

January 2020



President's Report to Senate



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

Dr. David Barnett named Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

On January 10, **Dr. David Barnett** was named Lakehead University's Provost & Vice-President (Academic). Holding responsibilities as both the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Academic Officer for the University, Dr. Barnett will begin his new role effective immediately.

Dr. Barnett joined Lakehead in July 2012 as Dean of the University's Faculty of Engineering, and has held the roles of Acting, and then Interim, Provost & Vice-President (Academic) since January 2018.

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Raag-Rung contributes \$5,000 to student scholarships

In October, the Raag-Rung Music Circle held its 36th annual Fundraising Evening of Fabulous Food and Marvellous Music, which raises funds for student scholarships and the Thunder Bay Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Inder Nirdosh, Professors Emeritus, front right, Raag-Rung President, and members of the Executive, Tammy Holmes, front, second from right, Kevin Sidlar, back left, and Rajesh Talpade, back middle, presented Lakehead's President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Moira McPherson, Deb Comuzzi, former Vice-President, External Relations, and Dr. David Barnett, then-Interim Provost and Vice-President (Academic), with a cheque for \$5,000 for student scholarships.



Orillia's Joyful Sound fundraiser for Humanities 101 program

On December 8, the Orillia Vocal Ensemble presented *Joyful Sound*, a Christmas concert in support of Lakehead University's Humanities 101 program on the Orillia campus. The concert was hosted by **Dr. Linda Rodenburg, Director of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning**, and featured soloists Laura Aylan-Parker and our very own **Principal of the Orillia campus, Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans**. The fundraiser raised awareness of Humanities 101 and over \$5,500 for the program.



Lakehead/TBRHRI Research Chair participates in COU Queen's Park event

On December 3, **Dr. Michael Campbell, Lakehead University/TBRHRI Research Chair in Radiochemistry for Molecular Imaging and Advanced Diagnostics**, took part in the third Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Policy Discussion Series held at Queen's Park. The goal of these events is the engagement of MPPs on timely issues that support social and economic development in the Province of Ontario. As part of his participation in this COU event, Dr. Campbell showcased his research relating to the application of medical cyclotrons for the non-destructive testing of mineral samples. He also displayed a model of a neutron activation target station, a gold sample in analysis vial and photos of the system in place in the cyclotron vault.



Winter 2020's International Orientation

Lakehead University was excited to welcome 92 new international students to the 2020 Winter Orientation held in the faculty lounge on the evening on January 20.

Welcome greetings were provided by Dr. Moira McPherson, President and Vice-Chancellor, and James Aldridge, Vice Provost International.

Several presentations from International Advisors on social and academic success at Lakehead University including a warm welcome from Joel Symonds, Academic and Non-Academic Student Conduct Manager.

This year's evening orientation ended on a true Canadian note with student experiencing a taste of local Maple Taffy laid outside on the snow, courtesy of the Nor'West Maple Company.

Transitioning will continue with programming over the next few weeks to assist students from India, Brazil, Sweden, Denmark, Ghana, Nigeria and many other countries from around the globe.





Advocacy Day at Queen's Park

On December 10, Lakehead University President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, Board of Governors Chair Ross Murray, and members of the Executive Team hosted a reception at Queens Park to advocate for, and answer questions about, our Gichi Kendaasiwin project.

Dozens of elected officials and ministries' staff attended the event which offered Lakehead representatives the invaluable opportunity to present and share information about this project and to build support for our funding application through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP).

Earlier in the day, Dr. McPherson also met with various Ministries' officials and senior staff to discuss Gichi Kendaasiwin.

Lakehead University Library launches *Omni*

The library's new academic search tool, *Omni*, officially launched on December 12. *Omni* will replace both the library's classic catalogue and Search-it-All.

Omni streamlines the process of requesting materials from 13 other University Libraries, changing the way that users can access and borrow resources. The library is also excited to announce a number of user-centered policy changes, such as unlimited renewals and extended loan periods.



Lakehead hosts Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council President

On January 16, Lakehead University's Research Services hosted a reception welcoming Ted Hewitt, PhD, President of SSHRC. All Thunder Bay faculty, postdoctoral fellows, and students who currently hold SSHRC funding, or who plan to seek such funding, were encouraged to attend. The event featured a number of Lakehead's exceptional SSHRC-funded faculty and student researchers who each spoke briefly about their respective research.



