



President's Report to Senate

May
2021





Office of the President

Lakehead in Top 100 of Times Higher Education Impact Rankings for second time

For the second year in a row, Lakehead University has placed in the top 100 of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

The THE Impact Rankings measure the societal impact of universities by evaluating an institutions' success in delivering the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The rankings measure the impact universities make to the world in the areas of poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice.

Lakehead finished 99th out of 1,115 universities from around the world, based on its performance in meeting the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Lakehead is the only primarily undergraduate university in Canada that participated in the 2021 THE Impact Rankings and one of only 26 universities from North America to be included in the top 100. The University was among just 260 universities from around the world that qualified to participate in all 17 SDGs.

Ranking ahead of several top comprehensive and research-intensive Canadian universities, Lakehead scored highly across many SDGs, including a top 10 ranking in SDG 15: Life on Land. The Life on Land SDG evaluates how universities support land ecosystems through education and action, how they contribute to sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and how they halt biodiversity loss by measuring their research on land ecosystems.

Lakehead also scored highly on other metrics, including a top 20 ranking in Life Below Water, a top 30 ranking in No Poverty and Zero Hunger, and a top 40 ranking for Reduced Inequalities and Clean Water and Sanitation.

Visit Lakehead University's Times Higher Education profile at timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings/lakehead-university.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



Lakehead University names new Vice-President, External Relations

Lakehead University's President and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Moira McPherson, is very pleased to announce that following an extensive national search, **Michael den Haan** has been appointed as the University's new Vice-President, External Relations.

Mr. den Haan brings 25 years of experience in fundraising, donor, alumni and volunteer engagement, communications, governance, and external relations. He most recently served as Vice-President, Advancement and Alumni Engagement at Simon Fraser University.

The University's External Relations portfolio plays a critical role in advancing Lakehead's strategic priorities by building and promoting key relationships with diverse internal and external audiences. As a member of Lakehead's Executive Team, den Haan will be responsible for providing a comprehensive, integrated approach to communications, marketing and web development, advancement and philanthropy, alumni engagement, and in close collaboration with government relations.

Mr. den Haan will be based at Lakehead University's Orillia campus while working closely with colleagues, alumni, donors and community members in Thunder Bay, Orillia, and around the world. Mr. den Haan will begin his role on May 5, 2021.



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Orillia Residence Students Celebrate the Year that was

On Thursday April 15th, Orillia Residence Students enjoyed a Covid-friendly "End-of-the-Year BBQ". Thirty-two residence students celebrated their academic and social achievements of this past year. These students formed a tight bond with each other during highly unusual times where social interactions were often only possible through virtual events. Despite the frequent and ever-changing challenges throughout the past eight months, the Orillia Residence Life Team held many activities this past year such as Virtual Bingo & Escape Rooms, DIY Stuffed Animals, Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and Virtual Pizza Parties and Board Games. The End-of-Year BBQ was generously sponsored by the Office of the Principal as a small gesture to reward and thank our residence students for their perseverance during the pandemic. Congratulations to our Residence Students!



Convocation 2021

This year's convocation ceremonies will be unlike any before. In light of the ongoing pandemic, we have chosen to host several virtual ceremonies to celebrate our graduates and honour numerous dignitaries. Approximately 2,600 students will graduate during individual faculties' convocation ceremonies being held from June 7 to 11. We will also host two main ceremonies — one for Lakehead Thunder Bay and another for Lakehead Orillia. Graduates from the class of 2020, whose convocation ceremonies were postponed, last year, due to COVID-19, have also been invited to attend this year's ceremonies.

