



President's Report to the Board of Governors

March
2022





Office of the President

Student Appreciation Day

On February 14, our Lakehead University community came together for Student Appreciation Day to show our students how much we value them. Students at both campuses participated in virtual and in-person activities, including sharing kind messages on the Heart Wall, making candy grams, watching movies, and eating some tasty treats.

The Student Success Centre team coordinated the day's events with many departments offering thanks throughout the day. President McPherson shared a special message of appreciation with all of students, and had the opportunity to hand out some persians on our Thunder Bay campus.



Ministry of Colleges and Universities Providing Lakehead University with \$1 Million for Upgrades

Ontario's Ministry of Colleges and Universities is providing \$1 million to Lakehead University for upgrades to its Wi-Fi, audiovisual and technology equipment in Orillia and Thunder Bay, resulting in a \$2 million benefit to students in Engineering and the Sciences.

Lakehead and the University's Student Tech Fee Committee contributed \$500,000 each, and Crestron, an audiovisual automation and controls manufacturer, added a \$60,000 rebate for further enhancements.

This funding will allow Lakehead Thunder Bay to upgrade aging instructional technology in approximately 35 rooms, within the Advanced Technology Academic Centre (ATAC), the Ryan building, and the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse – and add Wi-Fi to the Centennial building.

At Lakehead Orillia, the University will update audiovisual and conferencing equipment across roughly 15 instructional spaces – including 11 classrooms in Simcoe Hall and four in Heritage Place, benefiting students in all of Lakehead Orillia's programs.

Lakehead began this project in September 2021, with an estimated completion date of later this year.

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



Chancellor Deverell to Receive 2022 Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement

Originally published in [Orillia Matters](#)

An Oro-Medonte woman with a long track record in broadcasting, theatre and activism has received Canada's top honour for the performing arts.

Rita Shelton Deverell is one of seven people to receive a 2022 Governor General's Performing Arts Award. Hers is for lifetime artistic achievement.

Deverell has left her mark on the broadcasting and arts scenes for 55 years. She worked for CBC, where she produced Gemini Award-winning series, and was news director with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

One of her longest-lasting legacies has been Vision TV, the world's first multifaith, multicultural network, which she co-founded. She is also one of the first Black women in the country to hold the positions of TV host and network executive.

Deverell, who currently serves as Lakehead University's chancellor, has had to clear a number of hurdles throughout her career.

Deverell was hired by the Globe Theatre in Regina in 1971. It was before many theatres had even thought about "non-traditional casting," she said, referring to people of different colours, genders and backgrounds.

She wanted to change that.

Deverell is often referred to as a social activist, and much of that work has been accomplished through her various jobs and her efforts to promote equity, diversity and inclusion.

Governor General Mary Simon will hand out the awards during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on May 28.

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





Lakehead Orillia Recreation

As part of Lakehead's commitment to provide more on-campus athletics and recreation programming for students, on Monday, Jan. 31, Lakehead Orillia opened its first outdoor rink on campus. Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, Chris Glover, and Mike den Haan were joined by Orillia Mayor Steve Clarke for the first official skate.

[Click here for more information...](#)



REASONS NOT TO START MY MBA

- My family needs me around in the evening
- I'm too tired to leave the house at end of day
- Too much rush to eat dinner and get to class
- Work is stressful, I need the comfort of home
- It's only for people who already know business

Online. Part-Time. **MBA**
While you work. While you live.

Lakehead UNIVERSITY AACSB ACCREDITED

Applications Still Open for Fall 2022

Part-time MBA now available online

The Faculty of Business Administration is making the online classroom a dedicated option for new, incoming part-time MBA students. While the shift to virtual learning over the past couple of years has been a challenge for some, it has been unanimously supported by all current part-time MBA students. The students have embraced the ability to attend class from home, as it has allowed them to better balance their work and family lives. In addition, the change allows alumni and staff located in the Orillia area and throughout Canada the opportunity to pursue their MBA with Lakehead.

For more information about Lakehead's MBA program, please visit mba.lakeheadu.ca or email colin.kutchyera@lakeheadu.ca.



