



President's Report To Senate

March
2024





Office of the President

2024 PDAC Breakfast

On March 4, Lakehead University hosted its 13th Prospectors & Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Alumni & Friends Breakfast at the InterContinental Toronto Centre.

Once again, Lakehead's **Dr. Pete Hollings** (Lakehead Geology professor and NOHFC IRC Chair in Mineral Exploration) served as emcee. Keynote speakers included Ryan Weston, Vice-President Exploration at *Wyloo*, and Geoff North, Vice-President of Intellectual Property at *Intellectual Property Ontario*.

This year's conference welcomed almost 27,000 participants to explore business, investment and networking opportunities in the mineral exploration and mining industry. With more than 1,100 exhibitors — including governments, companies, and international experts — PDAC 2024 was one of the largest events in the association's history.



Pictured from left are Dr. Noah Phillips, Assistant Professor of Geology, Dr. Peter Hollings, Professor of Geology, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President & Vice Chancellor, Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Colleges and Universities and Michael den Haan, Vice-President External Relations



Alumni Initiatives

The Lakehead University Student Alumni Association (LUSAA) hosted their annual Heritage Place Student Send-off on Feb 27.

It featured the ever-popular baked potato bar where students could enjoy a variety of toppings for their spuds. There were also giveaways and a prize draw for two “classroom bears”. The winners were very excited to receive the cute bears to take to their first classrooms.





Academic Excellence

19th Annual Research and Innovation Week

Lakehead University's 19th Annual Research & Innovation Week was a huge success. Information about each of our campuses' respective R&I Week's activities [can be found here](#).

Lakehead University recognized exceptional students, faculty researchers, and partners during the annual Research and Innovation Awards of Excellence on February 29 in Thunder Bay. The event, hosted by Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Vice-President of Research and Innovation, celebrated Lakehead's significant contributions to research excellence, entrepreneurship, innovation, and community impact.

Below is a list of award recipients:

Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Awards

- First Place and People's Choice Award: Madeline Fabiano, MSc Kinesiology, Supervisor: E. Pearson, School of Kinesiology
- Second Place: KarLee Lefebvre, MSc Kinesiology, Supervisor: N. Ravanelli, School of Kinesiology

Gradflix Awards

- First Place and People's Choice Award: Tristen Brown, PhD Civil Engineering, Supervisor: A. Elshaer

Graduate Studies Research Excellence Awards

- NSERC Category: Sana Sharif, PhD Electrical & Computer Engineering with Supervisor Waleed Ejaz
- SSHRC Category: Casey Oliver, PhD Clinical Psychology with Supervisor Dwight Mazmanian



Pictured from left are Dr. Jian Deng, Dr. Pauline Sameshima, Dr. Florin Pendea, Dr. Andrew J. Dean, Dr. Charles Levkoe, and Mannila Sandhu. Dr. Deng and Dr. Levkoe received this year's Research Excellence Award, and Sandhu was the recipient of the Research Support Award



Graduate Student Conference Poster Winners

- Engineering Category: Eduardo Reis, PhD Software Engineering, Supervisor: T. Akilan
- NSERC Category: Nicholas Bel, PhD Biotechnology, Supervisor: N. Khaper
- SSHRC Category: Crystal Hardy, PhD Health Sciences, Supervisors: R. Schiff and C. Mushquash
- CIHR Category: Chiao-En Joanne Kao, PhD Clinical Psychology, Supervisor: D. Scharf

Innovation Award: Dr. Deborah Scharf and Dr. Amanda Maranzan

Post-Doctoral Fellow Excellence Award: Dr. Yurii Shepelytskyi, Supervisor: Dr. Mitchell Albert

Building Research Capacity Award: Dr. Pedram Fatehi and Dr. Stephen Kinrade

Indigenous Partnership Research Award: Dr. Jian Deng, Department of Civil Engineering and Marcus Hardy, Chief, Red Rock Indian Band

Community Engaged Research Award: Dr. Gerardo Reyes, Dr. Sonia Mastrangelo, and partner Kathrine Killam (Camphill Communities Ontario)

Senate Research Committee Awards:

- Research Support Award: Miss Mannila Sandhu - EPID@WorkResearch Institute
- Research Excellence Awards: Dr. Jian Deng (NSERC Category) and Dr. Charles Levkoe (SSHRC Category)
- Distinguished Researcher Awards: Dr. Andrew J. Dean and Dr. Pauline Sameshima



(From left to right) Keynote Speaker Dr. Dan Riskin, Elder Audrey Deroy, Dr. Andrew P. Dean, BOG Chair Maria Vasanelli, Ms. Patricia Maxwell - Executive Assistant to our Member of Parliament for Thunder Bay-Atikokan, Kevin Holland, Mayor Ken Boshcoff



Research and Innovation Week in Orillia

Lakehead hosted another successful R & I Week on the Orillia campus, March 5-7. Opening ceremonies showcased community support, with Simcoe North MP Adam Chambers and Simcoe County Warden Basil Clarke speaking enthusiastically about partnership and community. In addition, Orillia Mayor Don Mclsaac proclaimed “Research and Innovation Week” in Orillia.

VP of Research and Innovation, Dr. Andy Dean, and Research and Strategic Initiatives Facilitator, Dr. Rebecca Heffernan, also unveiled a plaque recognizing Lakehead University’s Innovation and Economic Prosperity Designation from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and its Commission on Economic and Community Engagement through the University Economic Development Association.

All events were well attended, including the Industry Panel: Optimizing Your Business Using Artificial Intelligence, held on Wednesday, March 6. Moderated by Interim Principal Dr. Linda Rodenburg, the panel discussed the uses, threats and opportunities that exist and how AI can revolutionize and leverage business for growth and efficiency.

[Click here for the media release...](#)

This year saw an R & I event take place at Heritage Place as well. On Thursday, March 7, Faculty of Education students from Social Studies courses in the professional program shared assignments resulting from research investigating teaching strategies for deep learning in today’s complex social world. Topics range from critical cartography, photo essays of living history, climate action through social studies, land relations, and teaching in an era of AI. [Click here for the media release...](#)



Pictured above, left to right, are Mayor Don Mclsaac, Warden Basil Clarke, Interim Principal Linda Rodenburg, President and Vice-Chancellor Gillian Siddall, VP Research and Innovation Andy Dean, MP Adam Chambers, and Chancellor Rita Shelton-Deverell



Engineering professor earns international IET fellowship

A Lakehead University professor has been named a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET).

Dr. Abdelhamid Tayebi, from the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been selected for this international recognition from his peers for his innovative research and outstanding commitment to the engineering profession.

The IET Fellowship is the professional institution's highest category of membership and is reserved only for those who have demonstrated recent significant achievements sustained at the highest levels in engineering, technology, or related disciplines.



Dr. Tayebi received his Master of Science in Robotics from Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris, and his PhD in Robotics and Automatic Control from Université de Picardie Jules Verne. He joined Lakehead University in 1999 where he is a professor and the founder of the Robotics and Automatic Control Laboratory.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) is a multidisciplinary professional engineering institution. The IET was formed in 2006 from two separate institutions: the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), dating back to 1871, and the Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE) dating back to 1884. It is now one of the world's largest engineering institutions with 154,000 members in 148 countries.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)



Lakehead graduate earns McCall MacBain Regional Award

Lakehead University graduate **Chris Armiento** (HBSc'22) has earned a \$5,000 [McCall MacBain Regional Award](#). This scholarship recognizes engaged student leaders who have demonstrated exceptional character, community engagement, leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, academic strength, and intellectual curiosity. It provides funding for a full-time master's or professional program at any public university in Canada.

Chris is an intern at Confederation College, assisting the school in implementing sustainable development goals. They recently earned a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Lakehead, where they served on the board of the student union and mentored international students. Chris has also organized climate action projects and events, developed a workshop to teach high school students about climate activism, and contributed to research on adolescent exposure to cannabis marketing. They are applying to medical school and medical research master's programs.

Chris placed among the top 95 of more than 700 Canadian applicants this year.

The McCall MacBain Scholarships are the result of a landmark \$200 million gift in 2019, then the largest single donation in Canadian history, by John and Marcy McCall MacBain.