Lakehead Thunder Bay's main ceremony (Saturday, May 29, at 11am EST) will recognize five exceptional people:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS



The Honourable Murray Sinclair

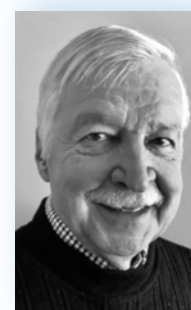


Rosalind Lockyer



Donald Paterson

FELLOWS OF THE UNIVERSITY



Seppo
Paivalainen

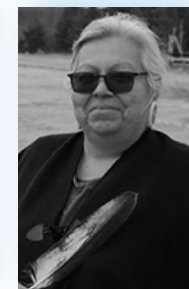


Vince
Mirabelli

Lakehead Orillia's ceremony (Saturday, June 5 at 11am EST) will honour one of the Canada's hockey legends and Hockey Hall of Fame member **Darryl Sittler** with a Doctor of Humane Letters, and confer the 2021 Civitas Award to **Trish Monague** ("Cedar Woman") from Beausoleil First Nation.

[Click here to view Lakehead Thunder Bay's Convocation media release...](#)

[Click here to view Lakehead Orillia's Convocation media release...](#)



For the complete schedule of Lakehead University's 2021 Convocation ceremonies, visit lakeheadu.ca/convocation.



Academic Excellence

Lakehead University School of Nursing Receives Seven-Year CASN Accreditation

Since 1965, Lakehead University has been known for excellence in nursing education. In September 2002, Lakehead University School of Nursing and Confederation College Nursing Program began a collaborative partnership to deliver the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) four-year program.

In 2004, both the Collaborative BScN and the Compressed BScN programs were granted candidacy status for the accreditation process by the Canadian Association Schools of Nursing (CASN) Accreditation Bureau. Since then, both programs and their associated educational units have successfully achieved accreditation status in 2009, 2018, and just recently in 2021.

Achieving a triple-header, especially undergoing an extensive review in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a tremendous feat worth celebrating!

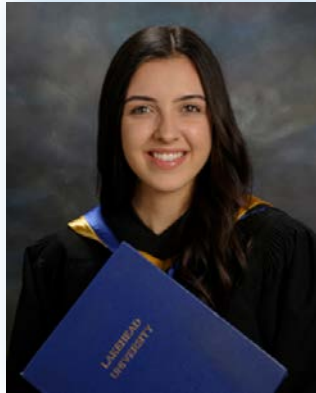
The long-term and successful retention of accreditation status speaks to the outstanding commitments of individuals and their respective educational units, as well as ongoing shared efforts toward excellence in nursing education.

This accomplishment represents an important milestone for Lakehead University BScN alumni, current students, faculty, staff, clinical instructors, and valued community/clinical partners to all be proud of.

Director of the School of Nursing, Dr. Karen McQueen states that, "It is through perseverance and hard work that the School has been able to accomplish so much. This accreditation is a living example of the university's motto: ad augusta per angusta (achievement through effort)."



2021 Robert Poulin Award



Nicole Costanzo is the recipient of this year's Robert Poulin Award, presented to a full-time Lakehead University student for their outstanding citizenship.

Nicole, who will graduate this year with an Honours Bachelor of Science, made many contributions during her time at Lakehead – to the university and to Thunder Bay. During much of her time at Lakehead University, Nicole was an instructor with Superior Science.

Superior Science encourages campers to pursue science as a career, and makes them more interested in education and learning in general, Nicole said.

Superior Science lessons and activities not only focus on important concepts of science, but also on creativity and innovation that allows campers to do their own exploring.

She has also served as the coordinator of Girls Club, for those in grades 2 to 7. Offered through Superior Science, Girls Club meets monthly through Zoom due to the global pandemic.

The girls made bath bombs with personalized scents and colours, juice crystal lip balm, and hand sanitizer – while learning the science behind why bath bombs fizz, how mixtures are made, and how hand sanitizer kills bacteria. The girls also learn about science by dissecting animals.

Because Girls Club recognizes how important it is for girls to have female role models, they also discussed Margaret Hamilton, a computer scientist whose written code helped humanity take its first steps on the moon.

