



December
2019

President's Report to Senate



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Office of the President

2019 Lakehead Orillia Summer Engagement Project

The summer engagement project was launched in 2018 with the purpose of increasing awareness of Lakehead University Orillia throughout Simcoe County and beyond.

2019 was the second iteration of the project and entailed having a student travel to festivals and events throughout the region with a booth full of information on all facets of programming including, academic, residence life, community programming, conference services, international, athletics and alumni information. The student's first task was to interview staff from various units across campus in order to be able to then share that knowledge about Lakehead Orillia with the public year.

This year's Summer Engagement Project successfully accomplished what it set out to do: increase the engagement of Lakehead Orillia outside of the City of Orillia in the immediate areas north, south, east and west of the campus.



Discover Lakehead University at Orillia Campus Fall Open House

On November 9, future students, their family and friends, were invited to visit and experience Lakehead Orillia first-hand at our Fall Open House. Visitors learned of our wide range of programs, experiential learning opportunities, and what it's like to be a Lakehead student through the following activities:

- Take a student-led tour of campus, including classrooms, labs and residence
- Meet future professors, staff and current students
- Participate in interactive presentations
- Learn about financial aid, scholarships and awards
- Discover the amenities Lakehead offers (on-campus, and in the community)

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Two Lakehead students honoured with Mayor's Community Safety Awards

Two Lakehead University students were recently honoured with 2019 Mayor's Community Safety Awards, presented by Mayor Bill Mauro.

COMMUNITY HERO AWARD — TESSA DEBRUYNE

A Street Outreach Worker for Thunder Bay's Shelter House SOS Program, Lakehead Master of Social Work student Tessa Debruyne demonstrates the power of kindness to build trust and help empower vulnerably housed and homeless clients to find their voices and make changes.

YOUNG LEADER AWARD — YAMAAN ALSUMADI

Since arriving in Thunder Bay four years ago, Yamaan Alsumadi has been planting seeds of hope through her many leadership activities, including serving on Thunder Bay's Anti-Racism Incident Reporting Working Group. Today, Yamaan continues her advocacy to build welcoming environments for youth in our city while pursuing studies in nursing at Lakehead University.



County of Simcoe presents \$1 million to Lakehead University

On November 19, surrounded by Lakehead University students and alumni, County of Simcoe Warden George Cornell and members of County Council presented President & Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson, Board of Governors Chair Ross Murray, and Lakehead Orillia Principal Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, with a \$1 million gift.

During the event, County Councillors heard first-hand from a second-year social work student and an alumna on the impact of having a university in the community.

The gift is part of the County of Simcoe's annual pledge to improve access to post-secondary education across the region. The announcement brings the County of Simcoe's contributions to Lakehead to \$9.5 million since 2009.



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Lakehead Orillia hosts 2018-2019 Report to Community

On Wednesday, Nov. 20 Lakehead Orillia held their 2018-2019 Report to Community themed Dare. Defy. Discover.

Emceed by fourth year Lakehead criminology program student, Courtney Holmes, the annual event featured students, faculty and alumni of the Orillia campus who dare to defy constraints and expectations to make discoveries about themselves and the world through unconventional scholarship and independent thinking.

Guests at this year's event included Gia Spiropoulos, Master of Education student, **alumna Dana Clark**, and Lakehead's Dr. Cheryl Lousley, Associate Professor and Research Chair in Environmental Humanities.

Dr. Lousley spoke passionately about storying the climate change emergency and provided examples of how environmental concerns have been woven into the narrative of Canadian fiction.



In her talk, Spiropoulos shared her journey to Lakehead, her passion for basketball, and documented the incredible research opportunities she has participated in during her master's program. Working with lecturer and SSHRC post-doctoral fellow Dr. Ellen Field, Spiropoulos is working on developing hands-on, inquiry-based learning resources for teachers to help introduce education around climate change into today's classrooms.

Clark, a graduate of Lakehead's media studies program, talked about her global social impact movement, Heroic Humans. The online platform inspires, celebrates, empowers and acknowledges acts of heroism big and small all over the world. To date, it has featured almost 200 people from around the globe who show exceptional examples of courage, bravery, love, and resilience in everyday life. Clark's work on Heroic Humans earned her the 2018 Mindful Millennial Award from The Notable Life.

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GTA Alumni Chapter hosts alumni, family and friends

Over the weekend Lakehead's GTA Alumni Chapter hosted over 120 Lakehead alumni, family and friends to watch and support the Men's Varsity Hockey team at Ryerson University on Friday, November 15th and the Women's and Men's Varsity Basketball team at Brock University on Saturday, November 16th.

The Chapter volunteers were handing out Alumni-Thunderwolves scarves so that every guest could show their school spirit, and they cheered on our Varsity athletes all night!





Academic Excellence

Lakehead named *Research University of the Year* for 5th consecutive year

For the fifth consecutive year, *Research Infosource* has named Lakehead Canada's Research University of the Year in the undergraduate university category.

This is the first time that a university in *Research Infosource's* undergraduate category has been ranked 'Research University of the Year' five years in a row.

Lakehead's placement at the top of the country's undergraduate universities category is based on *Research Infosource's* calculation of several factors, including the total amount of sponsored research funding received by Lakehead University, research intensity per faculty (total research income per faculty member), research intensity per graduate student (total research income per graduate student), total number of publications, publication intensity, and publication impact.

