

## **Report to Senate – February 17, 2012 Provost and Vice-President (Academic)**

### **Academic Plan**

The latest version of the Academic Plan and Action Plans were released to the university community for feedback on February 2, 2012. These can be viewed on the Provost and Vice-President (Academic) website at: <http://academicplan.lakeheadu.ca/>.

The Planning Committee has invited the university community to provide further feedback prior to February 16, 2012.

### **Student Affairs**

**Student Awards & Financial Aid** - The staff has been busy with inquiries about the New 30% Off Ontario Tuition Grant – the \$800 OTG for Winter 2012. Ministry personnel were on campus Monday Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> to promote the OTG and answer questions from students.

We have begun awarding the Student Access Guarantee bursaries to those students who are deemed eligible based on OSAP assessment but who didn't apply for any Fall/Winter Bursaries.

Three Student Loan Repayment sessions were held on February 9<sup>th</sup>. A representative from the National Student Loans Service Centre was present to speak with students who are near graduation and who will begin repaying student loans.

**Student Success Centre** - The Student Success Centre (SSC) held its grand opening on January 16<sup>th</sup> to a packed house. Students, faculty, staff and media were on hand to officially open the Centre, which began providing services to students in June 2011. Guests mingled, viewed the redesigned space, heard welcoming remarks, and students had the chance to win prizes, including an iPad, extra tutoring hours and a personalized Skills for Success Seminar. With the creation of the SSC, students have access to a multitude of support services in one location, services they can utilize from the moment they are accepted to Lakehead to the day they graduate, and even as alumni. The SSC works on providing programming that is integrated, timely and supportive, with a special emphasis on assisting new students with their transition to Lakehead. The SSC will continue to expand and enhance its programming throughout the year and work on enriching the student experience outside of the classroom. EWO (Education at Work Ontario) held a day-long fair at MacDonald Block in Toronto to highlight co-op programs of attending institutions across Ontario. Hiring managers for the Ontario Public Service were there to determine which institutions have co-op programming and students that suited their departments' employment needs. Attendees included 12 universities (including Lakehead) and 10 colleges.

The Student Success Centre and the Faculty of Education jointly presented the Education Fair. The event was a huge success with school boards and agencies from across Canada, and the world, taking part. Some participants were having "on the spot" interviews with students. As one student put it: "It is well organized and full of opportunity. It is comforting knowing that school is giving me everything I need to become successful and taking part in my future".

The development and presentation of the Skills for Success Seminars has been going well, with strong student participation. We have received good feedback, have made faculty connections,

and made presentations to students in specific classes. We also provided specific seminars to designated students as requested by their professor.

January marked the launch of the new LEAD (Leadership, Engagement and Development) program. This is a new student leadership program, providing students with the opportunity to gain leadership development and skills, while gaining volunteer experience across campus. Students will participate in leadership modules and retreats and programming will tie into the new co-curricular transcript.

**Student Health and Counselling** - In January the Centre saw a 17% increase in counselling appointments and a 21% increase in medical appointments compared to January 2011. Mental health concerns continue to be identified by students when booking medical and counselling appointments. Some wait times have increased.

*Living Well at LU* - a joint wellness event with Human Resources was well received by students, staff and faculty.

### **Office of Aboriginal Initiatives**

**Aboriginal Recruitment Campaign** - The Office of Aboriginal Initiatives has engaged the services of Aboriginal LINK, The Premier Direct Communication Service to the Canadian Aboriginal Market, to launch (as a pilot project) a major Recruitment campaign for the Native Access Program, Native Nurses Entry Program, Honours Bachelor of Education (Aboriginal) and Native Teachers Education Program. There will be two regional campaigns, one in Northern Ontario and one in Southern Ontario. The goals are to create an awareness of Aboriginal focused programs, increase pool of potential applicants, promote Lakehead as culturally supportive and welcoming environment and ultimately to recruit more students to these programs. Through Aboriginal LINK, we will reach a database of 2,400 Aboriginal contacts. The campaign includes Two 'Strategic' and four 'Tactical' annual Direct Communication Distributions, responseTRAC™ Response Reporting and Postings on [www.AboriginalStudents.ca](http://www.AboriginalStudents.ca).

For more info about Aboriginal LINK see <http://www.aboriginallink.com/>.

