

President's Report to Senate – March 16, 2012

One of the themes in my installation speech was that, in a university, the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. It is when teaching, research and service intersect, when each is supporting and challenging the other, that the real power of the University becomes apparent.

I witnessed another instance of this important “intersection” at a national mining development conference in Toronto, where Lakehead University released its vision for a Centre of Excellence for Mineral Exploration and Sustainable Development.

We clearly demonstrated how teaching, research and community service could be combined to simultaneously create new jobs and provide the graduates to fill them. The Centre will collaborate with companies to carry out research in the areas of discovery, advanced exploration and development, as well as exploring the environmental and social aspects of mineral extraction.

It was particularly exciting because of the scope of the event. Now in its 80th year, the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention is the event of choice for the world's mineral industry. It attracts investors, analysts, mining executives, geologists, prospectors and international government delegations from all over the globe. There were more than 1,000 exhibitors on location.

Lakehead University had representatives from the Board, Administration and faculty – all telling the story of a Geology Department that has quintupled in size in a decade, with two Research Chairs and a vision for a new Centre of Excellence.

Lakehead sponsored a breakfast that, I believe, will result in new partnerships and new sponsors for our University over the next several years.

I want to particularly congratulate the team in the Geology Department, first for all the work they have done in the past that set the stage, and secondly, for the extra effort they put into this latest unveiling. They are helping us prove that the whole truly *is* greater than the sum of the parts.

SUSTAINABILITY

Current Cap on Tuition to Continue

The McGuinty government is extending the five percent cap on overall tuition fees for one more year. No changes are being contemplated that would require all universities to set standard tuition fees for arts and science programs. However, the province will continue to provide a 30 percent rebate on college and university tuition for many students and their families. This is a one-year extension only, so the issue will be raised again next year.

President's Request for Initiatives

Last September, I introduced the President's Request for Initiatives as an experiment to help you change the University's future. More than a quarter of a million dollars was set aside for projects that would help the University become more sustainable in the future. We asked for ideas on how to increase enrolment, open up new programs, establish new services and improve our processes. In total, we provided funds for 14 requests with the individual amounts ranging from \$6,000 to \$50,000. Here is the list of those who received awards.

INITIATIVE	DEPARTMENT/FACULTY	AMOUNT
Access Fund and Youth Program	Recreation	42,500
Community Liaison Officer Aboriginal	Orillia	50,000
Grad Students & Supervisors Spotlight	Grad Studies	6,052
Adventure Aqs	Education	6,500
Master of Education Enhancement	Education	15,000
Keewatin-Patricia DSB & LU	Education	6,500
CPE for RNs	Nursing	20,000
Early Entry/Transfer Program	Psychology	6,500
Fostering Admissions & Recruitment	Visual Arts	6,500
Library Renewal Plan	Library	17,500
Expand Biomass Testing Capacity	Natural Resource Management	35,000
Certificate Program in Science & Environmental	Science	6,500
Summer Vocal Young Artists' Program	Music	6,500
Orillia Campus Copy/Print/Scan Pilot	TSC	25,000
TOTAL:		\$250,052

University Advancement

Toronto - PDAC Conference

As discussed in the introduction, I attended the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Convention in Toronto at the beginning of March. I hosted a breakfast at the Royal York Hotel for our Alumni and mining industry leaders. More than 100 people attended, including MPP Bill Mauro, Mayor Keith Hobbs, and Honorary Alumni Award recipients for 2012. Other notable guests included Phil Walford, CEO of Marathon Gold, and Jamie Sokalsky, CFO at Barrick.

The theme of my presentation was *Celebrating the Past and Exploring the Future with Lakehead*. We also had hundreds of visitors to the Lakehead Pod, which was situated in one of the pavilions.

United Way

Congratulations to the Orillia campus for initiating and launching its first United Way Campaign. The Orillia Advancement Office is working with the Thunder Bay office to run this campaign in partnership with the United Way of Greater Simcoe County.

Lakehead was nominated for an award for Best New Campaign at a United Way Celebration Event.

Recruiting

Lakehead University won the Orillia District Chamber of Commerce *Business Achievement Award in Marketing and Promotion* for the Live & Learn Cinema Ad campaign. The “trailer-style” advertisement was shown at Cineplex Theatres in both Simcoe County and Thunder Bay.

Robert Perrier, Manager of Undergraduate Recruitment, accepted the award on Lakehead’s behalf. He thanked the community for its support towards establishing Lakehead Orillia as Simcoe County’s University.

And in other recruiting news. This week, you may have noticed groups of wide-eyed young high school students wandering the campus both here and in Orillia. It’s the annual March Break Open House where prospective students, along with friends and family, get the chance to experience Lakehead – up close and personal.

This year, a record number of students, mainly from southern Ontario, have registered for the event. Thanks to staff in Admissions and Recruitment for a successful March Break outreach program.

