



**February
2018**

President's Report to Board of Governors



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President



Minister Hajdu greets Lakehead researchers

On November 17, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development & Labour, and Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Superior North, on behalf of the Hon. Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science, met with some of the Lakehead University researchers receiving funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).

The funding is being awarded through scholarships, fellowships, and grants from SSHRC, one of the three federal granting councils responsible for supporting researchers whose work helps fuel a stronger economy, healthy communities and a growing middle class.

Ontario Supporting Agri-Food Research in Thunder Bay

Ontario is transferring the operating and research programming of the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station to Lakehead University to help foster innovation and strengthen Ontario's competitive edge by expanding agri-food research in Northwestern Ontario.

Bill Mauro, MPP for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, made the announcement on behalf of Jeff Leal, Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs in Thunder Bay on December 8.

The partnership with Lakehead University will support the long-term sustainability of the Thunder Bay Agricultural Research Station (TBARS) and will increase the university's capacity to build new programming and research that will benefit Northwestern Ontario.

The agricultural research station will be known as the Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (LUARS).

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CRC Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan

As part of its response to the 15th year evaluation, the Canada Research Chairs Program required all universities to undertake a serious and meaningful review of institutional recruitment practices to identify systemic barriers that may be impede their ability to comply with equity, diversity and inclusion objectives within the CRC program.

All universities had to submit CRC institutional equity, diversity and inclusion plans by December 15, 2017. At Lakehead University, the Vice-President Research and Innovation established a CRC Equity and Diversity Working Group to guide and provide input into the development of the CRC Equity and Diversity Action Plan.

The plan, which is available [here](#), will help guide the University's efforts to meet CRC equity targets.

Research & Innovation Week 2018

Lakehead University will celebrate its 13th Annual Research & Innovation Week with the theme of “Connections.” Join us on the Thunder Bay campus from March 2 – 9, and in Orillia from March 19-21, to celebrate our achievements in research and innovation. Research & Innovation Week kicks off in Thunder Bay on Friday, March 2 with our Opening Ceremonies, and a full-day exhibition at the Intercity Mall on Saturday, March 3.

Complete event details can be found [here](#).



Nurturing Scholarship

Lakehead University raises over \$57,000 on Giving Tuesday

Lakehead University raised \$57,725 on Giving Tuesday (November 28th), thanks to the generosity of alumni, donors, faculty, staff, students, and friends of the University. Giving Tuesday is a relatively new Canadian initiative for charitable giving. Seen as the “opening day of the giving season,” it is when individuals, groups, and organizations, join together to share their commitment, rally for their favourite charitable causes, and think about others.

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Lakehead expands partnerships in Mexico

During 2017, Lakehead University hosted 570 Mexican students in various short-term and semester-long ESL programs, customized ESL programs in combination with academic courses, as well as full-time students in undergraduate and graduate programs.

In late November 2017, **Dr. Moira McPherson** visited Mexico to help further the relationships that Lakehead International has developed with approximately a dozen Mexican universities. On her visit to the Technological University of Fidel Velázquez A. Villagran (UTFV), Dr. McPherson signed an MOU with Rector Roberto García Sevilla and the State of Mexico's Director General for Higher Education, Mr. Cuitlahuac Anda Mendoza.

UTFV sent 65 students on language training to LU in 2017, under the Proyecto 10,000 Program, financed through the government of the State of Mexico (EDOMEX). EDOMEX has committed to sending 400 students to Lakehead University in 2018, from various universities in the State of Mexico.





Dr. Tocheri receives an international Field Discovery Award

On December 17, it was announced that Lakehead University's Dr. Matt Tocheri would be recognized by the Shanghai Archaeology Forum for his research on *Homo floresiensis* at Liang Bua in Indonesia.

Eight years of excavations and study have pushed back the time of disappearance of the 'hobbits' of Flores (*Homo floresiensis*) from as recently as 12,000 years ago to about 60-50,000 years ago – around the same time that modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) first dispersed through the wider region and reached Australia.

The new findings were published in *Nature* in 2016 in an article entitled *Revised stratigraphy and chronology for Homo floresiensis at Liang Bua in Indonesia*.

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Dr. Matt Tocheri, second from right, at the Liang Bua site.



Dr. Cheryl Lousley named Fulbright research chair

A look into the ways in which environmental concerns have been woven into the narrative of contemporary Canadian fiction will be the focus for a Lakehead University professor who is the recipient of a prestigious Fulbright Canada Visiting Research Chair.