**Indigenous Knowledge Film/Speakers Series** - In partnership with the Department of Aboriginal Education on January 24<sup>th</sup> as the third and final *Indigenous Knowledge Film & Speaker Series* the film "Inuit Knowledge & Climate Change" was featured. The Film was produced by filmmakers Zacharias Kunuk and Dr. Ian Mauro who have partnered up with Inuit communities, such as Igloodik and Iqaluit to document their knowledge and experience regarding climate change. Approximately 75 students filled the Bora Laskin Theatre where the film was shown and concluding that students enjoyed guest speakers, Associate Professor, Dr. Paul Berger and Third year Indigenous Learning student Romani Makkik.

**Lakehead University Research Innovation Week** - For the Lakehead University Research Innovation week, February 10-16<sup>th</sup>, an Aboriginal Research Day has been planned for February 13<sup>th</sup> to feature and showcase Aboriginal research. The day includes a celebration in the Agora and presentations on the following topics:

1. Dr. Harvey Lemelin: Wabush of the Omushkegok, "Cree-Polar Bear Interacting in Northern Ontario".
2. Dr. Sandra Wolf and Dr. Chris Mushquash: What is "Indigenous" about the Indigenous Research Experience?

3. Zsolt Toth, RD, MPH, CDE: Cultural Food Beliefs and Attitudes and their Affects on Acceptance of the “Diabetes Diet”.
4. Dr. Sandra Wolf and students: The Fourth Fire: building Narratives on the Fur Trade Era.

For more information about Aboriginal Research Day see <http://aboriginalinitiatives.lakeheadu.ca>.

**Aboriginal Initiatives (AI) Magazine** - The AI magazine has been updated and circulated to Senior Administration, Deans, Chairs, Managers, Board of Governors, Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council, Aboriginal Faculty and staff. Approximately 180 copies have been distributed.

The number of Aboriginal faculty featured in the magazine has increased by two. We now have 14 Aboriginal faculty members situated in various departments. They are in Education, Social Work, Indigenous Learning, Psychology, Nursing, and Natural Resources Management. An additional Aboriginal faculty member has since come forward requesting to be included in the next update in September.

**Aboriginal Cultural Support Services (AC-SS) - Métis Student Liaison:** Since the establishment of this part-time student position there have been 14 Métis students who have connected with the Liaison and are connecting with AC-SS. Two of these students are now volunteering with AC-SS to assist outreach to Métis students.

## Orillia Campus

**Welcome Back Week: Winterfest** - During the first week of classes in the winter term (January 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>), OSA hosted a “Welcome Back Week” for students which consisted of numerous events and activities including: free hot beverages and cookies, a \$10 bus trip for snow tubing at Snow Valley, free skating at Rotary Place, a Snow Sculpture Contest on the lawn at the Main Campus, the I <3 the Library campaign kick-off, 1st year advising drop-in sessions, the launch of the Leadership Program (Excel), OSAP distribution, and the start of a number of intramural sports.

**Drop-In First Year Advising Sessions** - From January 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, four drop-in first year advising sessions were offered in an effort to assist first year students with their course selection and other academic advising needs.

**Social Work** - A group of students in SOWk 4300 Theory of Social Work Practice II raised \$1,019.42 for their community project "Silent Night". The proceeds were donated to Deaf Access Simcoe/Muskoka and the United Way.

**Athletics and Recreation** - With the beginning of the winter term came the start of winter intramural sports including volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, and squash. Other events being planned for February and March include: a Lakehead Orillia vs Georgian Orillia Ice Hockey Game (February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:30pm at the Brian Orser Arena), a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament (February 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm at ODCVI), Thunderspiel 2012 (March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9am-1pm at the Orillia Curling Club), and a Street Hockey Game (March 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm at the Main Campus).

**Student Awards and Financial Aid** - Winter term OSAP distribution took place at both the Main Campus and the Downtown Campus, with National Student Loan Service Centre (NSLSC)

representatives at the Main Campus on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> to negotiate loans. Promotion of the new 30% off Ontario tuition grant for 2011-2012 has also been taking place.

***Community and Volunteer Fair*** - OSA hosted Community and Volunteer Fairs on Wednesday January 18th at the Main Campus, and on Thursday January 19th at the Downtown Campus. The purpose of the Community and Volunteer Fairs was to provide students with the opportunity to learn about services available to students and volunteer opportunities within the community. Various community organizations were present with displays.

***Aboriginal Elders Traditional Teaching Series*** - Lakehead University's Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and OSA announced the return of the Aboriginal Elders Traditional Teaching Series beginning January 19<sup>th</sup>. The Elders Series consists of ten teachings taking place every Thursday evening until March 29th from 5:30pm to 8:30pm at the Main Campus. The Elders Series increases Aboriginal awareness and appreciation for First Nations, Métis and Inuit history, culture, language and perspectives.

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