

Report to Senate – March 16, 2012 Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

The Founding Law Dean and Engineering Dean searches are ongoing, with decisions expected within the next six weeks.

I have received some valuable feedback respecting the appointment of the Orillia Campus Dean, and the general state of the campus.

Recently, Moira McPherson, Deputy Provost, Kim Feddersen, Orillia Campus Dean, Kelli Hudson, Director of Media Relations, and myself, visited Georgian College in order to explore possibilities for closer ties and enhancing student pathways.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

Distinguished Lecture Series

The Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences Inaugural Distinguished Speaker Series event will be held on Thursday April 19, 2012, 4:30 – 5:30 pm in ATAC-1003 (with teleconferencer to the Orillia Campus: OA-1025; and NOSM East Campus: MSE-119). The featured speaker will be Dr. Shepard Siegel (Distinguished University Professor (Emeritus), McMaster University; Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists) who will be delivering a lecture entitled **The Ghost in the Addict: Drug Anticipation and Drug Addiction**. All are welcome to attend.

Dr. Siegel obtained his PhD in Experimental Psychology at Yale University in 1966. He is best known for applying the principles of classical (Pavlovian) conditioning to drug addiction and tolerance. One of his key discoveries is that cues associated with ingestion of a drug can elicit anticipatory physiological responses that are opposite in direction to the unconditional effects of the drug. Dr. Siegel's research has very important practical implications for anyone with an interest in drug addiction, tolerance, and rehabilitation.

Cancer Awareness Day

On Wednesday, February 29th the Lakehead University Nursing Students Association (LUNA) hosted the Ontario Breast Screening Program Coach on campus. Events included tours of the mobile coach, a lecture on the benefits of cancer screening, cancer care displays in the Agora, and free breast screening examinations. Special thanks are offered to Paul Hirtle, LUNA President, and his fellow students on organizing such an important and successful event.

Faculty of Engineering

First Year Engineering applications up 42% over last year!

Highlights from Student Affairs

Admissions & Recruitment

- Application numbers continue to remain strong for 101 (Ontario high school students) applications with a 12.3% increase compared to the same time last year. 105 (transfer, out of province, international, mature students) applications are showing an increase of 7% compared to the same time last year.
- Offers of admission continue to be extended on a rolling basis. The early round of offers to Ontario high school students has been extended to qualified applicants.

- Attended 17 college fairs throughout Southern Ontario to promote transfer agreements opportunities.
- On February 22nd and 23rd, Inquiry Days were hosted at the Orillia campus for Grade 11 students from the Orillia high schools. A total of 76 students attended from three of the Orillia high schools. Mock lectures, hands-on water filtration activities and inquiry-based learning were highlights of the event.
- For the first time, a Campus Tour Bus Day was hosted at the Orillia campus on Friday February 24th for Grade 11 and 12 students attending Barrie high schools. A total of 75 high school students from five Barrie high schools were bused to campus to tour the facilities and residence, participate in a student panel discussion, attend a mock lecture and the University Top 10 presentation.
- 325 Grade 11 students from Thunder Bay high schools participated in the “Go to Lakehead” Grade 11 Day event on Friday February 24th. Students had the opportunity to take part in the academic fair and attend four information sessions: why Lakehead, admissions, student success and student life.
- Throughout the month of February, 21 prospective students visited the Thunder Bay campus for a tour. Two group tours were also hosted: 50 Grade 8 students from Dryden and 9 students from Sandy Lake.
- March Break Open House activities will take place on both campuses the week of March 12th to 16th. Visiting students and families will have the opportunity to tour the campus and residence, sit in on classes, and meet with faculty and staff.

Student Health and Counselling

- Medical and counselling appointments rose in January (21% and 17% respectively); and
 - February’s medical appointments were up 40% (compared to February 2010).
- The escalating numbers continue to place substantial demands on Centre human resources and space.

- A number of students with significant mental health issues were supported.

Student Success Centre

The Co-operative and Employer Relations Officer has been working to develop more relationships with Thunder Bay employers and help outreach to current students regarding co-op programming. We are pleased that at the present time, there is a 100% increase in the number of local employers looking at hiring co-op students (rising from 10 in 2011 to 20 in 2012), a 133% increase in the number of available positions locally (rising from 12 in 2011 to 28 in 2012) and a 250% increase in the number of Business Administration students placed in co-op positions beginning in the summer (going from 2 students in 2011 to 7 students in 2012).

