **What's Next Week** March 17 - 21 - *Start planning for next year, now!* This week of advising focuses on assisting current students to better understand their program, program requirements, and options when they have completed an undergraduate program.

Over 130 students enjoyed some tails and doggy kisses last month when therapy dogs from St. John Ambulance arrived on campus. The **St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program** is a volunteer community service and was arranged through the University's Wellness Centre. The visiting dogs are intended to help students manage the stress of midterms and final exams. This the first time the program was offered at Lakehead, and judging by the enthusiastic response, the dogs made a wonderful contribution to the lives of students.

The **Ontario Winter Games** took place throughout the Muskoka and Orillia area from February 27 to March 2 and involved over 3,500 participants, thousands more spectators and many community supporters, including Lakehead University. An exceptional crew of Lakehead students attended Games events at Rotary Place to share their enthusiasm for the Orillia campus. Lakehead also supplied t-shirts for all Games volunteers.

Faculty of Education

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael Hoehsmann**, Associate Professor and Chair of Education Programs, who recently spoke on Spanish Radio Tres while in Madrid, Spain. He provided a 25-minute interview (in Spanish) about education, communication and multimedia literacy that was broadcast on nationally on March 1.

Student Affairs

Enrolment Services

Doors were opened to hundreds of prospective students, applicants and parents during March Break Open House at both campuses. The event included campus and residence tours, the opportunity to sit in on classes and meet with future professors, meetings with student service specialists and more.

A series of recruitment conversion initiatives are also underway aimed at converting our undergraduate applicants to confirmed students for Fall 2014. Upcoming events include Applicant Receptions hosted throughout the province, spring high school visits, and online chats. The University community's ongoing participation and support for these types of events is appreciated.

Save the Date: Convocation 2014

- 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: Saturday, June 7, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. (Correction from last report)

Student Accessibility Services

Academic Support Programs in the Student Success Centre (SSC) continue to be well utilized and appreciated. In the Peer Tutoring program there are currently 87 Peer Tutors that provide tutoring for 128 courses, and to 316 students. To date, 37 Success Seminars have been presented in the SSC, the Aboriginal Lounge and in individual classes. The Writing Centre has increased both their hours of operation and the number of writing coaches to keep up with the demand for assistance with a variety of writing issues.

Within Co-operative Education, there are presently students from 18 different programs interviewing for May 2014 co-op positions and it is expected that overall placements for this year will show an increase over last year.

The framework for Co-op programming in Orillia is set with employment opportunities for students already generated. Faculty in the ENSU program are very excited to build the co-op program. Current student enrollment for May 2014 is 6 with more than 12 already planning for their co-op placement in May 2015.

Student Health and Counselling

SafeTALK sessions were offered again this term by the Centre - 39 students have been trained and another 45 students are registered for sessions this week. (SafeTALK is a Suicide Alertness Training Course that teaches individuals how to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and to connect them to support services.)

Respectively submitted,

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