Academic Excellence



BEd Student Fatima Ahmed Awarded Ontario College of Teachers Scholarship

On December 13, Congratulations to **Fatima Ahmed** (BEd teacher candidate, Orillia), who has been recognized by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) 2019 Scholarship Program for her excellence in teacher education.

As noted on the OCT website, this award is granted to individuals who “demonstrate a high level of preparedness for teacher education through examples of community involvement, background and life experiences.” Fatima has fulfilled these criteria in numerous ways, including her work as an Organizational Development Advisor for HIV/AIDS Chief Strategy Officers in Botswana (2013-2015); her work as an Executive Director for a youth centre for at-risk youth in Inuvik, NWT (2009-2010); and her work as an IT trainer and a Women’s Development Officer for the provincial government in Vanuatu, South Pacific (2007).

[Click here to read the complete story...](#)

Researcher earns Mitacs & NCR-IRAP Award for Outstanding Commercialization

An up-and-coming researcher at Lakehead University has been recognized for his innovative work to develop a cutting-edge medical imaging technology that delivers high-resolution pictures at a much lower dose of radiation, providing a breast imaging alternative to mammography, positron emission tomography (PET) scan and other imaging devices. The technology delivers highly sensitive, accurate images that can detect extremely small tumours in their earliest stages of cancer, particularly in women who have denser breast tissue than average.

The breakthrough work earned **Oleksandr Bubon** the Mitacs & NCR-IRAP Award for Outstanding Commercialization, awarded by Mitacs, a not-for-profit organization that fosters growth and innovation in Canada for business and academia.

Bubon, who serves as Medical Chief Technology Officer of Radialis Medical, a joint venture of Lakehead University and Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, is a postdoctoral fellow studying under Canada Research Chair, Professor Alla Reznik, at Lakehead University and is Senior Scientist at Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute.

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Lakehead researcher/TBRHRI scientist receives over \$448k from Canadian Cancer Society

A Lakehead University researcher and Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute scientist was awarded \$448,800 from the Canadian Cancer Society to continue research into a new method of diagnosing breast cancer that may detect lesions earlier than current methods.

This Innovation to Impact grant will allow **Dr. Alla Reznik** to spend three years developing Positron Emission Mammography (PEM), molecular imaging equipment that may alleviate some uncertainty from breast cancer detection. The first clinical prototype of the PEM system is assembled, its imaging performance has been characterized in a laboratory setting, and it is now at the University Health Network-Princess Margaret Cancer Centre for awaiting clinical trials.



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Capacity Development

Maple Leaf World Schools-Lakehead University hosts first open house of its Thunder Bay school

On December 13, Maple Leaf World Schools was pleased to host the Thunder Bay community at its first open house at its new school, Maple Leaf World Schools–Lakehead University (MLWS-LakeheadU).

The new school is Maple Leaf's third in Canada and its first in Ontario. Located in the Avila Centre at Lakehead University Thunder Bay, this learning environment offers students an English immersion environment on campus. Students complete the Ontario Secondary School Diploma program curriculum preparing them for further studies in universities around the world. The school offers the high school program at grades 10 to 12. Focusing on academic achievement, its students benefit from an English language immersion experience and a unique university preparatory program giving them an academic advantage in their post-secondary applications.

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Local and Global Partnerships

Summer research internships in Germany

Fourth-year engineering students Mohammed Elshaer and Jonathan Hamilton were Lakehead's first participants in the RISE-Globalink summer research internship program in Germany. The program offers Canadian undergraduates in all STEM fields the opportunity to apply to research internships at universities across Germany. Internships are held during the summer, usually between students' 3rd and 4th year. Successful applicants are funded by Mitacs with a \$6,000 award.

Mohammed's internship was at the Nuremberg Campus of Technology at the Technische Hochschule Nürnberg, where he was part of the interdisciplinary research group "Human Centric Ambience." His work focused on ways that smart building technology can contribute to human health. Jonathan worked with the Hybrid Energy Technologies research group at the Institute of New Energy Systems, Technische Hochschule Ingolstadt. In Germany, the electric power grid must integrate energy inputs from multiple renewable sources such as solar, wind, and biogas, which results in fluctuations that need to be smoothed to ensure a stable power supply. Jonathan worked on modelling controls for the electrical distribution grid.

[Click here to read the complete story...](#)