Prospective students can learn more at Lakehead's Future Forward March Break open house

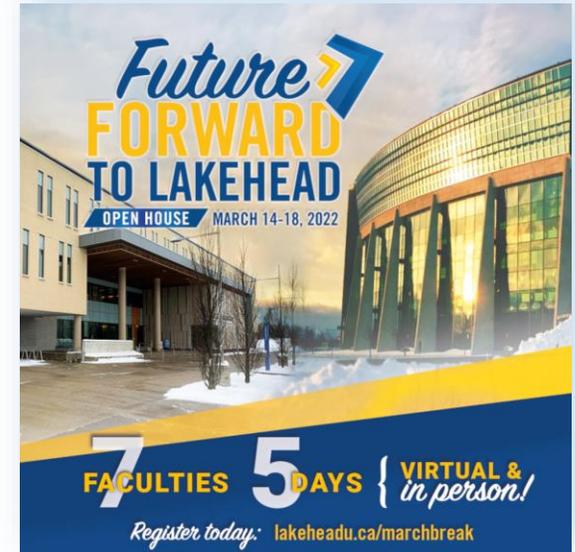
Lakehead invited prospective students to be future forward this March Break by attending an open house where they explored everything about the University – virtually or in person.

From March 14 to 18, Lakehead featured its seven exceptional faculties and two beautiful campuses.

Students had an opportunity to hear from Lakehead University staff about financial supports and bursaries, residence, co-op experiences, and more. Future Thunderwolves had an additional opportunity to accept their offer on the spot.

Future Forward to Lakehead offered a long awaited on-campus experience for applicants and prospective students. Each day featured a specific faculty, which included immersive and interactive experiences.

For more information, please visit www.lakeheadu.ca/marchbreak.



Academic Excellence

Lakehead Researchers Receive \$202,751 from Canada Foundation for Innovation

Two new Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) research infrastructure grants to two Lakehead University faculty members were recently announced. These grants provide funding for researchers to acquire research equipment to undertake innovative research that benefits Canadians.

Dr. Maryam Ebrahimi, Department of Chemistry: "Rational Design of Molecular-based Low-dimensional Quantum Materials" - \$100,080.

Dr. Wilson Wang, Department of Mechanical Engineering - "A New Research Infrastructure for Intelligent Diagnostics and Prognostics of Electric Machines" - \$102,671.

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



Music Student Wins Vocal Competition at Carnegie Hall

Lakehead music student **Jessica Hayes** spent the last two years mastering Si, mi chiamano Mimi, which earned her first place in the opera category at the Crescendo International Music Competition held at Carnegie Hall on Monday, Feb. 14.

She chose the song for Crescendo in 2019 – and then the pandemic hit, giving her more time to perfect it.

Follow this [link](#) for a video of Hayes performing Si, mi chiamano Mimi.

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

Lakehead music student overcomes health challenges to place first in Crescendo piano competition

A Lakehead University music student overcame great odds to place first in the Crescendo piano competition held in December 2021, allowing her to participate in an online winners' recital on Monday, Feb. 14.

From September 2020 to June 2021, **Evelyn Davenport** dealt with a serious overuse injury in her back and left shoulder, requiring months of physical therapy. This injury prevented her from practicing long hours at the piano and learning physically demanding pieces.

Follow this [link](#) for a video of Davenport performing Brahms Ballade op. 118 no. 3.

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





ONCAT awards Lakehead \$60,267 for Health and Science Diploma to Degree Pathways Development

Lakehead University has been awarded \$60,267 from the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) to develop new and remodel existing health and science diploma to degree pathways.

Dr. Carlos Zerpa, an Associate Professor in the School of Kinesiology, and PhD student **Kaylin Kainulainen** have been awarded \$47,971 to remodel and strengthen diploma to degree pathways into the Honours Bachelor of Kinesiology (HBK) degree program.

Participating partners include Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology, Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology, Collège Boréal, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology, Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology, and Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology.

Dr. Craig MacKinnon, Professor of Chemistry, and **Dr. Heidi Schraft**, Associate Professor of Biology, have received \$12,296 to work with Fanshawe College to develop a set of transfer pathways to and from Lakehead University in the Chemical Laboratory Technology - Science Laboratory Advanced Diploma and the Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry/Honours Bachelor of Science in Applied Life Science.