The Student Success Centre welcomed Board of Governor members as they toured the Student Success Centre on March 2nd. Board members were introduced to the wide variety of services that are offered within the Centre and had the opportunity to interact and ask questions of students and staff.

News from Across Student Affairs

- In keeping with what is in the University Strategic Plan and the proposed Academic Plan, Student Affairs is in the process of revisiting its Mission statement and is working to develop

a Vision statement and identify and develop a series of Core Values and Principles that arise from the Vision and Mission statements. Input on the proposed statements will be sought from members of the University community.

- Departments across Student Affairs and beyond are working closely with Lakehead University International to prepare for a larger contingent of international students this fall. Work is being done to ensure that the necessary supports for international students are in place and to identify what challenges may remain and need to be addressed. We look forward to welcoming these students along with all new students and develop programming and supports to foster a positive student experience.

Highlights from Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Cultural Support Services (AC-SS):

Academic: ACSS organized some academic and social activities to engage with students studying during reading week. A Peer Mentor was available during that week to provide academic support. Over 25 students participated.

Cultural: ACSS in partnered with the Education faculty, staff, and students to organize a traditional feast and teachings with Elders from the community at the Bora Laskin Building. This event was a great success with approximately over 100 non aboriginal and aboriginal students participating. The feast was a great cross cultural learning experience and building relationship between students from all walks of life. A former Chief of the Fort William First Nation, Mr. Leonard Pelletier had donated moose meat for the feast and was in attendance.

A successful Sweat Lodge ceremony organized by ACSS in March was attended by non aboriginal and aboriginal students. Approximately 32 participated.

Métis Student Liaison: February 16th organized a Métis Meet and Greet, facilitated with Métis Elder Senator Bob McKay, there were 15 participants.

Aboriginal Recruitment/Outreach Activities:

Career Fairs/Open Houses/Grade 11 Day:

The Aboriginal Recruiter attended the NAN Youth Gathering– February 8, 2012; approximately 150 students attended.

She also attended 2 Open Houses for Grade 8 students at St. Patrick High School (Feb 8) and Hammarskjold High School on February 16, 2012.

Alumni Chapter/NAGE

Jointly with NAGE the Alumni Chapter is hosting a Graduate Awareness session in the Faculty Lounge on March 7th from 6:30-8:00 pm. Dr. Phillip Hicks, Dean of Graduate Studies will be presenting opportunities in graduate studies.

Community Outreach

Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux is in Thunder Bay on and off campus the week of February 29-March 7 speaking to students about strength based best practices that they have followed to get them to where they are today whether that be in high school, university, college or alternative education centres.

Achievement Fund

In collaboration with the Achievement Fund committee, several faculties, departments and staff have been contacted by our office to begin discussions about how Lakehead University can be a part of innovative programming on campus. Yolanda Wanakamik has taken the lead on this and works closely with Amanda Nesbitt, Coordinator of Program & Initiatives Lakehead Athletics.

Native Access Program

- Career fairs in Pic Mobert, Couchiching

- Matawa Education Conference
- Native Access Program Student Success Stories: Where are they now? full page in Anishinabek News, Wawatay March issues

Orillia Campus Highlights

Faculty of Business Administration

The BOSS student group continues to be active on campus. They sold Business sweatshirts in the fall and currently have two projects underway. In one project, they are working with a non-profit organization in the local area to provide a student's perspective on postsecondary education and the need to stay in school. They are currently designing a second event that would incorporate faculty and the community in a 'couch speaker series'. They would be moderators of a general theme (i.e. the ethical bottom line) with rounds of specific questions being posed to the panel and a set number of minutes to respond to the question(s).

The Orillia business faculty continue to examine the future of business offerings in Orillia, including the possibility of an expansion of majors and modifications of the current program.

Faculty of Education

OCT Accreditation: On March 7th, a team of evaluators from the Ontario College of Teachers came to the Orillia campus as part of the broader accreditation process of the LU Faculty of Education. The OCT team held meetings with a variety of stakeholders including, students, alumni, faculty, administrators, faculty advisors (practicum supervisors), associate teachers (host teachers for students in practica), the campus Dean and the Chair of Education. The results of this visit will not be known until after the OCT visit of the Faculty of Education in Thunder Bay, but the various stakeholders involved in our program put their best foot forward.

