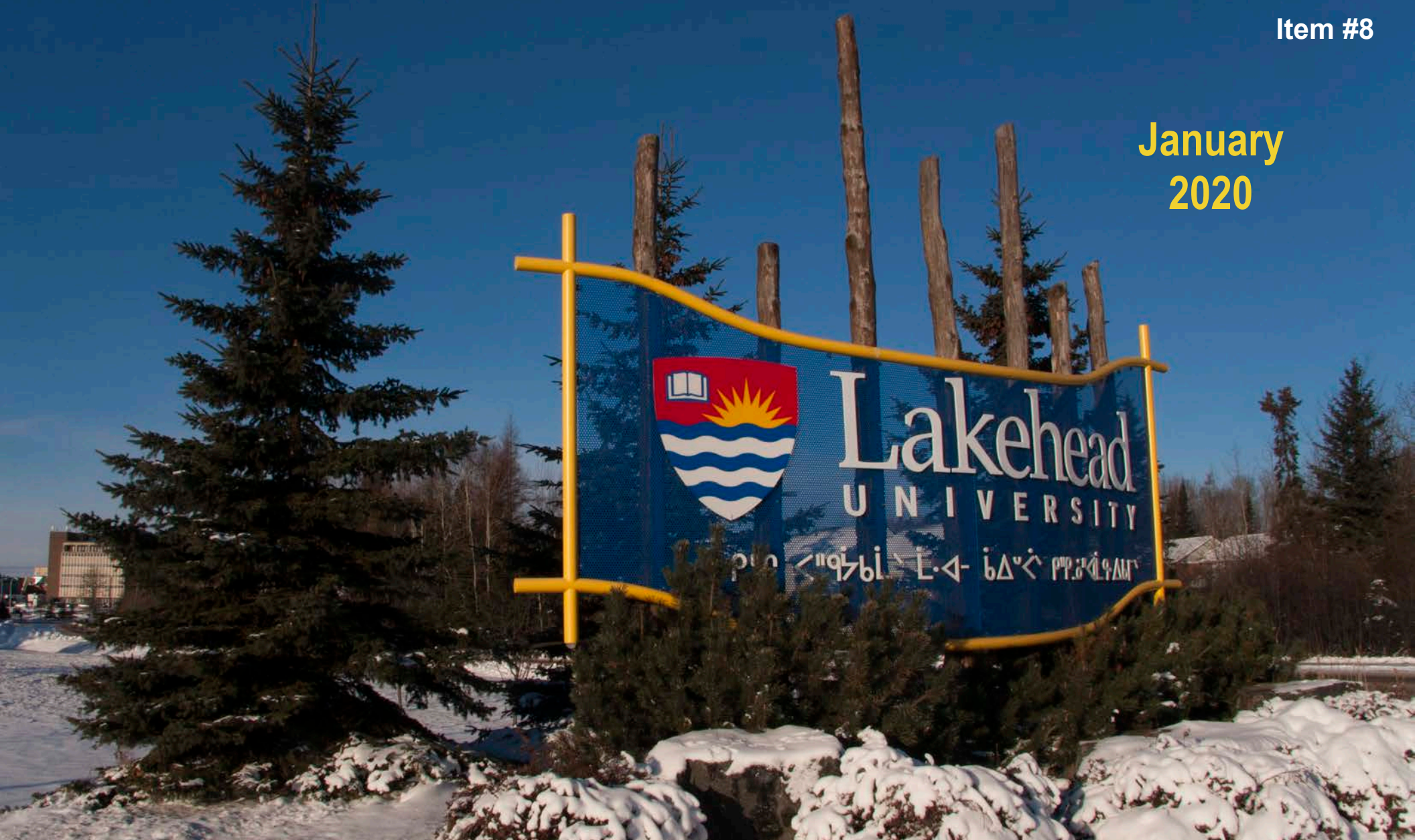


January
2020



President's Report to Board of Governors





Office of the President

Dr. David Barnett named Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

On January 10, **Dr. David Barnett** was named Lakehead University's Provost & Vice-President (Academic). Holding responsibilities as both the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Academic Officer for the University, Dr. Barnett will begin his new role effective immediately.

Dr. Barnett joined Lakehead in July 2012 as Dean of the University's Faculty of Engineering, and has held the roles of Acting, and then Interim, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) since January 2018.

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



County of Simcoe presents \$1 million to Lakehead University

On November 19, surrounded by Lakehead University students and alumni, County of Simcoe Warden George Cornell and members of County Council presented President & Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, Board of Governors Chair Ross Murray, and Lakehead Orillia Principal Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, with a \$1 million gift.

During the event, County Councillors heard first-hand from a second-year social work student and an alumna on the impact of having a university in the community.

