

# Provost Report to Senate

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**December 2, 2013**

## Strategic Mandate Agreement

In October 2012, Lakehead University submitted their Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA) to the Ministry of Training Colleges and Universities. The Ministry is revisiting these SMA's with an eye to negotiating final agreements with all universities. On November 15, Dr. Paul Genes, Special Advisor visited Lakehead University to discuss our SMA. We will be working to build on our 2012 submission over the next 6 months.

## 2013 Teaching and Learning Week

The 2013 Teaching and Learning Week ran from November 18 to 22. This year's theme, 'The Pedagogical Journey: Reflecting on Goals, Issues and Practice' encouraged participants to reflect on how their teaching goals have evolved, what are current issues to consider in teaching practices, and what can they learn from others in their approach to teaching.

The 2013 program saw a significant increase in events offered and people involved from previous years. Approximately 120 faculty, contract lecturers, staff and graduate students participated in one or more of the 22 events held throughout the week across both campuses. This year saw greater graduate student participation (which was well received by faculty participants) by offering events during the week that qualified for our graduate student instructional development training programs.

In an effort to increase faculty engagement, the week included a mix of conversational Q&A styled panel discussions, workshops and hands-on training sessions. These sessions were facilitated by 27 faculty and staff covering areas including: student evaluation of teaching, teaching dossiers, accessibility, social justice, copyright, sustainability, student writing and inquiry based teaching. New to this year was a Teaching & Learning Week reception.

## Aboriginal Initiatives

### Community Relations

The Aboriginal Awareness Centre and the Lakehead University Student Union and the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives collaborated in delivering the Food and Artisan Campus Market, Mino Bimaadiziwin on November 20, 2013. Local artisans and food producers were on campus with an exquisite array of items for the gift-giving season.

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives has received funding from Healthy Minds Canada to develop a Thunder Bay-wide Anti-Stigma Project. Lakehead University and Dennis Franklin Cromarty students as well as youth from the Regional Multicultural Youth Council and Evergreen Neighbourhood have been invited to participate in this project. Video cameras will be purchased and the youth will engage in candid filming through the lens of mental health and any experiences of stigma or social exclusion. These

films will be turned into short opinion or experience films or 3-minute Public Service Announcements. A project launch is being planned for February 14, 2014 at Lakehead University.

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives sponsored the NAN Embrace Life Gala Dinner featuring guest speaker Dr. Tony Campolo, Professor Emeritus of Sociology at Eastern University, on November 14, 2013.

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

An individual generously donated a teepee to Lakehead University after learning of the damage done to the teepee located on the University's ceremonial grounds at the Thunder Bay Campus. This individual also donated a sweat lodge cover, hide for drum making and eagle feathers. A feast to honour these gifts was held in the Aboriginal Student Lounge on November 6, 2013, with approximately 60 students in attendance.

An Information Breakfast is being held on December 4, 2013 to provide educators with updates about Lakehead University's Aboriginal Programs and Services and to learn more about educational pathways for Aboriginal students. Keynote speakers from Admissions, Aboriginal Cultural and Support Services, Native Access Program, Native Nurses Entry Program and our new Aboriginal Transitions Advisor will provide valuable information and updates on their programs and services. Invitations have been extended to Principals, Vice-Principals, Teachers, Guidance Counsellors and Support Staff in the region who work with Aboriginal students.

#### **Administration**

Aboriginal Initiatives has hired a Transitions Advisor, a Master's Degree student from Lakehead University. She will be preparing a professional Literature Review for AI and beginning an outline of a Lakehead specific Transitions Model.

#### **Academic**

As part of this year's Teaching and Learning Week, the Vice-Provost, Aboriginal Initiatives facilitated a three-part forum based on the CBC's 8th Fire Television Series.

The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives organized its Inaugural Indigenous Student Writing Retreat facilitated by Ms. Lee Maracle and Dr. Patricia McGuire at Fort William Historical Park on November 23 - 24, 2013. There were ten students who participated throughout the two days.

## Enrolment Update

The following highlights a comparison of Lakehead University's 2013 enrolment compared to the same time last year:

<u>Enrolment (Headcount)</u>	<u>2013*</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>Overall (Full-Time + Part-Time)</b>	<b>8,579</b>	<b>8,670</b>
Full-Time	7,101	7,100
Part-Time	1,478	1,570
Undergraduate	7,764	7,900
Graduate	815	770
By Campus:		
Thunder Bay	7,131	7,386
Orillia	1,448	1,284

\* These numbers are based on the November 1 numbers. Numbers are subject to change upon confirmation from the Ministry.

## Faculty of Engineering

The Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) team reviewed all five engineering programs during their site visit on October 20-22, 2013. The team included a chair, vice-chair, individual program visitors, a general visitor appointed by PEO, and two observers. Visitors began with a review of course materials and then held almost two days of meetings with faculty, staff, University leaders, and support services. While the current criteria are based on input measures, i.e., academic unit (AU) counts, the Faculty was required to demonstrate preparedness for the transition to outcomes based assessment using the Graduate Attributes defined by CEAB. During the exit interview, the Team Chair praised a variety of program strengths and the commitment of all personnel involved in delivering the programs. The Faculty will have the opportunity to respond to any issues identified in the forthcoming visit report prior to CEAB's decision next summer.