Winter semester and practicum: Our students have completed their winter semester and are preparing to go out on their second practicum. Over 280 students have been placed in area schools, the GTA and around southern Ontario.

Research update: In conjunction with a team of educators from the Sudbury Catholic District School Board (SCDSB), the Education program is seeking late-cycle funding from the Ministry of Education's KNAER initiative (the *Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research*) for a project that seeks to implement an inquiry based model in pre-service teacher education. The implementation team includes Catherine McCullough (Director of Education, SCDSB), Nicole Snow (Superintendent of school effectiveness, SCDSB), Louise Franklin (Principal, St. Theresa Catholic School, SCDSB), Krista Sarmatiuk (Numeracy facilitator/consultant, SCDSB) and Dr. Michael Hoehsmann (Chair, Education, LU-O).

Department of Interdisciplinary Studies

Humanities 101: Interdisciplinary Studies department's faculty members are volunteering to teach classes for Humanities 101. An unprecedented science-based class with hands-on laboratory experience was delivered to Humanities 101 students on Feb 08, 2012. The class was on Water and water pollution.

Research: Faculty and students actively participated in the Research & Innovation week. A mini-conference was organised by faculty and staff members. The university community had an intellectual feast listening to the oral and poster presentations.

One of the major attractions at the conference was the 24 posters by students of one of our first year classes (GSCI 1000). This was a major breakthrough for science awareness in the campus. The course instructor as well as other Science professors worked hard behind the scene to help these students complete their projects and present their posters.

Research Center: The department continues to work on developing a Centre of Research Excellence with a major focus on *Sustainable Communities*.

Academic Plan: The department continues to work on its Unit Academic Plan as part of the Lakehead University Academic Plan.

Campus promotional activities: Several faculty members are volunteering their time to assist our recruitment team on the Grade 11 day and March-Break Open house

School of Social Work

All students in the professional years of Social Work (approximately 80) are currently out on placement. We have students placed across Canada.

A group of students in Social Work 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.

Orillia Social Work has had a record number of applications for 2012 – 2013 entry:

One Year Program—181 applicants

Four Year program—35 applicants

Aboriginal Initiatives at the Orillia Campus

The Aboriginal Liaison Advisor is planning an event called "Pathways to Education" for Aboriginal students in the Orillia and surrounding area; includes local Orillia high schools as well as students from communities associated with the Ogemawahj Tribal Council (Rama F.N., Georgina Island F.N., Beausoleil F.N., Alderville F.N., Scugog Island F.N. and Moose Deer Point F.N.). Partnering with Georgian College to show the different post-secondary options and pathways to education; focusing on our own respective programs and services as well as transfer opportunities. This event will be similar to Aboriginal Preview Day held at the Thunder Bay campus the last two years.

She is also working jointly with Georgian College for Aboriginal Post Secondary Information Program (APSIP) tour details for Southern Georgian Bay week (includes Orillia, Barrie, Owen Sound, Cape Croker, Saugeen, Parry Sound and Midland).

Elders' Traditional Teaching Series continue to have great participation.

- Jan. 26 - Women's Traditional Roles with Elder Gertie Beaucage: 32 people
- Feb. 2 - Men's Traditional Roles with Elder Vern Altman: 41 people
- Feb. 9 - 7 Stages of a Good Life with Elder Hector Copegog: 42 people
- Feb. 16 - Environment and Relationships with Elder Gertie Beaucage: 35 people
- Mar. 1 - Residential Schools with Steve Beaupre: 35 people

Achievements: We have been able to have smudging approved on campus without setting off fire alarms!

Recruitment: There have been two students meet and greets with only two students at the first and one student attending the second. There have been three prospective student meetings and a group of students participating in the Ontario Works Program from Rama. They came on campus for a tour and meeting.

Participation in career fairs at local First Nations communities in the Orillia area continue, most recent ones attended are Rama First Nation and Native Canadian Centre in Toronto for prospective First Nations students in the GTA area. Upcoming fairs happening week of March 5: Georgina Island First Nation, Cape Croker First Nation.

Rodney Hanley, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)