

April 2019



President's Report to Board of Governors



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

Town Hall with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

On March 22, the public was invited to Lakehead Thunder Bay's Fieldhouse to attend a public town hall with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, as hosted by MPs Patty Hajdu and Don Rusnak.

Since 2017, the Prime Minister has hosted town halls across the country to hear directly from Canadians on the issues that matter to them and their communities. Supporting the economic and social well-being of the communities and regions we serve is one of Lakehead's core priorities, and we were excited that he chose to host this event at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay.



Hundreds of members of our University and local communities attended the live-streamed, 2-hour event.

Diversity Thunder Bay welcomes Tanya Talaga

On March 21, I, along with members of my President's Task Force on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, as well as other Lakehead University representatives, including students, faculty, and staff, attended *Diversity Thunder Bay's* 13th annual celebration breakfast at Thunder Bay's Victoria Inn.

The open-to-the-community event, which occurred on the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, featured keynote speaker, Tanya Talaga, the acclaimed author of *Seven Fallen Feathers*. Her inspirational talk touched on how all members of the Thunder Bay community have a responsibility, and all can have a hand in a new way forward. She also spoke about the positive changes that have already taken place in Thunder Bay, and the ways in which each community member can support a safer, more welcoming community.



Local and Global Partnerships

Partnering Towards Discovery at Lakehead's 2019's PDAC Breakfast

Our 8th Annual Lakehead University PDAC Breakfast in support of the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME) was held in Toronto on March 4 at the Intercontinental Toronto Centre. Hosted as part of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada Conference (PDAC), this annual event brings together Lakehead University community partners, alumni, friends, donors and students during the world's premier exploration and mining convention.

Our keynote speaker was John Mullally, *Goldcorp's* Vice-President, Government Affairs and Energy Regulation, who spoke about connecting the mining history in the north to Goldcorp's present partnerships with both Indigenous communities and Lakehead University.

This annual event continues to enhance key networking and relationship-building opportunities with our mining and exploration industry partners. The event also allows us to showcase the impact of our generous partners and donors through an annual update on Lakehead's Geology Department and the Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration.





Big names headline Third Age Learning Lakehead lecture series

The *Toronto Star*'s **Kevin Donovan**, the CBC's **Litsa Sourtzis**, and former executive producer **Dan Dunsky** are just a few of the speakers set to present during Third Age Learning Lakehead's (TALL) second five-part lecture series, *Uncovering the Truth: Investigative Journalism in the Age of 'Fake News'*. Over 200 people have subscribed to this series, which involves lectures followed by a coffee break and interactive question period.



Lakehead Orillia's Dr. Linda Rodenburg, through our Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning, worked with a group of TALL Learners to organize the event. TALL offers non-degree educational opportunities for senior learners in Orillia and surrounding areas.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

LUNSA's 31st annual Powwow



On Saturday, March 9, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Lakehead University Native Student Association's (LUNSA) 31st annual Powwow at the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse.

The annual Powwow is LUNSA's signature event that reinforces traditional aspects of Indigenous culture such as drumming, dancing, singing, and giving thanks. LUNSA is a volunteer Lakehead University Student Union club.

Its goals are to promote the spirit of unity among Indigenous students at Lakehead University through social, cultural, and recreational events, in addition to promoting cultural awareness between club members and the greater Lakehead University student population.



Lakehead University Signs MOU with University of Benin University

A delegation from the University of Benin (Nigeria) came to Lakehead Thunder Bay on March 25 to sign a five-year Memorandum of Understanding.

The delegation, including **Professor F.F.O Orumwense**, the University of Benin's Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Edeaghe (Eddy) Ehikhamenor, Project Coordinator of the Center for Forensic Programs and DNA Studies, met with members of Lakehead's Paleo-DNA Laboratory to explore potential areas of collaboration, including establishing forensic DNA training programs at the University of Benin.

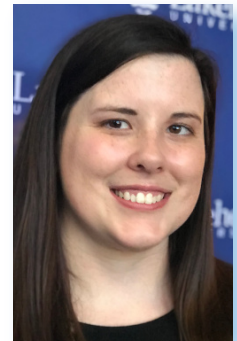


Academic Excellence

Jenna Kirker chosen as Lakehead's TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Fellow

External Relations and the Alumni Association of Lakehead University were very pleased to announce that – for the first time in over two decades – Lakehead University had been selected to receive a TD Insurance Meloche Monnex Fellowship through the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education. This is an incredibly competitive process and only two recipients are selected from the post-secondary sector each year.

Lakehead's Fellow is **Jenna Kirker**, who has a long-standing relationship with the University, External Relations and the Alumni Association. Over the course of her year-long fellowship, Jenna will work on projects within the alumni engagement, annual giving, and legacy giving portfolios.



[*Click here to view the full Communications Bulletin notice...*](#)



Lakehead University receiving more than \$1.2 million from SSHRC

Lakehead University researchers from both our campuses are receiving more than \$140,000 in SSHRC Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation – Connection Grants for important studies that will have a profound impact on the relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

Spiropoulos and Rodger named Lakehead Orillia athletes of the year

Lakehead University Orillia celebrated a successful 2018-19 athletics season on Friday, April 5 by handing out their awards at the annual Athletic Awards Banquet held at Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club.