## Faculty of Law

Lakehead University's Faculty of Law has received approval from the Law Society of Upper Canada for its Integrated Practice Curriculum (IPC), the first in Canada to integrate legal professional training into a law degree. The Faculty of Law's model of legal education fuses the theory of law with the practice of law. In addition to learning law, students will also acquire the necessary practical skills to use the law effectively. "Our curriculum is aimed at integrating legal skills with substantive legal knowledge," said Professor Lee Stuesser, Founding Dean of Lakehead's Faculty of Law. "Skills are taught progressively and coordinated so they build one upon the other - course by course, year by year."

## Faculty of Natural Resources Management

The Dean visited Amity University in New Dehli to assess the potential for both on-site and on-line professional training in geomatics for Indian natural resources and software professionals. A visit was also made to Ecuador to meet with existing partners to illustrate

the Ontario provincial capacity for image based forest inventory and the NRM capacity for both academic and professional training for the same – with the intent of offering this training to Ecuadorian professional (short term modular as well as MSc training at Lakehead).

NRM was a partner in the City of Barrie/Georgian College hosting of GIS Day November 20, 2013 (an event held in many cities on the same day across North America.) NRM was a partner with the City of Thunder Bay's GIS Day event in 2004.

NRM also participated in Sault Ste. Marie's Naturallia 2013 International Natural Resources business meeting, October 28-30, 2013. NRM undergraduate students were part of the facilitation for the more than 200 international companies that attended.

Undergraduate NRM students (third year) have concluded a two-week field school excursion in Finland with a focus on precision forestry and fibre optimization. These students have been making presentations to local area schools and are currently preparing for visits to their respective home schools during the December break. The other third-year NRM students who chose not travel overseas spent their field school time with wilderness park excursions coupled with First Nations visits.

The [www.borealforest.org](http://www.borealforest.org) public access web repository (1000s of original content pages on most aspects of the vast boreal forest as well as interactive spatial data for northwestern Ontario) was launched in 2000. In the Fall 2013, the NRM Faculty initiated a major rebuild to strengthen the site's utility for protected areas, economic development as well as content suited specifically for younger audiences. Resources for this upgrade came from NRM's industrial partners.

### Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities

On November 2, the Department of History in partnership with the Thunder Bay Branch of the Canadian International Council, the HMCS Griffon, and the Lake Superior Scottish Regiment held a symposium on "The Canadian Forces As An Instrument of Foreign Policy." The event featured speakers from the University of Waterloo, the Royal Canadian Navy, and the Canadian Army speaking on Canadian involvement in exercises and operations in Afghanistan, Canada's North, and off the coast of Somalia. Various facets of military operations and operations and how they serve to shape and implement Canadian foreign policy were also examined.

### Orillia Campus

#### Interdisciplinary Studies

Dr. Paul R. Carr was awarded a Critic's Choice Book Award from the American Educational Studies Association at its annual conference in Baltimore in November, 2013, for his book entitled: Abdi, Ali A. & Carr, Paul R. (eds)(2013). *Educating for democratic consciousness: Counter-hegemonic possibilities*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing.

This fall, Dr. Alice den Otter has been working with Lakehead faculty in various departments to create multilateral college transfer pathways from the General Arts and Science 2-year college diploma into the General Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Arts and Science (Interdisciplinary Studies) degrees.

As well, in November, Lakehead Orillia hosted a meeting with representatives from 10 community colleges to discuss possible pathways from the Graphic Design 3 year college diploma into the Honours Bachelor of Arts and Science (Media Studies) degree.

### **Faculty of Education**

The Safe Walk program has been extended to the Faculty of Education professional year program at the Heritage Place campus in downtown Orillia. Any student, staff or faculty member who would like to be accompanied to their vehicle or bus stop, can take advantage of this service.

## **Student Affairs**

### **Admissions & Recruitment**

The Fall 2014 recruitment season has been a busy one, with visits to over 640 high schools, 15 university and 13 college campuses to date. The Orillia Campus Fall Preview Day took place on October 26, and welcomed hundreds of prospective students, their families and friends to campus. Congratulations to Nicole Cordeiro from Hamilton, ON, who won her first-year tuition to Lakehead as the grand prize winner.

The ***Thunder Bay Campus Fall Preview Day*** is coming up on ***Tuesday, December 3*** - special thank you to all the faculty and staff who are busy preparing to welcome all of our guests.

Two very successful Guidance Counsellor Seminars were held for our local and regional guidance counsellors at both the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. On November 1, the Orillia campus had over 40 counsellors attend a half day event where they received updates on our academic offerings, met with current students and learned all about the services in place for students. On November 8, the Thunder Bay campus had 30 counsellors attend from all local high schools and from across the region. Counsellors enjoyed exploring the Faculty of Business Administration, Pathways to Lakehead, and other student service updates, concluding with a guided behind-the-scenes tour of the Faculty of Law.

### **Registrar's Office**

The Registrar's Office is undergoing some renovations beginning in early December. Staff will temporarily share office space with the Student Awards and Financial Aid staff. A communication bulletin is being issued to ensure that students as well as faculty and staff are aware of the temporary relocation. All services will continue to be delivered.

### **Student Accessibility Services**

Student Accessibility Services participated in Teaching and Learning Week by presenting three different workshops on How to Create Accessible Documents. The workshops were offered both in Thunder Bay and in Orillia.

### **Student Health and Counselling**

The Centre hosted two general information sessions with staff from the new MTCU-supported **Good2Talk** helpline. In addition, a number of area-specific meetings were facilitated (i.e. with the Vice-Provost, Student Affairs; the Student Health & Counselling Centre; and Residence).

The Centre facilitated a Thunder Bay District Health Unit community flu clinic on campus; approximately 400 campus and community residents attended.

Respectively submitted,

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