The gift is part of the County of Simcoe's annual pledge to improve access to post-secondary education across the region. The announcement brings the County of Simcoe's contributions to Lakehead to \$9.5 million since 2009.

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Raag-Rung contributes \$5,000 to student scholarships

In October, the Raag-Rung Music Circle held its 36th annual Fundraising Evening of Fabulous Food and Marvellous Music, which raises funds for student scholarships and the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra.

In late December, Dr. Inder Nirdosh, Professors Emeritus, front right, Raag-Rung President, and members of the Executive, Tammy Holmes, front, second from right, Kevin Sidlar, back left, and Rajesh Talpade, back middle, presented Lakehead's President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Moira McPherson, Deb Comuzzi, former Vice-President, External Relations, and Dr. David Barnett, then-Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), with a cheque for \$5,000 for student scholarships.

Orillia's *Joyful Sound* fundraiser for Humanities 101 program

On December 8, the Orillia Vocal Ensemble presented *Joyful Sound*, a Christmas concert in support of Lakehead University's Humanities 101 program on the Orillia campus. The concert was hosted by **Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Director of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning**, and featured soloists Laura Aylan-Parker and our very own **Principal of the Orillia campus, Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans**. The fundraiser raised awareness of Humanities 101 and over \$5,500 for the program.





Lakehead Orillia hosts 2018-2019 Report to Community

On Wednesday, Nov. 20 Lakehead Orillia held their 2018-2019 Report to Community themed Dare. Defy. Discover.

Emceed by fourth year Lakehead criminology program student, Courtney Holmes, the annual event featured students, faculty and alumni of the Orillia campus who dare to defy constraints and expectations to make discoveries about themselves and the world through unconventional scholarship and independent thinking.

Guests at this year's event included Gia Spiropoulos, Master of Education student, **alumna Dana Clark**, and Lakehead's Dr. Cheryl Lousley, Associate Professor and Research Chair in Environmental Humanities.

Dr. Lousley spoke passionately about storying the climate change emergency and provided examples of how environmental concerns have been woven into the narrative of Canadian fiction.



In her talk, Spiropoulos shared her journey to Lakehead, her passion for basketball, and documented the incredible research opportunities she has participated in during her master's program. Working with lecturer and SSHRC post-doctoral fellow Dr. Ellen Field, Spiropoulos is working on developing hands-on, inquiry-based learning resources for teachers to help introduce education around climate change into today's classrooms.

Clark, a graduate of Lakehead's media studies program, talked about her global social impact movement, Heroic Humans. The online platform inspires, celebrates, empowers and acknowledges acts of heroism big and small all over the world. To date, it has featured almost 200 people from around the globe who show exceptional examples of courage, bravery, love, and resilience in everyday life. Clark's work on Heroic Humans earned her the 2018 Mindful Millennial Award from The Notable Life.

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



GTA Alumni Chapter hosts alumni, family and friends

Lakehead's GTA Alumni Chapter hosted over 120 Lakehead alumni, family and friends over a weekend in November to watch and support the Men's Varsity Hockey team at Ryerson University (Friday, November 15) and the Women's and Men's Varsity Basketball team at Brock University (Saturday, November 16).

The Chapter volunteers were handing out Alumni-Thunderwolves scarves so that every guest could show their school spirit, and they cheered on our Varsity athletes all night!





Two Lakehead students honoured with Mayor's Community Safety Awards

Two Lakehead University students were recently honoured with 2019 Mayor's Community Safety Awards, presented by Mayor Bill Mauro.

COMMUNITY HERO AWARD — TESSA DEBRUYNE

A Street Outreach Worker for Thunder Bay's Shelter House SOS Program, Lakehead Master of Social Work student Tessa Debruyne demonstrates the power of kindness to build trust and help empower vulnerably housed and homeless clients to find their voices and make changes.

YOUNG LEADER AWARD — YAMAAN ALSUMADI

Since arriving in Thunder Bay four years ago, Yamaan Alsumadi has been planting seeds of hope through her many leadership activities, including serving on Thunder Bay's Anti-Racism Incident Reporting Working Group. Today, Yamaan continues her advocacy to build welcoming environments for youth in our city while pursuing studies in nursing at Lakehead University.



Lakehead/TBRHRI Research Chair participates in COU Queen's Park event

On December 3, **Dr. Michael Campbell, Lakehead University/TBRHRI Research Chair in Radiochemistry for Molecular Imaging and Advanced Diagnostics**, took part in the third Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Policy Discussion Series held at Queen's Park. The goal of these events is the engagement of MPPs on timely issues that support social and economic development in the Province of Ontario. As part of his participation in this COU event, Dr. Campbell showcased his research relating to the application of medical cyclotrons for the non-destructive testing of mineral samples. He also displayed a model of a neutron activation target station, a gold sample in analysis vial and photos of the system in place in the cyclotron vault.