Applications will open in June 2024 for September 2025 admission. In addition to 30 fully funded scholarships, up to 100 awards of \$5,000 to \$20,000 will be offered. More information about the McCall MacBain Scholarships can be found at mccallmacbainscholars.org.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





Local and Global Partnerships

Research Ethics Board of Record agreements

Research Ethics Board of Record agreements have recently been established between Lakehead University & St. Joseph's Care Group, and Lakehead University & Orillia Soldiers Memorial Hospital. The Agreements allow for the most applicable Research Ethics Board (REB) to provide human ethics review of research and for the partner institution to accept the review. This reduces the duplication of work for researchers and will help to avoid duplicate processes including duplicate applications and duplicate REB reviews. These collaborations illustrate the growing bond between our institutions, especially pertaining to research. The processes are in line with the federal Tri-Agency Policy Statement on the Ethical Conduct for Research Involving Humans. Questions can be directed to Sue Wright in Lakehead's Office of Research Services at swright@lakeheadu.ca.

Spotlight on Academics Film Festival

The Department of History, with support from the faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities and Education, were pleased to partner in the presenting of the 3rd annual Spotlight on Academics Film Festival, an event to share knowledge through film.

Spotlight on Academics features films from around the world and was live for the first time with 22 documentaries screening in-person at Lakehead University from February 9-11. Special guests included Dr. Michael Brown from the University of South Wales, and filmmakers Áine Clark and Michel Van der Veken from Belgium. In addition to the films selected for a live audience, the festival presented a total of 45 films online via www.researchtv.ca from February 9-12.

The festival was free and open to the public. For more information and the full festival lineup, visit www.spotlightonacademics.ca.



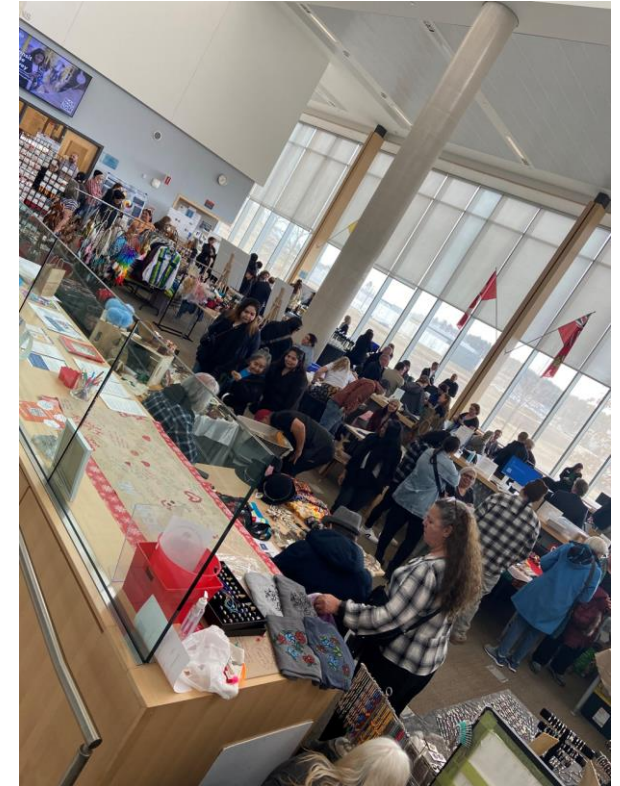
Office of Indigenous Initiatives (Orillia Campus) Update

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia), Mercedes Jacko, attended Beausoleil First Nation's (BFN) Post-Secondary Education Fair on February 21, 2024 to share Lakehead University information and resources to BFN community members and grade 8 students.

Denise Baxter, the Vice Provost of Indigenous Initiatives, with Mercedes, attended a community-led event: A Gathering to Learn about United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNRIP) on February 16, 2024. The speakers included Lakehead's Chair of Truth and Reconciliation, Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, Elder Jeff Monague, and Elder John Rice.

The Indigenous Cultural Wellness Facilitator hosted Teachings and Tea on Tuesday evenings throughout the month of February, in which participants had an opportunity to learn about herbs that support wellness. In addition, they hosted Round Dance Teachings on Thursday evenings throughout the month of February; participants had the opportunity to learn about drumming, singing, etiquette, and dancing aspects of the Round Dance.

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator, in partnership with Research and Innovation Week, offered an Indigenous Craft Market during the Research and Innovation Week opening ceremony on March 5th. In addition to the craft vendors, the Office of Indigenous Initiatives and OpenText offered information tables where various departmental resources, services and opportunities were shared with students and the Lakehead community.