In addition, the project team will assess the viability of developing additional pathways into Lakehead University's medical concentration programs and related Engineering credentials.

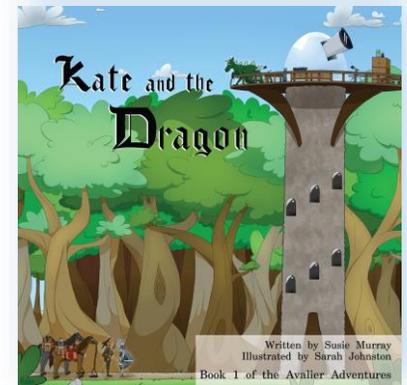
[Click here to view media release...](#)

Fourth-year English Student Releases her First Book

Fourth-year English student **Susie Murray** is releasing her first book, *Kate and the Dragon*, for ages three and up. The picture book follows a knight named Kate and a wizard named Sebastian as they use their creative puzzle-solving skills to rescue a dragon.

Susie wrote the fantasy/adventure story and her friend Sarah Johnston created the illustrations. It's Book 1 of a series called *The Avalier Adventures*; Book 2 is already in the works, and should be out within a year.

The book will be released on Monday, Feb. 21 (Family Day), in paperback, eBook, and hardcover. It will be available to purchase online through [Susie's website](#), in local bookstores, or directly from her by emailing smurray@lakeheadu.ca.





CIHR providing Lakehead University professors with more than \$2.1 million for important research

Lakehead University researchers are receiving more than \$2.1 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for several important projects.

Dr. Vicki Kristman, Associate Professor in Health Sciences and Director of Lakehead's Enhancing the Prevention of Injury and Disability (EPID) at Work Research Institute, is receiving \$367,200 to evaluate the Wiji app's effectiveness in improving the mental health of Indigenous people in the workplace.

With direction from the communities, members of the Nokiiwin Tribal Council and Dr. Kristman's team developed an e-mental health app for Indigenous workplaces called 'Wiji,' to improve Indigenous workplace mental health through a CIHR Catalyst Grant: Work Stress and Wellbeing Hackathon.

Wiji provides information on work-related mental health and mental-health resources that Indigenous workers can access, and provides a mechanism to connect with a peer-support who can assist the worker in times of stress.



Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Professor in Psychology and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, and his team are receiving \$344,250 to examine the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and various aspects of well-being.

Conducted for up to five years, this research will allow the team to create a knowledge base that Indigenous community-based organizations can use to better support members who are facing difficulties with mental health and addictions.



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



TBDHU receives funding boost for the HOME Program in Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) is pleased to announce the receipt of \$1,158,677 over 3 years from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to implement the Healthy Kids Health on the Move for Equity (HOME) Program in Thunder Bay.

This initiative supports the delivery of health and community services for an estimated 1,500 children and their families in four priority neighbourhoods in Thunder Bay. These areas were identified through a comprehensive community needs assessment and include the neighbourhoods around Windsor Street, Academy Heights, Westfort and McKellar Park. The program brings together residents and community partners to provide evidence-informed programming around physical activity, nutrition, smoking prevention and cessation, mental health, and other topics identified by participants. The HOME program is supported by partners on the Healthy Kids Steering Committee.

The Healthy Kids HOME program has two main components: (1) Expanding Healthy Kids sites in priority neighbourhoods, which provide a safe space for accessing health promotion programming and social services; and (2), a four-week Healthy Kids Family Program to equip parents/caregivers with health-related knowledge, self-efficacy, coping skills, and information on local services and resources.

The program will be evaluated by principal investigator, **Dr. Erin Pearson**, Associate Professor in Kinesiology at Lakehead University, who will measure health outcomes and impact on the community.

Healthy Kids Steering Committee partners: Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Boys and Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, City of Thunder Bay, Communities Together for Children, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, EcoSuperior, Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario, Lakehead Public School Board, Lakehead Social Planning Council, Lakehead University – School of Kinesiology and Department of Psychology, Little Lions Waldorf Child and Family Centre, Our Kids Count, P.R.O. Kids Thunder Bay, St. Joseph's Care Group, Thunder Bay Chill Soccer Club, Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Thunder Bay Police Service, Thunder Bay Public Library, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, United Way Thunder Bay.