As an instructor she travelled to Terrace Bay to deliver Superior Science programming at an elementary school.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Superior Science has used an online outreach platform to connect with schools in Thunder Bay, Dryden, Atikokan, and Nipigon.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



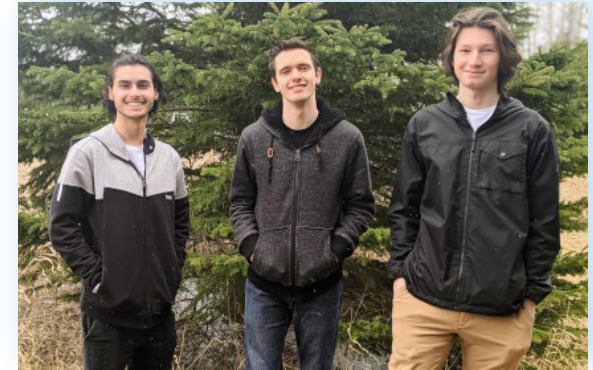
Software Engineering is Recognizing the Work of Second-year Technical Project Students

The Department of Software Engineering is proud to present the work of its second-year Technical Project students from this semester.

In particular, the department is recognizing the talent of three students: **Pearce Curle**, **Paul Stoppel**, and **Mason Tommasini**, who shared their unique engineering design solution to a real-world problem facing society.

A Vision-Based Occupancy Tracker System for Public Safety has been designed and prototyped, that uses computer vision to detect and record events triggered by motion of objects. This enables public places to control the number of people in an area, aiming to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

The student team aims to advance the prototype with additional features, such as facial recognition, and implement the system in a resource-limited hardware platform.



New Lakehead University Research Chairs

Lakehead University is pleased to announce the selection of faculty members **Dr. Connie Russell** (Education) and **Dr. Salama Ikki** (Electrical Engineering) as the newest Lakehead University Research Chairs (LURCs).

Dr. Connie Russell, Lakehead University Research Chair in Environmental Education, will study how humour could be used to better engage the public as well as learners in formal and informal settings with difficult issues like climate change, social injustices, and environmental degradation.

Dr. Salama Ikki, Lakehead University Research Chair in Wireless Communications, will undertake research focused on creating a unified theoretical framework that will lead in the application of artificial intelligence to telecommunications systems. Considering various practical constraints, his focus is on the development of sophisticated algorithms that will enable the realization of these smart systems in realistic environments.

These two chairs, whose terms last for two years, are the 15th and 16th LURCs to be appointed since the program commenced in 2008.

For more information on LURCs and other chairs, please visit the [Research and Innovation website](#).



Local and Global Partnerships

Lakehead University Juried Art Exhibition

The Lakehead University Student Juried show is one of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's most anticipated exhibitions of the year. This year featured over 50 works from students across Northern Ontario, Southern Ontario, and China.

Individual works spanned a variety of media including painting, drawings, textile, collage, sculpture, and ceramics. The representations of landscape, everyday objects, loved ones, the body, identity, and nature that each reflect back to us our experiences and the stories we tell about who we are and the world we live in.

[Click here to view all the submissions...](#)



Chris Rantala
Carpio Diem, 2020
This is a kinetic sculpture - click on link [here](#) to see a video of it in action
President of Lakehead University Award
Definitely Superior Artist Run Centre Award



Alyssa Angus
Water Warrior Autumn Peletier, 2021
Year 1, Major
David Bruzzese Award



CELL, Humanities 101, and Ontario Youth Naturalist Program Updates

The next Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) series begins on May 12 with *Moving On: Migration and Immigration through the Ages*. This series features Dr. Barrington Walker, the U.N.'s Rema Jamous Imseis, Kelly Toughill, Dr. Chandran Kukathas, and Dr. Augie Fleras. Dr. Kukathas, former head of the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, will be Zooming in from Singapore to discuss his brand-new book, *Immigration and Freedom* (Princeton UP, 2021).