Winter 2020's International Orientation

Lakehead University was excited to welcome 92 new international students to the 2020 Winter Orientation held in the faculty lounge on the evening on January 20.

Welcome greetings were provided by Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice-Chancellor, and James Aldridge, Vice Provost International.

Several presentations from International Advisors on social and academic success at Lakehead University including a warm welcome from Joel Symonds, Academic and Non-Academic Student Conduct Manager.

This year's evening orientation ended on a true Canadian note with student experiencing a taste of local Maple Taffy laid outside on the snow, courtesy of the Nor'West Maple Company.

Transitioning will continue with programming over the next few weeks to assist students from India, Brazil, Sweden, Denmark, Ghana, Nigeria and many other countries from around the globe.



Lakehead hosts Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council President

On January 16, Lakehead University's Research Services hosted a reception welcoming Ted Hewitt, PhD, President of SSHRC. All Thunder Bay faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students who currently hold SSHRC funding, or who plan to seek such funding, were encouraged to attend. The event featured a number of Lakehead's exceptional SSHRC-funded faculty and student researchers who each spoke briefly about their respective research.



Province of Ontario's 2020 Pre-Budget Consultation

On January 21, Lakehead University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, and Strategic Advisor Dr. Heather Murchison, participated in the Ontario government's 2020 pre-budget consultation, an opportunity for organizations to provide input on how the Province should allocate public funds in the next fiscal year.

To begin her presentation, Dr. McPherson shared with the Province's Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs (comprised of representatives of the Province's official political parties) information highlights about Lakehead University.

The President requested that the members recommend to the Minister of Finance that the Government supports our Gichi Kendaasiwin project and prioritizes it through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Community, Culture and Recreation stream. Dr. McPherson provided the core project objectives. She highlighted that the successful realization of this project will impact over 230,000 residents across a half million square kilometres of land by creating a central and cultural community hub to bring together Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, and advance reconciliation to support improved social and economic outcomes in our region.



Advocacy Day at Queen's Park

On December 10, Lakehead University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, Board of Governors Chair Ross Murray, and members of the Executive Team hosted a reception at Queens Park to advocate for, and answer questions about, our Gichi Kendaasiwin project.

Dozens of elected officials and ministries' staff attended the event which offered Lakehead representatives the invaluable opportunity to present and share information about this project and to build support for our funding application through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). Earlier in the day, Dr. McPherson also met with various Ministries' officials and senior staff to discuss Gichi Kendaasiwin.



Lakehead University Library launches *Omni*

The library's new academic search tool, *Omni*, officially launched on December 12. *Omni* will replace both the library's classic catalogue and Search-it-All.

Omni streamlines the process of requesting materials from 13 other University Libraries, changing the way that users can access and borrow resources. The library is also excited to announce a number of user-centered policy changes, such as unlimited renewals and extended loan periods.

Local and Global Partnerships

Summer research internships in Germany

Fourth-year engineering students Mohammed Elshaer and Jonathan Hamilton were Lakehead's first participants in the RISE-Globalink summer research internship program in Germany. The program offers Canadian undergraduates in all STEM fields the opportunity to apply to research internships at universities across Germany. Internships are held during the summer, usually between students' 3rd and 4th year. Successful applicants are funded by Mitacs with a \$6,000 award.

Mohammed's internship was at the Nuremberg Campus of Technology at the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg, where he was part of the interdisciplinary research group "Human Centric Ambience." His work focused on ways that smart building technology can contribute to human health. Jonathan worked with the Hybrid Energy Technologies research group at the Institute of New Energy Systems, Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt. In Germany, the electric power grid must integrate energy inputs from multiple renewable sources such as solar, wind, and biogas, which results in fluctuations that need to be smoothed to ensure a stable power supply. Jonathan worked on modelling controls for the electrical distribution grid.

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



Academic Excellence



BEd Student Fatima Ahmed Awarded Ontario College of Teachers Scholarship

On December 13, Congratulations to **Fatima Ahmed** (BEd teacher candidate, Orillia), who has been recognized by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) 2019 Scholarship Program for her excellence in teacher education.

As noted on the OCT website, this award is granted to individuals who “demonstrate a high level of preparedness for teacher education through examples of community involvement, background and life experiences.” Fatima has fulfilled these criteria in numerous ways, including her work as an Organizational Development Advisor for HIV/AIDS Chief Strategy Officers in Botswana (2013-2015); her work as an Executive Director for a youth centre for at-risk youth in Inuvik, NWT (2009-2010); and her work as an IT trainer and a Women’s Development Officer for the provincial government in Vanuatu, South Pacific (2007).