RESEARCH

I am pleased to report some major funding announcements from the Faculty of Research, Economic Development and Innovation.

- Lakehead University's Paleo-DNA Laboratory in partnership with Warnex Pro-DNA Services received \$338,050 in funding from FedNor in order to create mitochondrial DNA database. This newly awarded funding is in addition to a \$676,100 contribution from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund and \$197,500 from Warnex Pro-DNA Services.
- Dr. Pat Smith, Faculty of Medicine, West Campus, has been awarded \$267,773 from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for a project entitled: *A Regional Approach to Integrating Intensive Tobacco Cessation Interventions into Primary Care in NW Ontario.*
- Drs. Mathew Leitch and Nancy Luckai, Faculty of Natural Resources Management, have been awarded \$50,000 from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources for the following project: *Purchase of Hi-Res Fiber Quality Analyzer and Elementar Vario Macro Cube CHNS.*
- Dr. Greg Pyle, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Biotechnology and Ecotoxicology, Department of Biology, was awarded \$250,000 over five years as part of funding from Environment Canada awarded to the University of Guelph for his project: *Metals in the Environment: Mitigating Environmental Risk and Increasing Sustainability.*

In other research news, the Economic Development and Innovation office has completed its rebranding process. The EDI office now has an official logo, visual identity guide and new taglines: *Development through Innovation* and *From Minds to Markets.*

On February 28, the EDI office hosted its sixth round table sector session. The sector focus was on Energy Utilities.

The group included participants from the City of Thunder Bay, Fort William First Nation, Lakehead Region Conservation Authority, Ontario Power Generation, Thunder Bay Hydro, Township of Atikokan, Town of Marathon and Weiler Maloney Nelson.

DIVERSITY

International

Lakehead University International is pleased to announce the hiring of Leigh-Ellen Keating as our new Director International. She starts May 1.

Leigh-Ellen comes to Lakehead University from the University of Saskatchewan where she is currently the Director International Relations. Leigh-Ellen also has extensive experience in developing English as a second language (ESL) programs through her work in Germany, the United Kingdom and Oman.

Leigh-Ellen's main focus will be to further develop and expand the new English Language Program (ELP). The program will grow from our current single ESL class on the Thunder Bay campus to a full English Language Program starting in September 2012, with program offerings on both campuses by January 2013. Our ELP program will include short-term summer programs for students from partner institutions, with the first group, from Leon, Mexico, participating in a four-week program in Orillia this coming August.

This week, our Recruitment Coordinator Alex Pasquali is in Mexico, recruiting for a new Orillia Summer program. During the first week of April, Alex will attend recruitment events in Turkey, a major new international student market for Canada.

Our ongoing recruitment activities in China include more than 20 recruitment events during the next few months in five key cities. Jason Chen, our China Field Officer, will attend invitation-only recruitment fairs, visit key Canadian curriculum schools, and as part of our ongoing conversion activities, meet with students and parents who have already applied to Lakehead University.

Aboriginal

Nanabijou Aboriginal Graduate Enhancement (NAGE)

As part of the NAGE program, a student is selected each year to act as a role model. Students who are selected are featured in a poster, and must be willing to take on the role of peer mentor and advocate for higher education.

The purpose of the program is threefold:

- to promote graduate studies to Aboriginal students;
- to recognize and honour Aboriginal accomplishments; and
- to encourage peer mentorship and support.

This year's NAGE role model is Keri Cheechoo. She is a student in the Master of English program. Keri was honoured at the Aboriginal Graduate Awareness Dinner earlier this month.

The NAGE Coordinator has been working with Yolanda Wanakamik to organize the Aboriginal Graduate Awareness session.

Dr. Phillip Hicks has been invited as the guest speaker to encourage other Aboriginal, Non-Status, Métis and Inuit students in the undergraduate program to consider applying for programs at the Master's level.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Mexico City – Indigenous Higher Education

Earlier this week, I joined a group of Canadian universities on a trip to Mexico City to discuss indigenous higher education. I co-led the trip with University of Regina President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Vianne Timmons.

The goals of the trip included:

- Sharing best practices and challenges;
- Cultivating partnerships;
- Increasing the number of Aboriginal students;
- Increasing the number of International students;
- Establishing important links with Mexican universities; and
- Expanding international outreach by creating student exchange opportunities.

I believe the trip was a huge success. We spent two days establishing partnerships and gaining a better understanding of the complexities surrounding the issue. One of the highlights of the mission was a round table hosted by the Mexican Minister of Education. Another was a tour of one of the 10 federally-funded indigenous universities in Mexico City.

Other universities on the trip included: First Nations University of Canada, Nipissing University, University of Manitoba, University of Lethbridge, Vancouver Island University, and Nicola Valley Institute of Technology.