The Humanities 101 program graduation will take place on May 17th. As a result of a partnership with Anishnabek Employment and Training Services, this year's class will include seven students from Simcoe County and ten students from indigenous communities in Northwestern Ontario. They have taken classes together online in a variety of disciplines with professors from both campuses, including Geology, Nursing, Art, and Education.

The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program has expanded its pilot program with our partners at Parks Canada and the Simcoe County District School Board, with 40 students at Elmvale Secondary School completing their four modules in May (Turtle Conservation stream). CELL secured grants with the Invasive Species Centre (\$1000) and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation (\$8300) to support this programming.

CELL is currently working on expanding programming with the Catholic board this September.

Lakehead Orillia Student Alumni Activities

Over this past academic year in spite of restrictions placed on us as a result of the pandemic, the alumni chapters based out of the Orillia campus have done a magnificent job connecting with both students and alumni in the area.

The Lakehead University Student Alumni Association (LUSAA), a group of 9 student volunteers, hosted 12 virtual events this year reaching students at both campuses. The events were fun and engaging and included creative ideas such as a hot chocolate bomb making workshop and a zombie apocalypse event.

The Simcoe County Chapter, a group of 8 alumni volunteers, hosted 10 events that included a virtual tour of two areas of the Toronto Zoo and a coffee roasting workshop. In addition to those 10 events, they also developed and implemented 4 virtual events for our homecoming that included a beer and cheese tasting and an 80's Music Bingo event. The chapter opened up their events to all alumni and was able to meet alumni from across the country.



First Cohort of *Ingenuity's* Ascend Accelerator Program

Ingenuity held open applications to all current Lakehead students and alumni (3 years) for their accelerator program, Ascend. The program is 12 weeks long and provides participants with up to \$7,500 per team to help develop their business idea. The program also provides mentorship and learning-based activities. Ingenuity had 10 people apply and eight participated in an interview. The interview panel selected four business ideas to move forward and begin the 12-week program which started on May 3, 2021.

The following is the first cohort of Ascend:

Mary Wokomah, Sunkissed Universe - Custom hand bags, loungewear. Mary is receiving \$3,700. Mary is a student in the Faculty of Business.

Marko Javorac, Titan - Marko and his team of 2 other Engineering students have an idea for data mining and providing business solutions to smaller local businesses. The Titan team will receive \$7,500.

Patrick Igbinijesu, Manilla - Money exchange app using blockchain and cryptocurrency. Manilla will receive \$7500.

Aje Meekis, Tristan St. Aubin, Business Name TBD - The team presented an idea for creating an Esports/Gaming platform to host competitions. Total of 3 Faculty of Business students on this team. They will receive \$3,700.

Promoting Internationalization with the Brazilian Association for International Education

Lakehead University's Research & Innovation team continues to virtually tour the world. Following the recent symposium with Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge (CCYK), the Research & Innovation team participated in the FAUBAI (Brazilian Association for International Education) virtual conference with Brazilian funding agencies and universities. Lakehead University and our partners in the Canada and Latin America Research Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium presented to FAUBAI on our research priorities and participated in three days of B2B events with potential partner universities.





Lakehead University Receives Record Number of Mitacs Globalink Interns

Lakehead University is receiving a record number of Mitacs Globalink Interns this summer. Fourteen interns will be working with 11 Lakehead faculty members on both campuses, with all internships being conducted virtually. The first two interns started their positions on May 3. Internships last 12 weeks, and students are directly funded by Mitacs. Interns receive a CAD \$6,000 award from Mitacs.



Two Lakehead Engineering undergraduate students have been offered a DAAD RISE internship in Germany. These internships are offered as in-person experiences in the summer or fall semester.

Lakehead's Meal Exchange Chapter and LUSU Food Resource Centre Receive Food Banks Canada Grant

The Lakehead University Meal Exchange Chapter (LUMXC) is very excited to announce that we were successful applicants for the 2020 Rural and Northern Capacity Fund. With the funds received we have been able to purchase \$12,000 in gift certificates from local businesses (Maltese Grocery, The Cheese Encounter, Thunder Bay Country Market, Superior Seasons) that support local food producers. These gift cards are currently being distributed to Lakehead University Thunder Bay students who are facing food insecurity and are in need of assistance.

