

**Report to Senate – May 18, 2012
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)**

Promotion, Tenure and Renewal

Professional Faculties & Schools and Arts & Science Committees met on the 16th and 17th of April respectively, to consider a total of 5 applicants. Decisions will be communicated to candidates prior to June 30, 2012.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

In the midst of external accreditation evaluation (6-year cycle) including a recent site visit, the following list is a selection of recent and current activities in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management aimed at outreach and collaborative endeavours:

- Development and execution of professional workshops in statistical data analysis for MNR
- Hosting of new interactive web blog (industry/government/eNGO) for evaluation of expansions of NRM value-added training in the use of regional high-resolution 3d image data bases for land use planning
- Hosting of workshop with MNR (CNFER) for enhanced research and outreach collaborations
- Image database assembly for Resolute Forest Products woodlands operations in Ontario including assembly of multiple workstation support for softcopy photo interpretation – this effort also meant increased access for undergraduate and graduate students with state-of-the art tools
- Softcopy photo interpretation training to Resolute Forest Products
- Preparation and delivery of online and iPad access to complete Quetico Provincial Park enhanced Forest Resource Inventory data for Atikokan High School and its Outers program (this is part of a long term collaboration with Atkokan High School)
- Establishment (including site visit) for a new Field School pilot project for Canadian third year students in Equador – commencement of actual 2 week student excursion in September
- Peer review support for Resolute Forest Products FSC certification
- Hosting of NSERC Strategic Network on Value Chain Optimization in the Forest Sector Summer School with over 60 participants
- Active Participation in the BIOFOR Bio-energy, Bio-refining, Bio-economy Conference (LUBRI)
- Site Visit to Amity University and Dehradun Forest Research Institute to continue efforts towards near-future program and research collaborations
- Site Visit to Anhui Agricultural University to continue efforts towards near-future program and research collaborations
- Collaboration with Manitoba Conservation for active involvement with senior undergraduate theses projects focused on geomatics and forest protection
- Capacity upgrade to host large-scale image base for private treed properties in and about the City of Thunder Bay

- Significant air/space-borne image base upgrade for Alberta oilsands impact and remediation components in core and elective courses
- Hosting of forest management image/plan data for real-time access to Dog River-Matawin Local Citizens Committee (including website establishment and maintenance)

Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies

High School Math Contest:

On April 25, the Department of Mathematical Science hosted its annual high school mathematics competition. This year the contest celebrated its 10th anniversary. Over 125 high school students attended the contest at the Thunder Bay campus; most of these students came from high schools within the city of Thunder Bay, although some schools, such as Terrace Bay, also sent students to the campus. An additional 100 high school students wrote the competition at their home school. Over 40 prizes were handed out. The top performing student who attends Lakehead in the fall will also receive a \$500 entrance prize.

Science Fair:

The Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair took place on April 24th. Competition took place in the Lakehead University Fieldhouse where many students from Thunder Bay schools and the region got the chance to show off their creativity and knowledge of science. Always a fun event, the Northwestern Ontario Regional Science Fair has been "Fostering Curiosity" and "Building the Future" for over 40 years. Andrew P. Dean, dean of SES every year hands out awards to the young winners. Lakehead is proud to be involved with the Science Fair and looks forward to the future competitions. For more details check out their webpage: fits.confederationc.on.ca/~nwosf/schedule.htm.

Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences

The Honourable Leona Aglukkak, Minister of Health, has appointed Ms. Lori Turik to the Governing Council of CIHR. The full announcement can be found at: <http://www.newswire.ca/en/story/954745/minister-aglukkaq-announces-two-new-appointments-to-the-governing-council-of-the-canadian-institutes-of-health-research>

Dr. Elaine Wiersma, Department of Health Sciences, is the Principal Investigator on a project that was recently funded for 2 years by CIHR for the amount of \$196,336. The project is entitled "Developing a self management program for dementia: Integrating research, care practices, and client perspectives through partnerships. Amongst the Co-Investigators are Dr. Michel Bedard (Department of Health Sciences) and Dr. Mary Lou Kelley (School of Social Work).

Highlights from Student Affairs

Admissions & Recruitment

As of April, the Ontario high school applications are up 10.8% compared to the same time last year. Non-Ontario high school applications are also up 6.1%. Extensive conversion efforts have been underway for the past few months leading us up to the deadlines for applicants to accept their offers.

Preparations are being made to extend a second round of offers to Ontario high school students in early May. The first round of firm scholarship offers will also be extended at this time. As part of conversion efforts, local applicants in receipt of an entrance scholarship at the higher values will receive a hand-delivered scholarship offer in a leather Lakehead branded portfolio.

On April 25th, the Thunder Bay Applicant Reception took place on-campus in the Agora. Approximately 300 applicants and their guests attended. This event is one of many hosted throughout the recruitment season that had high attendance numbers exceeding previous years events.

Registrar's Office

With Convocation approaching the Office of the Registrar is again reaching out to potential graduates for names of faculty or others that have had a positive impact on their experience at Lakehead University. So far the response has been tremendous! Approximately 70 faculty and support staff will be sent a special invitation to convocation ceremonies indicating that they have been nominated by a student.

Highlights from Aboriginal Initiatives

Aboriginal Research:

Research Rendezvous with the Métis Community was held Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 9 AM – 2:30 PM at the Conference Centre: Bartley Residence. Approximately 45-50 Lakehead University faculty and students and members of the Métis community participated in a day of research conversation. Participants had the opportunity to develop new relationships and research partnerships at this interactive event.

