

April
2016



President's Report to Board of Governors



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

Gerretsen Report Update

The Gerretsen Report's recommendations were intended to chart a path forward to improve collaboration between Georgian College, Lakehead University, and on Laurentian University. With Laurentian's recent decision to cease operations in Barrie, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has confirmed that the Gerretsen Report no longer applies.

A recent letter from the Ministry States that the MTCU is pleased that Georgian and Lake had planned to move forward with the collaborative programs identified in the Report.

The Principal of our Orillia campus, Dr. Kim Fedderson, has already begun working with Georgia College to develop strategic models to move forward with our collaboration. In addition, we will build on the work already completed by the Deans and Chairs to move some initiatives forward. As with all new programs and major academic modifications, these initiatives will move through our normal Senate and other internal review processes.

Lobby Days at Queen's Park

At the end of March, Dr. Peggy Smith and Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux joined me for numerous meetings with provincial government officials from several parties in and around Queen's Park. The focus of our successful two-day trip was to lobby for our Gichi Kendaasiwin project.

Lakehead, Georgian College, and SCDSB sign MOU

On April 15, I, along with Georgian College President and CEO Dr. MaryLynn West-Moynes, and Kathi Wallace (Simcoe County District School Board Director of Education), signed a Memorandum of Understanding stating that we will work together to support international students. The agreement outlines our commitment to linking the K-12 and postsecondary education systems for international students in Simcoe County.

[Click here for the media release...](#)



Federal Budget 2016

On April 12, Federal Finance Minister Morneau issued Canada's budget, which included many tuition- and infrastructure-related commitments directed at the country's universities and colleges.

[Click here for Budget 2016 website...](#)



Nurturing Scholarship

Lakehead Student Awarded \$50K for Motor Skills Development Game

Lakehead University student **Shayna Parker** was recently awarded \$50,000 from the Ontario Brain Institute's (OBI) Entrepreneur Program for her development of a game for mobile devices. Her game will help assess and train hand functions in people that have experienced motor deficits.

The OBI funds and supports scientists in entrepreneurial and commercialization opportunities to help establish neuroscience-related companies in the Neurotech Ontario cluster.



Dr. Andrew P. Dean hosted the opening ceremony for Lakehead's annual Research & Innovation Week.

Research & Innovation Week 2016

Lakehead's 11th annual Research & Innovation Week ran from March 5-10, and included numerous opportunities for the public to learn about what Canada's #1 undergraduate research university is up to.

Our Research & Innovation Awards of Excellence Reception was held on Thursday, March 10 to celebrate the dedication and achievements of researchers and students. For the complete list of award recipients, please see the media release, below.

[*Click here for our Research & Innovation Awards' media release...*](#)

[*Click here for Research & Innovation Week 2016's media release...*](#)

[*Click here for Research & Innovation Week 2016's schedule...*](#)



From left to right, Dr. Sam Salem (Steel bridge team academic advisor), Thomas Gobeil, Curtis Moss, Nick Wegher, Chris Legg, Brad McDonald, Brad DesRochers and Conrad Hagstrom (Civil Engineering Labs Manager).

Lakehead University's Steel Bridge Team takes first place at regionals

For the third year in a row, our team of Civil Engineering students placed first at the AISC/ASCE Regional Qualifier Student Steel Bridge Competition. The team will now prepare for the National Steel Bridge Competition in May.

Lakehead also took second place in the technical paper competition.

[Click here for the media release...](#)

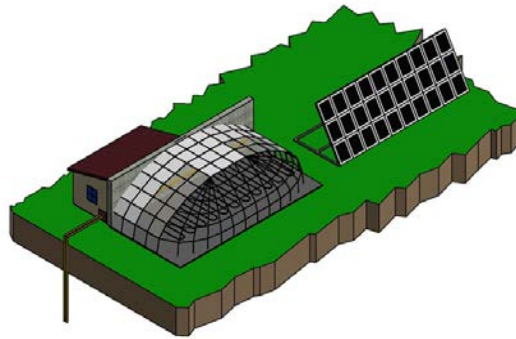


Illustration of Andreas Zailo's geothermal greenhouse.

Lakehead Mechanical Engineering student wins first place

A fourth-year Mechanical Engineering student from Lakehead University placed first at the Canadian Engineering Competition held recently at McGill University.

In the Engineering Communications category, Andreas Zailo had to present a clear and concise viewpoint on a technical topic to a judging panel. He had to focus on thoroughly explaining technical, social, economic and environmental impacts.

