



April 2020

President's Report to Board of Governors



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Student Relief Fund

On April 3, Lakehead University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Lakehead University Student Union, and the Lakehead University Alumni Association launched a Student Relief Fund to help students impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. Bursaries will assist with travel and living costs based on available funds and students' demonstrated financial need.



Lakehead faculty and staff, and to members of our Board of Governors, were among the first to donate. In one week, over \$75,000 was raised from over 260 members of our internal community. The process to allocate these funds to students in need is already underway. **We are not done and have plans to double the gifts raised with University funds.**

If you are interested in supporting the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund, or wish to learn more about it, please visit Lakehead University's COVID-19 information website and click the button to donate.

Lakehead University and NOSM collect PPE for frontline healthcare workers

Representatives from Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) collected hundreds of boxes of personal protective equipment (PPE) for health care providers in Thunder Bay, throughout Northern Ontario, and Orillia – to help alleviate a shortage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

At Lakehead University the collection began when researchers started asking Anne Klymenko, Director of the Office of Research Services, where they could drop-off essential PPE for the hospital. Lakehead University's Office of Research Services issued a call to action to all university and NOSM researchers and laboratories requesting essential PPE, a collection that was also started at Lakehead Orillia.

[*Click here to read the whole story...*](#)





Lakehead University International shares Cards with Seniors in Isolation

Lakehead University International (LUI) is always looking for ways to provide opportunities for our students to grow, to learn about themselves and others, and to feel connected to their community. Volunteering and helping others is known to help reduce stress, combat depression, keep you mentally stimulated, and provide a sense of purpose. With a lot of research to show that giving to others can help protect your mental and physical health, LUI looked for ways to help our students while also helping others.

Among the many stories emerging in the middle of the COVID-19 crisis, the LUI team became aware of the additional challenges being faced by two groups of people in our community: international students and seniors living in long-term care facilities.

Lakehead University International has reached out to a number of long-term care and retirement homes in Thunder Bay about providing Caring Cards for Seniors. LUI understands that due to risks involved, most of our seniors in these homes are unable to have family and friends visit during this time, so this our way to extend small gestures of kindness, bring smiles to the faces of seniors, and hopefully lift the spirits of the residents.

A group of Lakehead international student volunteers have created their own personal cards with uplifting and inspiring messages. They have participated in this project to show they care about these residents in our community, and to let our seniors know we are thinking about them during these challenging and isolating times.

Currently, LUI is working with Chartwell Glacier Ridge and will be dropping off our first batch of cards next week. LUI hopes to have more homes participate soon, as we have a lot of wonderful messages to share!

Safety precautions are being followed with contactless drop-offs.

If anyone is interested in participating or would like further information, they can contact Sara Melvin or Lahama Naeem at sscoordinator.intl@lakeheadu.ca.





***Ingenuity* partners to create face shields for Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre Relief Fund**

Lakehead's business incubator, *Ingenuity*, is working with Confederation College and a local engineering firm, Nordmin, to collaborate, create, and deliver face shields to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre's procurement team. They are only accepting products that meet Health Canada Safety standards, so Nordmin is currently assembling and creating a design for a prototype that will be delivered to the Hospital for approval. Once approved, Ingenuity and Confederation College will help this effort by laser cutting the shields needed for face masks.

In addition, *Ingenuity* is coordinating the efforts of the Centre for the Application of Resources Information Systems (CARIS) and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM). CARIS made a call to students and community members who have a 3D printer to help support their efforts, and have obtained a large following.

A Facebook group was created, and groups of students, along with members of the community, are currently building faceshields to be delivered to several clinics. The NOSM Group has been working to deliver the products, as they have established relationships with small clinics, both locally and regionally. Community members, along with the student groups, have been sharing print designs, and hope to be approved by Health Canada. Currently they have not been approved, but products are in the testing process and can be used as a disposable option. At this time, only family members and friends of the group have been using the product on the job.

Community members and students can access design files for 3D printing, along with distribution information, at www.covidthbay.ca.

Lakehead University Spring and Summer to be delivered remotely

On April 7, as part of our ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our students, instructors, and the wider community, and while continuing to assess and respond as best as possible to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, it was announced that our University's Spring and Summer courses would be provided in a remote delivery format.

Following a thorough review of our scheduled Spring and Summer courses, the majority of originally scheduled offerings will be conducted online and meet the intended learning objectives so as not to compromise your learning opportunities. While there are very few courses that cannot be delivered remotely this Spring/Summer, the University has added new courses in order to continue to provide students with a range of options.

For more information, please see the [updated Spring and Summer session timetable](#).

Our Admissions and Orientation Teams are also focused on ensuring a fabulous transition for students starting their University experience, or continuing their studies, in the upcoming fall.



Clark and Bettencourt named Orillia Thunderwolves 2019-2020 athletes of the year

The Lakehead Orillia Thunderwolves didn't let the cancellation of the annual Athletic Awards Banquet stop them from celebrating a successful 2019-2020 athletics season. On Friday, March 27, the Thunderwolves handed out awards to student athletes during a virtual banquet.

Hannah Clark (women's basketball) and **Chris Bettencourt** (varsity men's indoor soccer) were named 2019-2020 Athletes of the Year.



Clark, a Master of Education student, helped lead the women's basketball team to three championships. This year, she stepped up to mentor and welcome new players into the Thunderwolves family, and committed to making the new on-court partnership with the Georgian Grizzlies a success.

Bettencourt, a fourth-year Business Administration student, will leave the program on solid footing. For four years, Bettencourt led the varsity men's indoor soccer team with dedication, charisma and hard work. As team captain, he took an active role in supporting the first-year players and ensuring that they adapted to the program and the collegiate level of play.