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

Researcher earns Mitacs & NCR-IRAP Award for Outstanding Commercialization

An up-and-coming researcher at Lakehead University has been recognized for his innovative work to develop a cutting-edge medical imaging technology that delivers high-resolution pictures at a much lower dose of radiation, providing a breast imaging alternative to mammography, positron emission tomography (PET) scan and other imaging devices. The technology delivers highly sensitive, accurate images that can detect extremely small tumours in their earliest stages of cancer, particularly in women who have denser breast tissue than average.

The breakthrough work earned **Oleksandr Bubon** the Mitacs & NCR-IRAP Award for Outstanding Commercialization, awarded by Mitacs, a not-for-profit organization that fosters growth and innovation in Canada for business and academia.

Bubon, who serves as Medical Chief Technology Officer of Radialis Medical, a joint venture of Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, is a postdoctoral fellow studying under Canada Research Chair, Professor Alla Reznik, at Lakehead University and is Senior Scientist at Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute.

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





Lakehead researcher/TBRHRI scientist receives over \$448k from Canadian Cancer Society



A Lakehead University researcher and Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute scientist was awarded \$448,800 from the Canadian Cancer Society to continue research into a new method of diagnosing breast cancer that may detect lesions earlier than current methods.

This Innovation to Impact grant will allow **Dr. Alla Reznik** to spend three years developing Positron Emission Mammography (PEM), molecular imaging equipment that may alleviate some uncertainty from breast cancer detection. The first clinical prototype of the PEM system is assembled, its imaging performance has been characterized in a laboratory setting, and it is now at the University Health Network-Princess Margaret Cancer Centre for awaiting clinical trials.

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

Lakehead's new Fulbright Canada Research Chair

Dr. Nancy Langston is Distinguished Professor of Environmental History at Michigan Technological University. She will serve as Fulbright Canada Research Chair in Interdisciplinary Sustainability Solutions at Lakehead University.

Her most recent book, *Sustaining Lake Superior* (Yale University Press, 2017), examines the environmental history of climate change, industrial development, and toxics in the Lake Superior basin. Since July 2013, Dr. Langston has been a professor at Michigan Technological University. During 2012-2013, she was the King Carl XVI Gustaf Professor of Environmental Science at Umeå University in Sweden. She served as professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for 17 years.

She has written four books, 50 peer-reviewed journal articles, and popular journalism. Former President of the American Society for Environmental History, Dr. Langston has raised over \$750,000 in competitive external funding, and she has won awards from the Marshall Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the American Society for Environmental History, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Council for Learned Societies.



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



Social Responsibility

Lakehead Orillia hosts pair of Social Justice events

In November, 4th year INTD Research Capstone in Social Justice students hosted two events aimed at helping understand the social justice issues in our immediate environment.

Speakers included Barrie Pride members David Bradbury, Gillian Green, and Jessie Lawson, who talked about “Issues and Advocacy Concerns of the LGBTQ+ community in and around Barrie, Ontario”; as well as Aleta Armstrong from the Canadian Mental Health Association who talked about “Trends in Mental Health as they relate to Young People in Central Ontario”. Pictured below is the class with speakers from Barrie Pride.



4th year INTD Research Capstone in Social Justice students with speakers from Barrie Pride.

Storying Climate Change

Over 40 people attended “Storying Climate Change” on Saturday, November 16, at the Stephen Leacock Museum in Orillia.

Hosted by **Dr. Cheryl Lousley, Lakehead University Research Chair in Environmental Humanities** (pictured at far left), the forum discussed how climate justice is approached through storytelling, fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry.

The event also launched *Rising Tides*, a new collection of Canadian climate-justice literature edited by Dr. Catriona Sandilands of York University. Speakers included Deborah McGregor (Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University), Hillary McGregor (Standing Bear youth leadership), Kate Story (author of *Blasted* and *Antilia*), Nari Hwang (Grade 7 student), and Samantha Dewaele (Lakehead English MA alumna).





Capacity Development

Maple Leaf World Schools-Lakehead University hosts first open house of its Thunder Bay school

On December 13, Maple Leaf World Schools was pleased to host the Thunder Bay community at its first open house at its new school, Maple Leaf World Schools–Lakehead University (MLWS-LakeheadU).

The new school is Maple Leaf's third in Canada and its first in Ontario. Located in the Avila Centre at Lakehead University Thunder Bay, this learning environment offers students an English immersion environment on campus. Students complete the Ontario Secondary School Diploma program curriculum preparing them for further studies in universities around the world. The school offers the high school program at grades 10 to 12. Focusing on academic achievement, its students benefit from an English language immersion experience and a unique university preparatory program giving them an academic advantage in their post-secondary applications.

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