[Click here for the media release...](#)



Growth of Orillia Campus's Athletics Program Celebrated

The accomplishments of athletes at the Orillia campus were celebrated at an annual banquet on April 2 at Hawk Ridge Golf & Country Club. **Over 80 athletes from seven sports, along with their coaches, were recognized.**



As a result of the growth of the athletic program, for the first time, awards were presented to the overall female and male athletes of the year. The honour went to Brianne Martin of the Women's Hockey team and to Brett Gibson of the Golf team. In addition, recipients of the *Plastics Protect & Holliswealth Athletic Achievement Award* were recognized (as shown in photo below). This award is presented each month during the school year to recognize exemplary leadership, sportsmanship and athletic performance.



Lakehead University Athletics Awards Dinner

Lakehead Athletics handed out awards at its annual awards gala, April 2, which was held in the John N. Paterson Faculty of Law Auditorium at PACI.

Runner Kevin Tree repeated as *Male Athlete of the Year*, while skier Alysson Marshall took home *Athlete of the Year* honours among Thunderwolf women.

[Click here for the media release...](#)

Alysson Marshall, the Female Athlete of the Year, flanked by myself and Athletics Director, Tom Warden.

Canada Foundation for Innovation funds Biorefining Researcher

Dr. Lew Christopher, Director of Lakehead's [Biorefining Research Institute](#), is receiving \$59,539 from the Canada Foundation for Innovation for his work in enabling advanced, high-quality research in Forest Biorefining.

In a forest-based biorefining system, trees are harvested to produce high-value primary products (e.g. lumber, pulp, paper) and residues are used to create a range of value-added co-products. Dr. Christopher will use the funding to purchase three pieces of state of the art equipment to advance his research into the production of value-added chemicals, materials and bioenergy from the residues created through the Forest Biorefinery.

[Click here for the media release...](#)





Community Engagement

Queen's Park Pop-Up Event

On Wednesday, February 17, Lakehead faculty and staff participated in a "Queen's Park Pop-Up" event organized by *Research Matters*, which is a collaboration of Ontario's 21 publicly-supported universities aimed at informing the general public about the relevance of the research undertaken by universities.

Dr. Chris Murray and Ms. Kayla Snyder of our Orillia campus were joined by Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice President of Research & Innovation. During the event, our Lakehead team learned about other research projects across Ontario and spoke with MPP's and Ministry staff about Lakehead research.



Lakehead's Open House for Prospective Students during March Break

Our Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses hosted prospective students, as well as their family and friends, during our recent March Break. The event offers many opportunities, including experiencing what it's like to be a student at Lakehead for the day, sitting in on classes, meeting professors and current students, and enjoying guided tours of our campuses.

[*Click here for our Thunder Bay campus media release...*](#)

[*Click here for our Orillia campus media release...*](#)



Family Math Nights = Fun + Faculty + Staff + Students + Community

Congratulations to our Faculty of Education professional year students and faculty for hosting four highly successful “Family Math Nights” in local schools during February and March.

The response was overwhelmingly positive. All administrators were enthusiastic and excited about the turn out (50 to 80 participants at each school) and by the competence of Lakehead’s Education students, who led the activities.

The school children were excited to learn new games and to have their parents involved. The games were easily modified for different ages and skill levels, so every child felt successful.

Parents said they appreciated learning about different ways to support their children’s math thinking beyond helping with homework or using workbooks or flash cards. For each game the Education students designed handouts that explained the game, including extensions for older or younger children. Most of the games are card or dice games so they can easily be played at home.





Exceptional individuals will be celebrated at Lakehead's Convocation Ceremonies

Lakehead University will recognize five exceptional people at this year's Thunder Bay campus Convocation Ceremonies on Friday, May 27, and Saturday, May 28 at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium.



The Hon. Jean Charest, **Helen Cromarty**, and **Dr. Keijo Virtanen** will each receive an honorary doctorate for their work in politics, health care, and research on Finnish immigration to Canada, respectively. We will also recognize the hard work and dedication of **Tammy Squitti** and **Bill Bartley**, who will each be named Fellow of the University.

[Click here for the media release...](#)

Lakehead Orillia's 2016 Honorary Degree and Civitas Award Recipients



Lakehead University will recognize two champions of education at this year's Orillia campus Convocation Ceremony on Saturday, June 4 at Rotary Place in Orillia.

Bonnie Patterson, an outstanding leader in postsecondary education, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree for her contribution to the growth and development of universities in Ontario. Lakehead will also recognize the hard work and dedication of **Garfield Dunlop**, who will receive the 2016 Civitas Award, which is awarded annually to a community member who has made a significant contribution to the University's Orillia campus.

[Click here for the media release...](#)