For information about Healthy Kids Thunder Bay events and program updates, follow [@healthykidstbay](#) on Facebook and Twitter.

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



Centre on Education and Lifelong Learning

CELL has had an incredible beginning to 2022, as we continue to expand programs. The 12 Days of Learning offered a range of unique lifelong learning workshops throughout January that enabled people to do everything from pairing beer and cheese to making their own 'lettuce' and learning about the iconic Hoito. CELL received a \$25,000 SSHRC grant - in collaboration with Dr. Ellen Field and the Sustainable Orillia Youth Council - for the Youth Sustainability Summit, which will be one of the culminating events for YOCA. This day-long summit, to take place on the Orillia campus this coming May, will see 200 high school youth gather to hear speakers and participate in workshops with the Youth Climate Action Lab.

New “Research Integrity Matters” (RIM) Online Course

Lakehead University's Office of Research Services (ORS), in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, has announced the offering of a new “Research Integrity Matters” (RIM) Online [Course](#). The new Lakehead University Research Integrity Matters (RIM) course is geared towards Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) and was created by the ORS to help research supervisors comply with the new requirement to provide appropriate supervision and training in the conduct of research.



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Ingenuity Awards Indigenous Start-up Fund

Thanks to the hard work of Lakehead University's External Relations department, this past November Ingenuity was able to launch applications for a \$5,000 Indigenous student start-up fund. The start-up fund has been a dream for *Ingenuity* since its opening in 2018.

The fund also includes business development support and mentorship from *Ingenuity* and its large group of community partners. After online applications closed, the next step was a business-pitch style presentation to a panel of judges in early December of 2021.

After much discussion and deliberation from the committee, Sabrina Slade, a fourth-year Masters of Medical Science student, was chosen for her web-based application in the health-care field.



Ingenuity Helps “Share Your Heart”

Ingenuity participated in Lakehead's Student Appreciation Day with a social media scavenger hunt type contest called "Share Your Heart".

Participants were to find the hidden "heart" in Ingenuity and post a picture with the heart to Ingenuity's social media. Along with it's fun challenges Ingenuity has hosted 3 workshops so far this semester and involved a local certified Google Innovator to host a session based on newsletter creation.

The two biggest events for Ingenuity are upcoming in the next few weeks, Disrupt It Weekend (held virtually this year) and the launch of our Ascend Accelerator applications.



Research and Innovation Week

The 17th Annual Research and Innovation Week took place, Monday, March 7 to Friday, March 11, 2022. Highlights included the Opening Ceremonies with keynote speaker Seth Klein, Team Lead for the Climate Emergency Unit (a project of the David Suzuki Institute). Seth's book, *A Good War: Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency*, was published in September 2020.

The showcase will include numerous Year of Climate Action (YOCA) driven sessions and graduate and undergraduate competitions. Attendees will also find two curated art tours, *Ignite* researcher showcase videos, 2021 Distinguished Researcher talks and more, finally concluding with the Research and Innovation Award of Excellence Celebration.

[Click here for more information...](#)





Ingenuity's Indigenous Start-Up Fund

In November 2021, *Ingenuity* put out a call for applicants to a \$5000 Indigenous start up fund. After holding interviews in December, the chosen recipient is **Sabrina Slade** who is currently finishing her Masters of Medical Science.

Sabrina and her business partner have created a web-based application that will work as a tool for recruitment of healthcare professionals in Northern Ontario. Currently they are working with Ingenuity to get their app ready to launch and will be putting a focus on the marketing and promotion to raise awareness and bring attention to their tool. The new logo is still to be developed but the team has settled on naming the app, Scout.

This fund comes from the hard work of our External Relations team securing a donor and Ingenuity hopes it will be an annual gift that allows one student to pursue their entrepreneurial dream.