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The impact of *Ingenuity*

Since its launch in November 2018, our CASES-based *Ingenuity* space has become a popular, thriving, and successful home for students and community members to co-work, spend time working on their business ideas, and attend entrepreneurial programming, workshops and events. *Ingenuity* has supported a number of student-led ventures, ranging from businesses including: graphic design, app creation, card-making, photography/videography, watch design, jewelry creation, and STEM workshops.

Ingenuity is currently preparing to host a series of events, including the Annual "Pitch It" competition in partnership with the Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre; Global Entrepreneurship Week with our newest community partner, Conseil De La Cooperation De L'Ontario; and an information session for International Students on the rules and regulations for starting a business in Canada; and a discussion with the Business Development Bank of Canada about its *Newcomer to Canada* funding programs.





Social Responsibility

Lakehead Orillia hosts pair of Social Justice events

In November, 4th year INTD Research Capstone in Social Justice students hosted two events aimed at helping understand the social justice issues in our immediate environment.

Speakers included Barrie Pride members David Bradbury, Gillian Green, and Jessie Lawson, who talked about “Issues and Advocacy Concerns of the LGBTQ+ community in and around Barrie, Ontario”; as well as Aleta Armstrong from the Canadian Mental Health Association who talked about “Trends in Mental Health as they relate to Young People in Central Ontario”. Pictured below is the class with speakers from Barrie Pride.



4th year INTD Research Capstone in Social Justice students with speakers from Barrie Pride.

Storying Climate Change

Over 40 people attended “Storying Climate Change” on Saturday, November 16, at the Stephen Leacock Museum in Orillia.

Hosted by **Dr. Cheryl Lousley, Lakehead University Research Chair in Environmental Humanities** (pictured at far left), the forum discussed how climate justice is approached through storytelling, fiction, creative non-fiction, and poetry.

The event also launched *Rising Tides*, a new collection of Canadian climate-justice literature edited by Dr. Catriona Sandilands of York University. Speakers included Deborah McGregor (Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice at York University), Hillary McGregor (Standing Bear youth leadership), Kate Story (author of *Blasted* and *Antilia*), Nari Hwang (Grade 7 student), and Samantha Dewaele (Lakehead English MA alumna).





Local and Global Partnerships

10,000 Coffees

Lakehead Connect allows students and recent grads to reach out, make connections, ask questions, and network with more than 63,000 Lakehead University Alumni in Canada and around the world. It is powered by Ten Thousand Coffees, and supported by RBC FutureLaunch. It was introduced at Lakehead University in September 2019 and to date has over 700 registrants signed up to connect with one another.

Based on these initial results, Lakehead is considered one of the most successful organizations to have participated in this new mentorship program. The financial support received from RBC to launch this project for the first time at Lakehead requires certain criteria to be met, for potential renewal for next year- and after only 1.5 months of activity we have already met and exceeded their targets.

Feedback from senior representatives and program leads at Ten Thousand Coffees has been highly favourable, having recently shared that Lakehead is a "favourite client."

**Ten
Thousand
Coffees**

Mexican *Proyecta* students at Lakehead Orillia

The latest group of Mexican *Proyecta* International students checked into Lakehead Orillia residence on October 20.

Residence will record a 90% occupancy for the period August 29th - November 16th when the current and last *Proyecta* group departs. The *Proyecta* students who visit Lakehead during the academic year are very happy with their experience because, contrary to summer student groups, they have the opportunity to live and study with domestic students and the atmosphere is more engaging with more social programming activities within Residence and on campus.





Lakehead signs first MOU with a Colombian university

The CAIE Conference, held every two years, is a significant event for the promotion of international education and research collaboration in the Americas. Lakehead was well represented at CAIE by **Dr. Andrew Dean (Vice-President, Research & Innovation)**, James Aldridge (Vice-Provost, International), Dr. Batia Stolar (Associate Vice-President, Research & Graduate Studies), Pierre Sved (Manager, International Relations, Latin America), and Jill Sherman (International Research Facilitator).

While there, Lakehead signed its first MOU with a Colombian university, Universidad del Rosario, located in Bogotá.

Other meetings were held with potential partners throughout the region, including the Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ) in Ecuador.

Action Plan for implementation of MOU with University of Benin (Nigeria) and Lakehead

A delegation from the University of Benin (Nigeria) came to Lakehead Thunder Bay Thunder Bay campus on November 4th 2019 as a follow meeting on the Memorandum of Understanding which was signed on March 25th 2019. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss formulation of an Action Plan for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding Practical forensic DNA training. This training may be in the form of subsidized Virtually ON-LINE, in person ON-SITE or a hybrid training. This training forms the Practical DNA component of Post-Graduate Diploma Course in Forensic DNA Analysis to be implemented by Lakehead Paleo-DNA Laboratory Thunder Bay, ON, Canada in association with Center for Forensic Program and DNA Studies (CFPDS) at University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria.





Research Ethics Education Workshop

On November 16, our Office of Research Services research ethics office teamed up with the ethics offices of the TBRHSC, St. Joseph's Care Group, and the Research Office at NOSM to deliver a Workshop titled, "Research Ethics: Best Practices and How to Apply".

The workshop was tailored to graduate level students and emerging researchers. The morning session consisted of a Panel of experts from the TBRHSC, LU and NOSM, with the afternoon a review of ethics case studies, ethical best practices, and research integrity.

Nearly 60 participants attended the day-long Workshop. Evaluations were distributed with very positive feedback received.



Part of the mandate of the Research Ethics Board and supporting officers, is to educate and inform researchers in a proactive manner about research ethics. This helps to avoid ethical missteps and potential breaches of research integrity during the course of a research protocol. The organizing committee is considering holding the Workshop annually.