This is why LUMXC is so grateful to be able to do this work. Knowing what we do has helped even one student and knowing that students are able to purchase healthy food that can sustain them makes the work worthwhile. We're so thankful that we've been able to make even a small difference in these students' lives. At LUMXC we anticipate that we will be increasing the number of grant applications that we will be making in the coming year. In doing so, we hope to be able to support more students dealing with food insecurity. We will also continue our work with our parent charity, Meal Exchange, to increase awareness and to address systemic issues which create inequities that lead to post-secondary student food insecurity. Only when food insecurity is eliminated for all and food literacy is enhanced for all will our work truly be done.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

First member of ill-fated 1845 Franklin expedition is identified by DNA analysis

The identity of the skeletal remains of a member of the 1845 Franklin expedition has been confirmed using DNA and genealogical analyses by a team of researchers from the University of Waterloo, Lakehead University, and Trent University. This is the first member of the ill-fated expedition to be positively identified through DNA.

DNA extracted from tooth and bone samples recovered in 2013 were confirmed to be the remains of Warrant Officer John Gregory, engineer aboard HMS Erebus. The results matched a DNA sample obtained from a direct descendant of Gregory.

The remains of the officer were found on King William Island, Nunavut. “We now know that John Gregory was one of three expedition personnel who died at this particular site, located at Erebus Bay on the southwest shore of King William Island,” says Douglas Stenton, adjunct professor of anthropology at Waterloo and co-author of a new paper about the discovery.

Sir John Franklin’s 1845 Northwest Passage expedition, with 129 sailors on two ships, Erebus and Terror, entered the Arctic in 1845. In April 1848, 105 survivors abandoned their ice-trapped ships in a desperate escape attempt. None would survive. Since the mid-19th century, skeletal remains of dozens of crew members have been found on King William Island, but none had been positively identified.

To date, the DNA of 26 other members of the Franklin expedition have been extracted from remains found in nine archaeological sites situated along the line of the 1848 retreat. “Analysis of these remains has also yielded other important information on these individuals, including their estimated age at death, stature, and health,” says Anne Keenleyside, Trent anthropology professor and co-author of the paper.

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Facial reconstruction of the individual identified through DNA analysis as John Gregory, HMS Erebus. (Photo by Diana Trepkov).



Lake Superior Climate Action Field School Launched

Researchers at Lakehead University, Algoma University, the University of Minnesota Duluth, the Michigan Technical University, and community partners of the Lake Superior Labs Network have received more than \$135,000 from Environment and Climate Change Canada to create the Lake Superior Climate Action Field School.

This August, the Field School will train a diverse group of young Canadians – poised to become regional and national climate leaders – through an experiential program of virtual workshops, community site visits, and events in coastal communities around the Lake Superior Watershed.

The Field School will be implemented using a hybrid virtual and on-site design that will include hubs in Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, Houghton, and Duluth. Participants in each hub will meet in person daily, conduct independent site visits, digitally document the experiences, and connect to share across hubs virtually for workshops.

The Field School will use hands-on, experiential learning to implement 14 knowledge and skill-building workshops and nine site visits focused on climate action across the Lake Superior watershed.

It will connect students with 24 climate leaders from the project's leadership team at the forefront of community-based climate action initiatives across the Lake Superior watershed.

Researchers will host a series of public events and webinars following the Field School (September 2021 - March 2022), to raise awareness about climate change and climate action in the Lake Superior watershed.

The team will also develop and disseminate a series of tools to catalyze and enable community-based climate action including a video series documenting knowledge and activities from the Lake Superior Climate Action Field School, a digital Lake Superior climate action storyboard, and 14 workshop modules that will be shared with community groups.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