Career Services & Co-Op

In February, Career Services & Co-op hosted 18 events on the Orillia Campus including regular drop-in support in the Career Zone (ORSI Learning Commons at Simcoe Hall and Heritage Place Library), as well as workshops on specific themes connected to employment and career development. Appointments continue to be delivered to students at both campuses both in person, via teleconference, and telephone, according to the students' preference.

A Municipal Career Exploration event on February 8 brought students together with hiring managers working at the County of Simcoe, City of Orillia, and City of Barrie. While sharing their own career stories, participating employer partners gave students some insight into the variety of well-compensated and fulfilling roles available in the municipal sector.

Space for service delivery continues to be a factor at Orillia campus. The team working on redesign of space for service delivery connected to Career Services and Academic Support received expressions of interest and reviewed proposals from four vendors in February. The project continues to move forward, with selection of the vendor expected by early March.

Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL)

On February 28, CELL wrapped up the Third Age Learning Lakehead winter speaker series, Exploring Ethics in a Complex World. This series saw 120+ Third Age Learners attend, either in-person or virtually, to hear from 3 experts in the area of ethics. CELL had learners attend from across the province, including Thunder Bay and Ottawa. Planning for the Spring 2024 series is underway.

At the beginning of February, CELL welcomed a class of 10 students to the Humanities 101 program. The students are eager to learn, and there's a full schedule of Lakehead faculty who have volunteered their time to teach this semester.

For more information on CELL programming, please visit <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/about/orillia-campus/community-programs>



Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Research Matters: Exploring the stigma faced by injured workers

Published in The Chronicle Journal on Tuesday, February 13, 2024.

How does the workers' compensation board treat injured workers? What do injured workers experience when seeking medical care? What challenges do they face when returning to the workplace? These are some of the topics that will be addressed in a new study by Lakehead University researchers and the Canadian Injured Workers Alliance. They will try to understand the shame and obstacles injured workers face in various aspects of their journey.

Maranzan, an associate professor and director of clinical programs in Lakehead's department of psychology, is leading the project. With \$25,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and additional funding support from the Enhancing the Prevention of Injury and Disability at Work (EPID@Work) research institute, she will oversee a systematic review of the literature and host stakeholder engagement. An advisory team of eight people representing injured workers, health-care providers, employers and partners in the disability field has met to fine-tune the project's objectives.

The next phase is a systematic literature review by research assistant Lauren Reynolds. A master's student in clinical psychology, Reynolds will read existing papers, conduct quality appraisals and extract relevant data.

Having contributed to other projects involving mental health and stigma, Reynolds was drawn to this effort after meeting and hearing about people who've been injured on the job and the social disgrace they may have lived through.

With a framework in place, Maranzan expects the systematic review will present the advisory team with critical information, such as how structural inequalities exist in employment practices as well as workers' compensation and the health-care field.

The Canadian Injured Workers Alliance is a co-investigator in this endeavour, bringing the perspective of injured workers to the table and providing input to drive the project forward. Indeed, the advisory team is actively involved in setting the project's goals and will play a role in sharing the information with their constituents.

[Click here to read the media release...](#)





Ontario Research Fund Announcement

The Ontario government, through the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Program, provides significant funding for large-scale, partner-driven research projects every second year. These projects usually involve three parties: a company contribution, an Ontario government contribution, and a university contribution.

Lakehead University was very pleased to have been awarded from the Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Program in the amount of \$2 million this past fall. This funding will be going towards **Dr. Hollings** and Dr. Phillips project, titled *Finding the Next Mine: Developing new deposit models to enhance exploration in Northern Ontario*.

This funding will establish an innovative research hub at Lakehead University that will train a diverse group of over 25 highly qualified people (5 HBS, 19 MSc, and 5 PhDs) in a wide range of traditional and novel, state-of-the-art techniques. They will also develop youth outreach programs that will benefit high school students in small Northern Ontario communities to engage them in the geosciences. Combined with undergraduate research projects, this will help to reverse the current trend of declining numbers of graduate students working on mineral deposit studies in Canada, which will further promote economic development in the primary resource sector of Northern Ontario and Canada.