Dr. Cheryl Lousley, Associate Professor of English and Interdisciplinary Studies at Lakehead Orillia, will be a Fulbright Canada Visiting Research Chair at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), starting in January 2018.

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Community Engagement

Lakehead University and the City of Thunder Bay sign MOU

Dr. Brian Stevenson, Lakehead University's former President & Vice-Chancellor, and Thunder Bay **Mayor Keith Hobbs** signed a memorandum of understanding on December 20 to pursue new collaboration opportunities that will build on mutual strengths and interests.

The purpose of the MOU is to introduce more strategy into the relationship between the Lakehead University and the City of Thunder Bay.

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Lakehead hosts Pan-Northern Mining Research Alliance

Lakehead University hosted the second meeting of the Pan-Northern Mining Research Alliance on December 20, 2017. The Alliance was formed in response to the Canadian Federal Budget 2017, which expressed commitment to continued sustainable development of the mining sector.

University, college, industry, and funding partners across Northern Ontario gathered at Lakehead University to combine their research strengths and identify key priorities and strategic directions for the Alliance in 2018. The Pan-Northern Mining Research Alliance will support research on a global scale and enhance Northern Ontario's research strengths in mining-related areas for all post-secondary institutions. The Alliance will actively seek industry engagement, support and collaboration through targeted research opportunities that align with government.





Ottawa Alumni Hockey Event

Ottawa area alumni were given the behind-the-bench treatment after the Ottawa Senators game in Ottawa on February 1st.

Lakehead alumnus and Ottawa Senators team physician, Dr. Donald Chow, arranged the opportunity and photo for us.

Cooperation Agreement between CALAREO and CONACYT

On November 24, 2017, in Mexico City, the newly established Canada Latin America Research Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium signed an agreement of cooperation with the Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT). Lakehead University has partnered with Carleton University, Memorial University, Vancouver Island University, and the University of Lethbridge to form CALAREO.

The objective of this Cooperation Agreement is to establish a joint program, called CONACYT-CALAREO, for Mexican Master and Doctoral students to study at a CALAREO Member University with funding provided jointly through CONACYT and CALAREO. **Dr. Brian Stevenson**, Past President of Lakehead University, signed the agreement on behalf of CALAREO. **Enrique Cabrero Mendoza**, General Director, and **María Dolores Sánchez Soler**, Deputy General Director of Scholarships and Graduate Studies, signed the agreement on behalf of CONACYT. CALAREO and CONACYT look forward to providing opportunities for Mexican students to study at the partner universities in Canada.

The Secretariat for CALAREO will be located at Lakehead University.





Simcoe County recognized for \$1 million donation

Warden Gerry Marshall and members of Simcoe County Council presented Lakehead University with a \$1 million cheque on January 24 to support growth and access to learning opportunities for students in the region.

The donation is part of the County of Simcoe's annual pledge to improve access to postsecondary education across the region. The announcement brought the County of Simcoe's total contributions to Lakehead to approximately \$7.5 million since 2009.



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Bell Let's Talk Day

Lakehead University's Student Health and Counselling Centre partnered with Thunderwolves athletes and Wolfie for Bell Let's Talk Day on January 31. Several stations were outside Lakehead's Main Cafeteria where students participated in games, started a conversation about mental health, posted speech bubbles on the wall and to social media.

As part of the day, **Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne** was welcomed by students from Lakehead University and Confederation College at a roundtable discussion with her about mental health concerns.

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Growth & Capacity Development

Lakehead joins Ontario Premier's Mission to China and Vietnam

Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President (Research & Innovation), was in China and Vietnam between November 26 – December 6, 2017 as part of Premier Kathleen Wynne's Ontario Business Mission. During the mission, Dr. Dean visited Nanjing, Chongqing, and Shenzhen in China and Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in Vietnam. In Chongqing, Dr. Dean participated in a roundtable discussion, chaired by the Premier, which highlighted potential collaborations and future developments in science, technology, and innovation between Canada and China.



Dr. Dean highlighted advancements in research at Lakehead University, particularly in the areas of cleantech, agriculture, energy, and advanced manufacturing. At the roundtable, Dr. Hong Xiang, Director of Key Laboratory of Dependable Service Computer in Cyber Physical Society, Chongqing University, presented on cyber security advances in China. Dr. Xiang actually completed his Master's degree at Lakehead University in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in 1992.