Local and Global Partnerships

Successful Trans-Atlantic Platform in the Social Sciences and Humanities Submission

Dr. Kathy Sanderson is part of a successful [Trans-Atlantic Platform in the Social Sciences and Humanities](#) application, under the theme of Recovery, Renewal and Resilience. The project, entitled "[En Route to Recovery: Diversity and Vulnerability in Care Work During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)" The research program is led by a team at the University of Helsinki, and includes teams in Finland, Canada (lead by Kathy), Scotland, and South Africa. The Canadian team will receive CAD \$200,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council over three years.



Lakehead Celebrates Exceptional Researchers at R&I Awards of Excellence

Lakehead University held its Research and Innovation Awards of Excellence reception virtually on Thursday, March 10 to celebrate the exceptional achievements of professors, partners, and students.

Lakehead named **Dr. Monica Flegel**, **Dr. Pedram Fatehi**, and **Dr. Michel Bédard** as the 2022 Distinguished Researchers for their work in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health sciences, respectively.

Dr. Flegel is a researcher from the Faculty of English who is active in a wide variety of fields. She has made significant contributions within three major areas – Victorian studies, child studies, and fan and media studies. She has written three academic books – two of which she is the single author, one which is joint-authored, and one which is a joint-edited collection – which represent her most significant research contributions.

Dr. Fatehi is a professor, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) and Industrial Research Chair in Chemical Engineering who has published over 230 journal articles (more than 25 article publications per year). His contributions to international conferences – as an organizer, plenary speaker, invited speaker, committee member, and regular contributor – have been consistent.

Dr. Bédard is the Director of Lakehead's Centre for Research on Safe Driving and a professor in Health Sciences. He has spent the past 20 years advancing knowledge and developing a research agenda for older drivers by creating new knowledge that other researchers could build on. Dr. Bédard has been involved with knowledge translation and the application of knowledge, by working with the media, such as CBC News. He and his team organized five CIHR-funded Café Scientifique studies and they have collaborated with the government (Transport Canada, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario), local organizations such as hospitals, and patient groups including the Alzheimer's Society of Canada.

[Click here for the full list of winners and to view the media release...](#)





Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning

In collaboration with Lakehead's Chair of Truth and Reconciliation, **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, the Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) is presenting "Truth and Reconciliation: Community Dialogues." Beginning of March 1st, this series -- which will include four indigenous knowledge keepers speaking their truths, followed by a panel of indigenous leaders and non-indigenous allies enacting reconciliation -- will help the Simcoe County community lean into Truth and Reconciliation collectively.

Over 600 households have signed up to participate in these sessions and over 100 youth will participate in youth/elder dialogues in the public and Catholic school boards. In June, we hope to gather on the Orillia campus to enact reconciliation as a community in a meaningful way. This initiative is supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection grant.

CELL has also begun Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programming for this semester, working with high school students through the Ontario Youth Naturalist Program. Students from Nantyr Shores Secondary School, Patrick Fogarty Catholic High School, and Elmvale High School will learn about wetlands, invasive species, plants, pollinators, sustainable agriculture, and more, before working in teams on Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship projects solving real world problems with Parks Canada and Bass Lake Farms. Through a grant from the Invasive Species Centre, CELL will also work with Parks Canada to bring students to Georgian Bay Islands National Park to participate in an eradication project to 'Impede the Reed.'

[Click here for more information...](#)

Global Affairs Canada Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program

Dr. Muditha Heenkenda (Department of Geography and Environment) will be traveling to Costa Rica to teach a course on "Light Detection and Ranging" and its applications" at the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, and develop a research collaboration between Tecnológico de Costa Rica, the National Groundwater, Irrigation and Drainage Services institute in Costa Rica, and the Department of Geography and the Environment at Lakehead.

Dr. ShiKui Wu and Dr. Hui Zhang (Faculty of Business Administration) will be initiating a collaboration with the Mexico City campus of Tec de Monterrey. Dr. Wu will visit the Departments of International Business and Industrial Engineering in Mexico City, while Dr. Zhang will participate virtually from Thunder Bay. They will each be teaching a course, and plan to collaborate with the Center for Innovation in Design and Technology, Advanced Manufacturing Research Group, to develop a research program in Smart Supply Chain and Operations.