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



Lakehead alumna helps community find their inner calm

Lakehead alumna Debbie Zweep (Bachelor of Administration, 1994), the co-owner of Modo Yoga Thunder Bay, was recently asked if she had any tips to help people dealing with anxiety or challenging situations.

"The child's pose and full belly breathing are very soothing," Debbie says. "If you can just stay with the feeling of the breath, you'll activate your parasympathetic nervous system, which induces calmness. In fact, any forward fold allows people to breathe into their back, a place where we hold lots of tension."

[Click here to view a couple of relaxation tips and more information...](#)





Lakehead professor hosting free webinar series for parents working at home

Dr. David Tranter, Associate Professor with the School of Social Work, offered three free live and on-demand webinars for parents and caregivers. The series, entitled *Surviving and Thriving at Home with Your Children During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, provided expert advice in the areas of parenting, learning at home, and managing anxiety.

Session One: The March Break is Over, Now What?

This first session of the series covered the top ten ways you and your children can successfully settle in to staying at home. Topics included: establishing realistic expectations, creating a daily routine, and dealing with stress and worry

Session Two: Learning at Home is Not like Learning at School

This session examined how you can support your child's learning and development without turning your dining room into a classroom. Topics included: what matters most when it comes to learning, capitalizing on curiosity, and dealing with opposition without detention or suspension

Session Three: Are We Having Fun Yet? Saying Positive Over the Long Haul

This session focused on maintaining your own well-being so you can support the well-being of your children. Topics included: staying motivated and positive, managing boredom and anxiety, and supporting your own well-being.

Academic Excellence



Students win big at Annual Juried Exhibition

From March 5 through April 6, Lakehead University's Department of Visual Arts hosted its annual Juried Exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery.

[Click here](#) to view the list of student winners and awards sponsors of this year's event.



Lakehead University researchers working on the fight against COVID-19

Many Lakehead researchers are contributing to the understanding and battle against the COVID-19 virus. Below are three examples of current research.

In **Computer Science**, Dr. Vijay Mago and Dr. Salimur Choudhury are working with graduate student Andrew Fisher and Dr. David Savage, ER Physician at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) to develop a comprehensive model for COVID-19 that can predict the spread of the disease and the strategies to contain it. The model, based on Susceptible – Infected – Recovered (SIR), incorporates information about TBRHSC and Northwestern Ontario's community resources along with the existing understanding of the COVID-19 virus parameters. The team aims to continuously develop and refine the model so that policy makers, healthcare professionals, and community leaders, including Northern communities' Chiefs and Councils, can be better informed about the spread of COVID-19 and the resources required to manage the inflow of patients. National and Provincial leaders recognize that successfully fighting against this pandemic will be contingent upon public education and access to information, so the team also aims to design a user-friendly interface.

The COVID-19 Simulation model is open for public use via these links:

For General Public: <https://lnkd.in/e5eU35u>. Public Health Professionals: <https://lnkd.in/etNa4rq>

Video tutorials: 1 - <https://lnkd.in/ekZDp8t>; 2 - <https://lnkd.in/esbnTw6>

In **Chemical Engineering**, Dr. Siamak Elyasi is developing portable equipment to disinfect N95 masks, crucial Personnel Protection Equipment (PPE) for health workers across Canada. To combat the current shortage of N95 masks, the equipment will use UV radiation and hydrogen peroxide evaporators as a quick-working disinfectant, enabling professionals to reuse their masks safely. Dr. Elyasi is currently developing a prototype that will be tested by a team of microbiologists and pathologists. This project aims to reduce the risk of infection for health professionals by eliminating cross-contamination when reusing PPE, and could also be used for populations who are more susceptible to health complications, including the elderly.

In response to COVID-19, the **Biorefining Research Institute** and **Green Processes Research Centre** are extending the applications of lignin, materials that are extracted from traditional pulping processes and can be converted to value-added products. Dr. Pedram Fatehi's research team, in collaboration with FPInnovations, is currently testing the antibacterial and viral properties of lignin derivatives. The aim is to develop new multifunctional lignin that can be used to create packaging, masks, and other paper products. This initiative has the potential to extend beyond COVID-19 to result in long-term collaborations across multiple partners and sectors. Lakehead University commends our researchers for helping provide practical solutions and better understandings to combat COVID-19.



Humanities 101 wraps up with lab experience

Dr. Usha Menon, lecturer and lab instructor in Biology, Applied Life Sciences, and Sustainability Sciences at the Orillia camps, rounded out the Humanities 101 program with a dynamic lecture and lab experience about "Strawberries, fruit flies and DNA." This year's Humanities 101 cohort, with 18 enthusiastic students, is looking forward to reconvening when possible for their final two lectures and graduation. Professors volunteer to facilitate interactive lectures in this key CELL program (see photos, attached).

Third Age Learning Lakehead (Muskoka) concludes third series of lectures

Third Age Learning Lakehead (Muskoka), in partnership with the Canadian Federation of University Women, wrapped up its third series of lectures, with over 100 people in attendance. *Worldview 2020: Relations with Nature, Others, and the Spiritual World*, featured Dr. Jane Young, on "Integrating Ways of Knowing: Recognizing Diverse Views of Nature" followed by Brian Charles, a band member of Chippewas of Georgina First Nation who discussed "Intercultural Relations: Wampum as a visual record." Attendees then heard from PhD Candidate Galen Watts, who spoke on "The Religion of the Heart: 'Spirituality' in the 21st Century". TALL Muskoka will join TALL Orillia for our next series, shifting online for May 2020, "The Power of Music."