Métis Recognition and Rights. The Time has Come!, a panel discussion was held on Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Panelists include: Jean Teillet, Pape Salter Teillet; Brenda Macdougall, Chair of Métis Research, University of Ottawa; and Jason Madden, JTM LAW. The event was moderated by Karen Drake, Vice Chair of the Thunder Bay Métis Council. With several significant court cases on Métis legal issues expected in the upcoming months, this panel explored the state of Métis law and research as it relates to Ontario Métis. Panelists and participants discussed current developments related to the recognition of Métis and their rights within Ontario.

Orillia Campus Highlights

Orillia Hiring 2012-13

Faculty and staff at the Orillia campus are working with colleagues in Thunder Bay to ensure that the courses to be offered in the coming year are staffed.

Currently, in collaboration with colleagues in Thunder Bay, searches are underway for two term positions:

1 nine-month term position in the Faculty of Business

1 three-year term position in the Faculty of Education

Concurrently, and in collaboration with 15 departments in Thunder Bay, searches are underway to fill 96.5 full course equivalents with part-time contract lecturers:

43.5 for the Education program

40.5 for the Interdisciplinary Studies program

6 for the Business program

6.5 for the Social Work Program

In each instance, there is extensive consultation among colleagues at both campuses to ensure the academic integrity of the hiring processes and compliance with University policies and the requirements of the LUFA collective agreement. There is considerable variation in approaches to hiring across the University which Orillia attempts to accommodate while working within policy, budgetary, and timing constraints. A review of the hiring processes and all of the processes associated with the delivery of academic programs at the Orillia campus will be initiated this summer as part of a comprehensive campus planning activity.

Faculty of Education

- The “Jurassic Park 2012 Gifted Outreach” conference was held on Friday, May 4th.
- This is a collaborative project between Lakehead University and Simcoe County District School Board.
- Lakehead University provided a venue and the workshop instructors and SCDSB provided the students and the coaching and expertise of the consultant staff.
- Teacher candidates in the Bachelor of Education program volunteered their time and expertise to create engaging workshops for students with advanced intellectual abilities.
- The SCDSB provided individual coaching by consultants in the elements of lesson preparation related to the theme of the conference and related to the advanced abilities and interests of the special population of gifted students.

- The Bachelor of Education students were recognized for their efforts with a certificate for their teaching portfolio that identifies their direct experience with gifted students.
- This event is a highlight of the B. Ed. program and we are proud to be a partner in this initiative.

Wellness Centre Services

Counselling/Naturopathy

- Throughout March, approximately 62% of available counselling hours and 50% of available hours with the naturopathic doctor were used for student appointments.

Interfaith Council

- A meeting was held on Friday, April 13th. A large number of faith groups were represented and good conversation has moved planning forward. The next meeting will be May 4th at 11am.
- Dan Tartanic began a book study for community members on April 17th, which will continue for 6 weeks.

Wellness and Accessibility Alignment

- Monthly meetings are taking place to discuss how Wellness and Accessibility can be aligned more closely.
- A “Wellness and Accessibility Emergency Preparedness Procedures” document has been prepared and will be shared with the OSA team at the May Team Meeting.

Athletics and Recreation

Club Teams/Varsity

- End of year meetings were held with most of our Club Teams and our Varsity Rowing Team. Remaining team meetings will occur in May. Plans for next year were discussed at these meetings, including practice time, recruiting and competition schedules.
- Rowing: It was decided that for the next couple of years we will focus on improving the quality and commitment of our single and double boats and only after that will we start trying to fill larger boats.

Special Project Work

- Camp U: The website has had 1049 hits since it went live on Feb 21st. Three camp staff were hired and will start on May 7th.

Aboriginal Initiatives

Pathways to Education Day with Georgian College

- The event turned out better than anticipated with 32 students from grades 9-12 in attendance.
- Feedback forms indicated that the students enjoyed the activities, but wished the activities were more hands-on. Feedback from the professors involved in leading the activities was also positive.
- Future considerations include more hands-on activities, limiting the event to grades 11 and 12, offering one or two activities that are more engaging and active compared with three rotating activities, and opening up the invite to students outside of Orillia.

APSIP

- The planning for this Aboriginal Student Information Program continues with an annual planning meeting to be held on June 26 & 27, 2012.
- Lakehead and Georgian are promoting a new format that differs from the usual APSIP visit. Instead of having an hour/one period with students, we are planning a full day of breakout rooms and presentations. Depending on timing and such, there is a possibility that we could host the Orillia visits here at Lakehead.

Recruitment Events

- April 13, 2012: Kahnawake Career Fair – 400 primary, secondary and mature students in attendance.
- April 17, 2012: Beausoleil Career Fair – 60 primary, secondary and mature students in attendance.

Elders' Traditional Teaching Series

The series was a huge success! The feast was delicious and it was wonderful to have the Elders talk about the importance of food in the culture and the spiritual aspects of food. The feedback indicated that all enjoyed the opportunity to participate, look forward to future events and hope the series will continue in the fall. Approximately 40 people attended each session.

Accessibility Services

- NOARC – A meeting took place with Anna Holmes (Psychologist from NOARC) and four students to review completed assessments. One student's assessment is incomplete and is waiting for a final report.
- Final Exams – 96 exams were written with accommodations (some students wrote more than one exam).
- Rotary Mentorship Program – One student has followed through with the program and will be acting as both a mentor and mentee. A meeting with Nancy

Cornwell took place to discuss mentorship and sponsorship of future Lakehead students within the Rotary club.

Orientation 2012

- The Orientation Steering Committee agreed on a theme for Orientation 2012 (“Take the pLUnge!”) and a draft schedule has been completed.
- 20 Student Ambassadors were selected and taken on the first annual Ambassador Retreat at Geneva Park. This retreat was a huge success.

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