Gia Spiropoulos (Women's Basketball) walked away with the Female Athlete of the Year, with **Ryan Rodger** (Men's Hockey) claiming Male Athlete of the Year.

Awards were also presented to top student athletes in each of the University's sports teams: varsity golf, equestrian, men's and women's hockey, dance, men's and women's varsity indoor soccer, and men's and women's basketball. Most valuable player and rookie of the year were announced and presented by the team coaches, who were also recognized and thanked by the University.

[Click here to view media release and a complete list of award winners...](#)





Groundbreaking new research into oil spills at the world's freshwater laboratory

On Monday, April 15, scientists explained how they are rolling out the second stage of groundbreaking new research into the impact of oil spills on lakes and shorelines.

The scientists are conducting this research just six hours west of Thunder Bay at IISD Experimental Lakes Area (IISD-ELA), the world's freshwater laboratory.

Vince Palace, IISD-ELA's head research scientist, presented the research and explained why we can always understand more about the impact of pipeline spills on bodies of fresh water.

The presentation welcomed members of the public and our University community.



Social Responsibility

LUSU celebrates International Women's Day

On International Women's Day (Friday, March 8), the Lakehead University Student Union's Gender Equity Centre, as well as its Sustainability Centre, organized an all-women panel, and speakers, to discuss their experiences. The panel of five Thunder Bay-area women entrepreneurs talked about their stories of building and managing their own businesses, while LUSU Sustainability Centre's Shadiya Aidid spoke about Gendered Islamophobia.



Photo: Matt Vis, tbnewswatch



‘Shelter access for women’ first recipient of *Community-Engaged Research Award*

The research team behind the project, “Shelter access for all women: Creating a harm reduction framework” was presented Lakehead University’s inaugural Community-Engaged Research Award during Research & Innovation Week in Thunder Bay and Orillia. The award was created by the Office of Research Services in 2018 to recognize our community’s social innovators –those researchers, students and partners in the social sector who are working together to positively impact the wellbeing of the people they serve in our region and beyond.

The winning project, “Shelter access for all women” examines the implementation of harm reduction approaches in domestic violence shelters across Ontario. The purpose is to develop a flexible framework that supports the varied needs of shelters, and ensures access for all women regardless of substance use status. The research team implemented a survey, completed case studies, and hosted a conference with the support of the provincial domestic violence shelter association. The project includes significant involvement from students with opportunities for related projects in the Masters of Social Work program.

The recipients of this award include faculty members, community partners, and students:



- Angela Hovey, School of Social Work
- Susan Scott, School of Social Work
- Lori Chambers, Department of Women’s Studies
- Marlene Ham, Executive Director of the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses
- Silvia Samsa, Executive Director, Women’s Habitat
- Liz Westcott, Executive Director, Green Haven Shelter for Women
- Charlotte Scott, Carly Roberts, Sarah Tilley, Shelby Thompson, Kaitlin Wilmshurst, Students



Lakehead University formally adopts the Okanagan Charter

Lakehead University is placing the health and well-being of students, faculty and staff at the forefront with the formal adoption of the *Okanagan Charter: An International Charter for Health Promoting Universities and Colleges*. The Charter was signed by **Dr. Moira McPherson**, Lakehead's President and Vice-Chancellor, during a special event held at our Thunder Bay campus, and by Lakehead Orillia Principal, **Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans**, at our Orillia campus.

An outcome of the 2015 International Conference on Health Promoting Universities and Colleges, the Charter calls on post-secondary institutions to embed health and well-being into all aspects of campus culture, including the development of policies, procedures and practices.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



Office of Sustainability's Land Acknowledgement Walk

Lakehead University Office of Sustainability's Coordinator, Ledah McKellar, will hire an Indigenous student to develop land acknowledgement walk to explore the history of the land our Thunder Bay campus is on and encourage dialogue about decolonization. The Walk grew from talking circles with Indigenous elders and advisers while preparing the school's Sustainability Plan. The goal for the new employee will be to engage in conversations with area elders, traditional knowledge keepers, and other Indigenous people to discuss and determine the details of the project.

Capacity Development

State-of-the-Art TEM and XPS Installed in CASES

New specialized equipment has been installed in the Centre for Advanced Studies in Engineering and Sciences (CASES). The Lakehead University Instrumentation Laboratory is now home to a Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM) and an X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) (pictured below). The \$1.25 million TEM uses energetic electrons to provide information on biological and medical samples. The XPS, valued at \$1.22 million, will be used to analyze the elemental composition of materials, including bio-materials.

The purchase of these state-of-the-art pieces of equipment was made possible through the support of the Federal and Provincial governments, FedNor, and the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC). Through the use of this equipment, Lakehead will broaden our research capacity and increase our ability to provide extension services to our industry partners.

Funding from the Federal Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario have also been confirmed for the purchase of a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (NMR).



Transmission Electron Microscope (TEM)



X-Ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS)