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ALUMNI

FALL/WINTER 2011 | VOLUME 28 NUMBER 2

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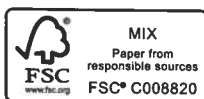
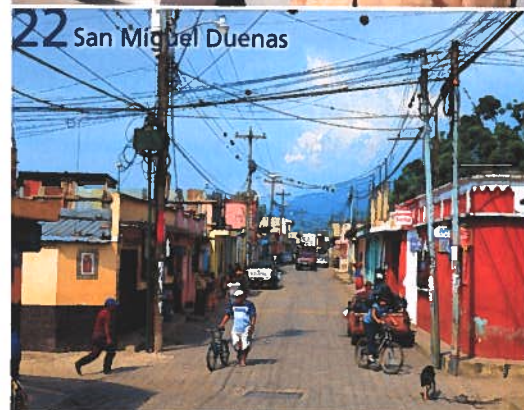
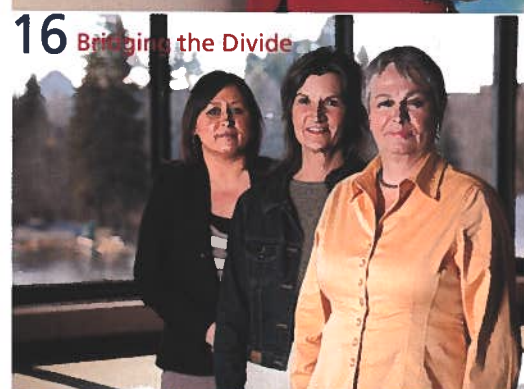
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Cover Photography by John Major, McLellan Group



# Editor's Message

BY TRACEY SKEHAN  
editor@lakeheadu.ca



## STUDENTS CHANGING THE WORLD

As a Lakehead alum, coming back to the Thunder Bay campus to fill in as editor with the Communications department has been an eye-opening experience. The University has grown so much in recent years and it's stimulating to see the changes up close. My window in the Braun Building gives me a direct view of the Ryan Building, where I had many of my classes as a political studies undergrad. But right next to it now sits the gleaming Advanced Technology and Academic Centre (ATAC) and across the way is the new Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

Even more than the physical changes to the campus, the most exciting thing has been being back in an environment crackling with ideas and activity. I've noticed that Lakehead students of different ages, interests, and fields of study are looking outward and becoming catalysts of change. Their fresh perspectives and fearless attitudes give the University its dynamic character. Whether it's building a home for a Guatemalan family, collaborating with First Nations to study climate change, ensuring the growth of the Mariposa Folk Festival, or winning the 2011 international bridge building competition, it's clear that our students are connecting wholeheartedly with the world. Their work on the economic development, environmental sustainability, and socio-cultural fronts, among others, is impressive.

Lakehead University is responding to the call from students for an education that allows them to fully engage with their communities. Faculty and staff in all areas are exploring ways that they can nurture the next generation of leaders as Lakehead moves toward a more inclusive educational approach that emphasizes social justice and community outreach.

This shift is closely linked to Lakehead's embrace of diversity as a priority – diversity in the backgrounds and goals of our students as well as diversity in the research and programming the University offers. Creating multiple pathways for students to attend University and intensifying efforts to reach out and support Aboriginal and international students are just two ways that Lakehead is showing students that it shares their commitment to changing the world.

As alumni, faculty, and staff read through the pages of the Magazine, they can be proud of the sense of purpose and responsibility that Lakehead is fostering in its students and the real contributions our students are making even before they graduate. ■

*Learn more about Lakehead's vision for the future by going online to read the Academic Plan 2012-2017 at [www.lakeheadu.ca](http://www.lakeheadu.ca) and the 2010-2011 Report to the Community at [www.report.lakeheadu.ca](http://www.report.lakeheadu.ca).*

# LAKEHEAD

FALL/WINTER 2011

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# President's Perspective

by Brian Stevenson, PhD  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Lakehead University

2010-2011 HAS BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR marked by historic firsts for me and for Lakehead University. My arrival began with the opening of the new LEED® building on the Orillia campus in September 2010, a testament to Lakehead's sincere commitment to environmental sustainability. This was followed 10 months later by the announcement of the Ontario government that the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities would fund the creation of a Faculty of Law at Lakehead's Thunder Bay campus.

Lakehead's Faculty of Law is the first faculty of law to be approved in Ontario in 42 years and it broadens the comprehensive nature of the University's academic offerings. Now, law will be added to the many other excellent professional programs Lakehead offers in the fields of business, education, engineering, medicine, natural resources management, nursing, and social work.

When we welcome our inaugural law students in 2013, they will be the first to experience our innovative curriculum offering specializations in Aboriginal law, natural resources law, and the requirements of sole proprietor and small legal firms.

Furthermore, I am pleased to report that Lakehead is now close to completing the work required to create a wireless campus. This work was initiated after informal consultations and an online survey/poll which showed that an overwhelming number of University stakeholders were in favour of the change. WiFi is now being installed in a sustainable and affordable way in select public spaces at both the Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses.

## LAKEHEAD INTERNATIONAL

Last June I made my first trip to China, along with Lakehead's International Affairs Special Advisor Tony Williams, to foster our ties with a country that is the largest source of our international students. We made great strides in attracting qualified



President Brian Stevenson and Lakehead University Orillia scholarship winner Ivy Janisse

applicants by initiating partnerships with the Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai Campus, and the Anhui Agricultural University. I also had the chance to visit our new recruitment office in Beijing and to enjoy the cultural life of this thriving modern country with ancient roots.

Our recruitment efforts are not only confined to China. We are actively seeking students from Mexico and the Middle East and we are targeting international students already studying in Canada who are looking for an exceptional and affordable education that will advance their careers. This September, it was rewarding to see our hard work pay off when I greeted more than 100 new students from around the world at Lakehead's International Welcome Orientation. (Continued on page 27)

**"In the true definition  
of 'inspire,'  
our students are  
breathing life into  
Lakehead University."**

— Brian Stevenson, PhD



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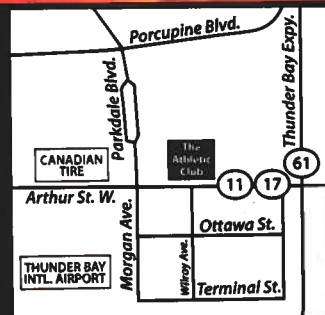
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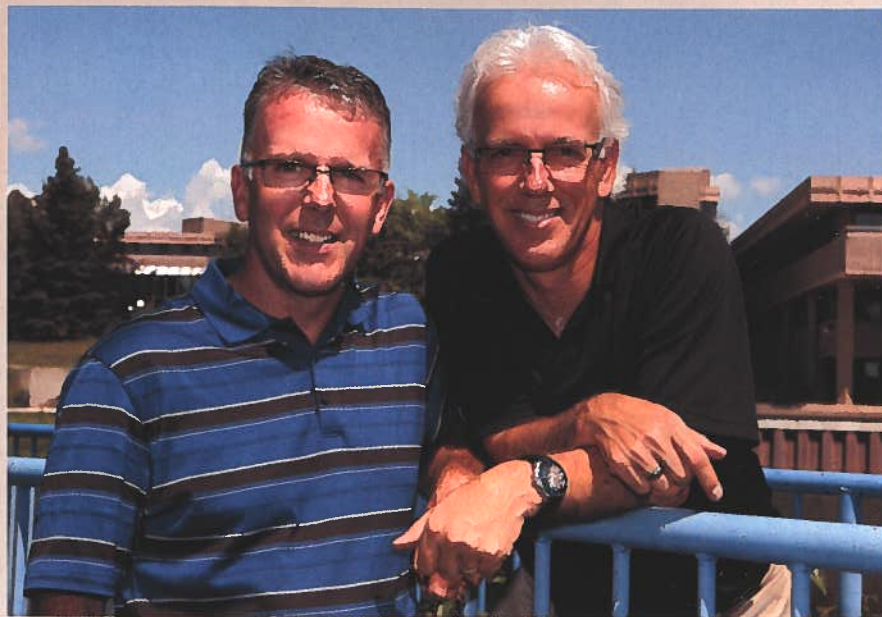


# Llewellyn Brothers' Endowments

## Give Students a Bright Future

**Jeff and Scott Llewellyn** are stellar examples of where a Lakehead education can take you. Says Jeff, "I've always been a fan of smaller universities and the quality of teaching they provide. Great professors and small class sizes defined my Lakehead experience." Jeff earned his Honours Bachelor of Commerce in 1982 followed by his CA designation in 1985. When he joined MNP (formerly Meyers Norris Penny, LLP) in 1989 he became responsible for much of the development of the firm's tax specialty practice. He has also been significantly involved in its evolution from a modest western Canadian accounting firm into the seventh largest accounting and business advisory services firm in Canada. Jeff is currently the managing director of the firm's corporate finance practice.

Like his brother, Scott found that "Class size is critical. I wouldn't have had nearly the education I had without the small class sizes at Lakehead. Finances also played a role in choosing Lakehead. I was able to live at home and scholarships helped to pay for my education." After graduating from the civil engineering program, Scott worked for Hamilton-area engineering firms before founding S. Llewellyn & Associates Ltd. in 2000, a municipal engineering company whose infrastructure projects generate approximately \$1 million in annual revenue.



Scott (Dipl Eng Tech'84, BEng'86) and Jeff (HBCom'82) enjoy a sunny afternoon by Lake Umbagog at Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus

### Opening Doors

The career achievements of the brothers make them staunch Lakehead supporters. Scott created a bursary, which later became a scholarship, to honour his late father's belief in the importance of postsecondary education. Since 2002, many civil engineering students have benefited from the *G. Bryce Llewellyn Memorial Scholarship* and Scott's direct contributions to the civil engineering department. Scott considers it "important to give, no matter what the amount, because it will make a difference."

Jeff, too, has a long history of philanthropic work with community organizations and says that "Setting up a Lakehead endowment was on my list of things to do for quite some time." Establishing the *Jeff Llewellyn Graduate Scholarship in Business* in 2010 is another way that Jeff is strengthening the many communities he is connected to personally and professionally. "Sharing your success with people who may not have the resources is an important message that I'd like to get across to alumni," he adds. ■

Reconnect with Lakehead by contacting The Office of University Advancement at (807) 343-8155 or by e-mail at: [advancement@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:advancement@lakeheadu.ca) and make a true difference to the future of Lakehead University students. We will work with you to create an individual or corporate giving plan that fulfills your vision for the University.

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# Campus News



Over the past four years, Lakehead University has partnered with the Mariposa Folk Foundation to present its innovative ArtsU program

ArtsU is a series of creative workshops presented in cooperation with Lakehead University Orillia during the week preceding the Mariposa Folk Festival. The program has become more popular each year with over a dozen courses, ranging from printmaking and performance art to puppetry and home recording.

"ArtsU is a great way for the University to open its doors and allow people to see what the University has to offer," says Linda Rodenburg, a faculty member at the Orillia campus and a founding member of

the ArtsU committee. "One of the goals of the Mariposa Folk Foundation is to offer educational experiences to the community – especially in a hands-on, workshop format. At Lakehead, we offer access to education that uses an inquiry-based learning approach that promotes active participation," explains Rodenburg. "ArtsU is a great partnership for us."

This year, ArtsU workshops continued during the Festival and included professors

Thamara Laredo and Chris Murray in "Mix It Up!" a demonstration about the science of art. The Orillia campus was also part of the Festival's "Community Village," where visitors could find information about community services.

Read more about the Mariposa Folk Festival on page 26. ■



▲ Lakehead University Orillia Campus Dean Kim Fedderson introduces an afternoon workshop featuring Murray McLauchlan and Ron Hynes



▲ The information booth became a gathering place for the Lakehead community: (l to r) Lakehead University Orillia Advisory Committee member Dennis Smith, Professor Herman van den Berg, Professor Thamara Laredo, and student Emma MacDonald, along with Derek Blanchet





◀ Professor  
Thamara  
Laredo (centre),  
with ArtsU  
committee  
members Tom  
Johnstone and  
Susan Braedley

Chris Tomasini, Orillia  
campus librarian and active  
transportation advocate, plays  
a tune while volunteering at the  
bicycle lock-up area



▲ Wolfie delighted kids and adults alike  
as he wandered through the Festival

## GETTING FIT AT THE “Y”

Lakehead University Orillia students now have access to a wide range of athletic facilities and services, thanks to an innovative partnership between the University and the YMCA of Simcoe/Muskoka.

Effective September 2011, all full-time students have membership privileges at YMCA facilities throughout Simcoe/Muskoka as part of their existing Athletic fees. The Student Athletic Fee was instituted last year at the Orillia campus to support recreation activities, intramurals, competitive sports, and special events. While many students took advantage of the programs offered, some students were interested in additional opportunities. “The number one comment from students concerning athletics was the need for

access to a gym facility,” said Liz Ross, athletics and recreation facilitator.

Without its own athletics facility, or plans to develop one in the near future, it made sense for the Orillia campus to partner with an existing facility in the community. The YMCA became an obvious choice because of its locations throughout Simcoe County and Muskoka. “This is particularly important because many of our students are commuters who travel to Orillia from throughout Central Ontario,” says Ross. ■



Frank Cappadocia

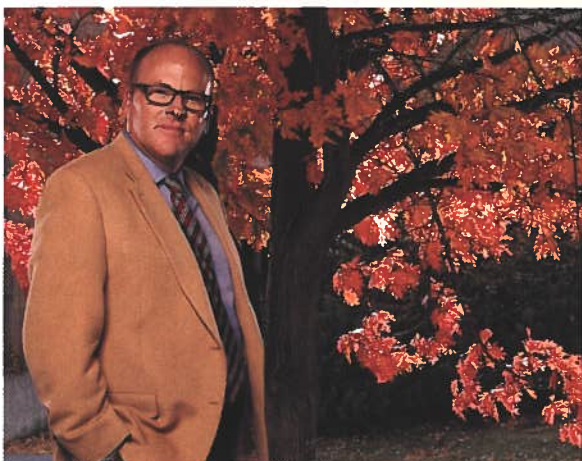
“Lakehead approached the YMCA because of its mandate to offer a service to the community and to make people better citizens.”

Frank Cappadocia, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs,  
Lakehead University Orillia

YMCA



# Campus News



| Rod Hanley, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)

## PROVOST APPOINTED

Since starting his new position as provost and vice-president (academic) on August 1, 2011, Rod Hanley has been actively working with the Lakehead University

community to articulate a sustainable future for Lakehead. One of his first actions was the creation of the Deputy Provost position (filled by Professor Moira McPherson) because, he says, "Splitting some of these duties between two people allows more time for creative activities and for helping to establish the strategic direction of the University."

Hanley's breadth of administrative experience as the University of

Winnipeg's dean of science and as the chair of the Department of Earth System Science and Policy at the University of North Dakota makes him well-equipped to handle his new role. During his time at Winnipeg,

Hanley moved forward the development of the \$80-million Richardson College for the Environment and Science Complex. He brought an entrepreneurial spirit to his faculty and built coalitions between academia, industry, and government.

Intense curiosity and a passion for science are hallmarks of Hanley's career. He received a BSc and an MS in Environmental Science from Eastern Illinois University before completing his PhD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas. He is a respected researcher and professor in the areas of biology, environmental science, and entomology. Of his next steps as the new provost and vice-president (academic), Hanley says, "Formulating the story of Lakehead University and getting it out to students is critical. We need to let them know that we are an excellent place for them to get their postsecondary education." ■



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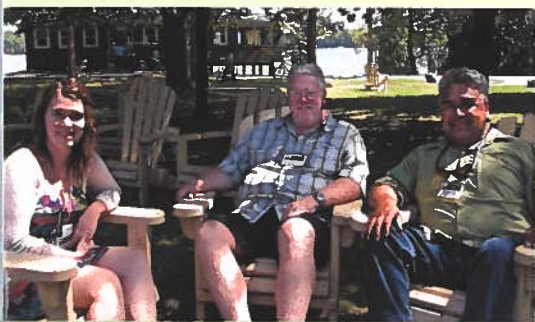
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(l-r): Kaylen Leonienko, Professor Doug West, and Tim Michano relax by Lake Couchiching

## COUCHICHING INSTITUTE

Lakehead students Tim Michano and Kaylen Leonienko attended The Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs' 80th annual conference as part of a new learning partnership between the Institute and the University. The Institute, which describes itself as Canada's oldest and most influential non-partisan forum on public affairs, hosted the August 4-7 conference "From the Ground Up: Civic Engagement in Our Time" at Geneva Park on Lake Couchiching, near Orillia. Doug West, professor of interdisciplinary studies and political science at the Orillia campus, helped develop the new partnership which will also incorporate a community service learning component and a series of public "Couchiching Round Tables" taking place throughout the year and featuring special guest speakers.

For more information about The Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs and the annual conference, visit [www.couch.ca](http://www.couch.ca)

## LIVE & LEARN CAMPAIGN HITS THE BIG SCREEN

Lakehead took a fresh approach to its recruiting campaign with a short film dramatizing the adventures awaiting prospective Lakehead students. The 30-second video, shot and edited in the style of a movie trailer by Thunder Bay's Imaginarium Studio Inc., is being screened from September 23 to December 15, 2011 at every Cineplex screen in Barrie, Newmarket, Orillia, and Thunder Bay. The video is one component of a broader Live & Learn campaign targeted to high school students in Central and Northern Ontario.

View the video online at [mylakehead.ca](http://mylakehead.ca) ■



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# Campus News



*Artist rendering of the cafeteria/bookstore*

## LIVING AND LEARNING AT NEW ORILLIA FACILITIES

It's coming together! Lakehead University Orillia now offers a more complete student experience. Construction of the 271-bed residence and cafeteria/bookstore next to the Academic Building is being completed this fall. The new

buildings meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) standards, similar to the Academic Building that opened last year. These facilities will enable the Orillia campus to attract more students from beyond commuting distance. Currently, a large proportion of the student population lives in Orillia and its immediate vicinity. ■

## FACULTY OF LAW TO OPEN IN 2013

The planning and approval process for the Faculty of Law took a giant leap forward on July 5, 2011 when Ontario's Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) announced that it would fully fund Lakehead's newest graduate program. The MTCU is also supporting the Faculty of Law by investing \$1.5 million in capital funds to refurbish the former Port Arthur Collegiate Institute building in Thunder Bay, the future home of the Faculty.

## CROSS BORDER RESEARCH

The research partnership between Lakehead University and the University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) continues to grow two years after its 2009 inception. This joint venture was launched so that researchers at both universities could leverage their knowledge and resources in common research areas to pursue training and funding opportunities as well as the commercialization of their ideas.

When Lakehead/UMD Research Collaboration members gathered for their annual meeting in Thunder Bay this past June, they were energized by the announcement of an International Research Collaboration Grant that will help Lakehead researchers attract funding for international research.

In addition to attending a networking dinner to share ideas and news of their progress, researchers participated in workshops on a variety of topics including environmental cleanup,

sustainable engineering, biomass research, ecosystem management, large lakes research, and a proposal for a collaborative MBA program. The cross border research collaborative has four active projects under its aegis including the product development of Thermowood Technology, a drying process that makes wood resistant to fungus and rot. ■



*UMD Chancellor Lynn Black (centre) enjoys a lively exchange of views with cross border researchers at the conference's networking dinner*

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# Ready, Set, Connect

*Barbara Eccles, Manager,  
Technology Transfer  
Lakehead University*

“IT’S A BIT LIKE BEING SIMON COWELL.”

That’s how Barbara Eccles, manager of technology transfer in Lakehead’s Economic Development and Innovation Office (EDIO), describes her job. Which is odd, because, at first blush, Eccles comes across as the polar opposite of the cranky American Idol judge. In contrast to Cowell’s dour abrasiveness, Eccles practically radiates enthusiasm and positive energy. A self-described “people person,” she punctuates her sentences with laughs and pokes fun at herself relentlessly.

What Eccles and Cowell do have in common, however, is a steely eye for potential. But while Cowell seeks out pop music’s Next Big Thing, Eccles is on the lookout for Lakehead University’s next big promising technology. It’s her mandate to help spot the inventions created by the University’s researchers, picking out the ideas with commercial viability, and helping translate them into income-generating businesses. Unlike Cowell, however, the least favourite part of her job is letting people down. “You need to be very honest with people, and say, ‘You know

what, wonderful idea — and, unfortunately, somebody had that idea five years ago.’”

The EDIO provides the services Lakehead University researchers need to license their technologies and develop industry partnerships and sponsors. As a lawyer, Eccles helps handle the myriad legal issues involved in starting up a business: intellectual property management, business and labour contracts, raising capital, corporate governance set-up and monitoring, employment contracts, equity and debt financing transactions, grant applications, lease agreements, negotiating with universities, and more.

Thus far, Eccles has had an impressive track record for identifying winners. She’s been on board since Lakehead began its technology transfer program approximately a dozen years ago. During that time, she’s helped shepherd a half-dozen or so companies from idea to reality, and helped to develop the University’s profile as a research institute. In the process, she’s also helped to put Thunder Bay — and, by extension, Northwestern Ontario — on the map as a growing hub for biotechnology and business development.

by Susan Goldberg

## Lakehead University Start-Up Companies

- MEAGlow Ltd.
- Molecular World Inc.
- Strength Assessment Inventory
- Bitcold Technology Inc.
- Mitomics Inc.  
(formerly Genesis Genomics)
- Lake Superior Centre for Regenerative Medicine



Take, for example, her first project: Mitomics Inc., founded in 2001 as Genesis Genomics. Eccles's relationship with the company began when two professors walked into her office looking for some advice on a confidentiality agreement. She was intrigued by their concept; within a year Mitomics had incorporated and raised a couple of million dollars from angel investors. Today, it employs 30 people in Thunder Bay, Colorado, and Newcastle, England, and was recently selected by "Canada's Top 10 Competition" as one of the top 10 companies in the life sciences sector for 2010/2011. Eccles stayed on with the company until 2005 as general counsel and secretary, participating in every aspect of its incorporation and development.

"Barb brought best practices to the table in terms of legal expertise and knowledge of the technology transfer world," says Bruce Labelle, special advisor and past chair of the Mitomics board, and vice president and senior investment adviser, BMO Nesbitt Burns. But, he says, she also brought a necessary optimism and tenacity to the process. "It's a grind," he says, of starting a business from scratch. "It takes a lot of time and effort and persistence. Barb has the ability to look past challenges and find solutions."

"I found Barb to be an extremely outgoing and helpful person, a real facilitator," says Professor Butcher, chief scientist of MEAGlow Ltd., another, more recent Lakehead technology transfer initiative. "She helped us establish ties to granting agencies and recommended many other contacts needed to establish the business." Today, the company employs seven engineers and physicists (including two graduate engineers from Lakehead), with plans to add another ten to fifteen staff members.

Perhaps Eccles is so suited to the business of technology transfer because she very nearly ended up on the other side of its equation. A Lakehead alumna, she earned

an undergraduate degree in physics, with a concentration in energy and fuel science. "My career plan was to get my PhD in physics and then come back to Lakehead and be a professor," she recalls.

As a master's student in physics at McMaster University, though, Eccles discovered that she wasn't suited for life in the labs. "Research is a wonderful profession, but I found that it was fairly isolating. I saw myself as more of a people person. I needed more human contact."

Law, Eccles decided, would be a better fit. She graduated from the University of Toronto's law school and was called to the bar in 1996. In 2009, she was awarded a Master of Laws with distinction in international commercial law, from Northumbria University in the U.K.

Her current position, she happily admits, offers the best of all worlds. She has direct access to some of the most exciting and innovative scientific discoveries

Barb Eccles has helped to put Thunder Bay on the map as a growing hub for biotechnology and business development



Richard Khoury, assistant professor, software engineering, and Dr. Arnold Kim, lead hospitalist with the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, discuss their startup company Bitcold Technology Inc., with Barb Eccles



coming out of Lakehead's laboratories, satisfying the research-oriented part of her personality. Then, the "people person" in her gets to connect those discoveries to the wider community. Add to the mix the fact that she teaches law to students in Lakehead's business faculty, and the job seems tailor-made for her. "I've got the law, and I can mix that in with the science and the business, with the teaching thrown in. It's a true generalist job, and that really appeals to me, being able to mix all those different pieces together."

And mixing different people together is really what it comes down to. A key piece of the technology transfer industry is the ability to connect the right people and companies and — hopefully — watch the sparks fly. "They talk about technology transfer as a contact sport," says Eccles. "It's all about building the networks."

Another key partner in the EDIO's network-building project is Bruce Holm, the office's manager of industry liaison. Holm, also a Lakehead alumnus, brings decades of entrepreneurial, sales, and marketing experience to the table: In



Bruce Holm

1989, he founded MicroAge Computer Centres in Thunder Bay, growing the business from three to seventeen employees and becoming the largest supplier of computer hardware and services in Northwestern Ontario. One of Holm's particular roles at the EDIO is to establish and manage relationships between faculty, industry partners, and

funding agencies. "Bruce is wonderful at finding the right companies and industry contacts and bringing them to the table," says Eccles. "He's also a very, very awesome keyboard player."

It's not a throwaway remark. The two are members of two industry bands: The Infringers, made up of members of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), of which Eccles is currently Canadian vice president; and Final ACCT, where members of the Alliance for the Commercialization of Canadian Technologies come together to jam. Ever the generalist, Eccles plays bass guitar, keyboards, and flute, as well as contributing vocals. Each year, The Infringers play AUTM's annual conference — "some Beatles, Van Morrison, CCR — wedding music stuff," Eccles laughs.

## MEAGlow Technology

### A Patent for Success

MEAGlow Ltd. is a success story whose environmentally friendly method of growing crystals to create semiconductors is on the verge of gaining patent approval and worldwide recognition. Semiconductors are essential to modern life, having applications in a multitude of things we use every day including light bulbs, computers, and cars. Unfortunately, most methods of producing semiconductors are based on technologies using hydrogen, pure ammonia, and other harmful substances. But MEAGlow (migration enhanced afterglow) technology is "low-temperature, non-toxic, and hydrogen-free," says Dimiter Alexandrov, a Lakehead electrical engineering professor and MEAGlow partner. "Eliminating these materials means that production costs of devices can be cut dramatically." Moreover, according to the EDIO, an estimated 20% of the world's energy

is used for lighting but switching to more energy efficient LED lighting, one of the applications of MEAGlow technology, could cut energy use in half.

That's why the opening of MEAGlow's state-of-the-art semiconductor research laboratory this past June was greeted with such fanfare. The lab houses a semiconductor reactor that manufactures crystalline film for use in diverse products for national and international clients. The potential of MEAGlow technology to transform the semiconductor industry has attracted widespread interest. FedNor demonstrated its belief in MEAGlow by investing more than \$266,000 in its lab. FedNor Minister Tony Clement praised MEAGlow saying, "this project is a fine



Dimiter Alexandrov

example of what can be accomplished when the public sector partners with industry."

The company has also received over half-a-million dollars from the Emerging Technology Program of the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation. These major funding contributions will allow MEAGlow to move forward with commercializing its technology and to consolidate Northwestern Ontario's reputation as a research nexus. ■



"If it were American Idol, we'd be voted off. It sounds like such frivolous activity: getting together and jamming. But the really funny thing is that I've had two fairly good leads come out of it."

One of those leads has led to Green Concrete, a technology developed by Lakehead professors Lionel Catalan and Stephen Kinrade. Eccles thought that the technology might be a good fit for GreenCentre Canada in Kingston, Ontario, one of several centres of excellence for commercialization and research (CECRs) set up by the federal government four years or so ago to fund Canadian innovation. Bandmate Rui Resendes (bass guitar) happens to be executive director of the Kingston, Ontario-based centre, which brings together academic researchers and industry partners to develop environmentally friendlier alternatives to traditional chemical products and manufacturing processes. Eccles put the two parties in touch, and "today, Green Concrete is one of the premier technologies in their portfolio," she says.

"The kind of work that Barb and Bruce are doing is critical," says Lionel Catalan. "Without an office of technology transfer, it's just a paper published or a thesis

written, but it doesn't make an impact in real life. With technology transfer, [university researchers' work] can actually make an impact."

And that impact resonates. Mitomics, for example, says Labelle, "was in large part responsible for the emergence and successful development of the biotech industry in Thunder Bay." The very existence of Mitomics in Thunder Bay, he says, paved the way for other biotech companies and institutions to attract capital and high-quality personnel and set up shop in the region. He cites the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, in particular its relationship with industry partner Philips Health Care: "When Philips came on, one of the deciding criteria was that Mitomics was located here. The University can be more successful in attracting top researchers because they see that there's depth here. It helps the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre attract high-quality physicians who are interested in cross appointments with research and medical practice. So Mitomics' footprint is quite small, but its influence is big. I don't think you can overestimate the impact of having it in Thunder Bay."

"The University doesn't live in a vacuum," agrees Rui Wang, Lakehead's vice-president of research, economic development, and innovation. "It's a member of the community it serves." But that community, Wang notes, has changed dramatically in recent years, the result of shifts in economics and demographics in an increasingly connected, globalized world. Today, the University's role in community and economic development must take both local and international perspectives.

"Lakehead University's initial mandate was 'from the North, for the North,'" says Wang. "Now, Lakehead must be 'from the North, for the North, but far beyond the North.' Today, our academic excellence serves the North, yes, but it also serves the world."

And serving both the region and the world is precisely what Barb Eccles, with colleagues like Bruce Holm, is doing: helping to create local companies with worldwide impact, and retaining Lakehead's highly qualified graduates in ventures that compete on a global stage. Simon Cowell, eat your heart out. ■



Rui Wang, Barb Eccles, Rui Resendes, Lionel Catalan, Stephen Kinrade, Bruce Holm, and Brian Stevenson celebrate Lakehead's first external technology license agreement for a cement additive that shows potential to strengthen concrete and reduce greenhouse gas emissions





| First Nations climate change research partners: (l-r) Carol Audet, Denise Golden, and Professor Peggy Smith

## Bridging the Divide

### Climate Change Researcher Joins Forces with First Nations Communities

by Jason Dampier

Denise Golden recounts the hospitality she experienced at a fly-in Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN) community earlier this year while conducting research for her PhD in Forest Sciences. During a cold winter night the community's diesel generator failed, leaving the community without heat, electricity, or running water. Over the night the community pulled together to ensure everyone was taken care of. The next morning Golden was craving coffee and went out for a walk to warm up. While on her walk, she met up with a local woman whose home was equipped with a portable generator, and was invited in for some coffee.

Denise Golden's experience that cold January morning helps illustrate the

changes that are taking place between researchers and First Nations community members. According to Carol Audet, NAN Director of Lands and Resources, "In the past, the relationship between academic researchers and First Nations communities has been sketchy at best." Research did not emphasize consent and was sometimes used for the researcher's own benefit, without regard for the communities' benefit.

Golden's work is supervised by Dr. Peggy Smith, associate professor in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management as well as Carol Audet. All three women are working to ensure that NAN communities will benefit from the research while providing information for Golden's doctoral research.

During Golden's field work, she travelled over 6,000 km, staying in ten of the 49 NAN communities. Over this three-month period she conducted 45 interviews which spanned a geographic area of over 110,000 square kilometres. Her research took her to communities from near the northern Manitoba border to the eastern James Bay coast.

Denise Golden's research is focused on studying the effects of climate change on the land and the community members who rely so dearly on these lands. A two-way knowledge exchange was part of the research project design from the onset. For example, Golden would learn of novel climate observations from traditional land users, and she, in turn, would share



## Nishnawbe Aski Nation Communities



the latest scientific knowledge on climate change and boreal forest carbon cycles with them. Through this approach, Golden hopes that the research will bridge First Nations and scientific views.

Another anticipated outcome of Golden's research is to better equip the communities in their own land management decisions and climate change adaption activities. In late 2010, the Ontario government passed The Far North Act in order to, among other things, address climate change. According to Audet, the Act will have a negative effect on far north First Nations communities, as it sets aside and limits their traditional lands as protected areas. Golden points out that permanent road building may not be permitted through some areas. Currently, ice roads in winter are the only option for the economical transportation of goods and services

into these remote communities – and the seasonal roads are already being compromised by a changing climate.

Golden also hopes her research will find new ways to look at climate change issues. It brings First Nations' voices and perspectives into the climate change discussion, which is often overlooked. "They live in the forest, know the land, and understand there are changes going on there. Their knowledge may shed light on things that science has not considered," says Golden. Part of the research is documenting those observed changes. Many of the land users whom Golden met are observing changes that are corroborated by climate researchers. "What is coming out in the scientific reports, you also hear in the communities," she says. ■

Editors Note: Funding for this project was provided by the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Professor Harvey Lemelin, Lakehead University SSHRC Research Chair in Parks and Protected Areas, NAN, and the communities Denise Golden visited.



Jason Dampier (Dipl For '98, BSc '98, MScF '06) is one of several Lakehead students taking part in SPARK – Lakehead, a student writing program sponsored by The Chronicle-Journal.





# Profile

## Joy Harvie Maclaren

A "Quiet Activist" whose passion for education and deep Orillia roots have given rise to the new Harvie Legacy Library



| Academic Building

by Kathy Hunt

JOY HARVIE MACLAREN'S FAMILY HAS A STRONG tradition of championing the Canadian values of education, equality, and social justice and it's a tradition that Joy has spent her life advancing. So when she learned that Lakehead was opening a new campus in Orillia that was partially situated on her family's former homestead, she was immediately intrigued. "I went to Orillia to meet with Kim Fedderson, Orillia campus dean, to hear about the University's plans," says Joy.

"Kim showed me the new campus site, then just a stake in the ground." Joy was impressed with the idea of a university being established where the Harvie family had lived and worked. Her great-great-grandfather, Scottish pioneer John Harvie, had immigrated to the Orillia area in 1832 and purchased a plot of land that became known as the Harvie Settlement.

The Harvie's history of promoting education began in 1860 with the establishment of the Harvie Settlement schoolhouse, a small log structure that served local schoolchildren. "The Harvies understood the value of education, no matter what family sacrifices were entailed," explains Joy. "Education has been a family tradition ever since."

Joy's father, Eric Harvie, who was born in Orillia, became an ardent proponent of Canadian history, arts, and education, with a particular interest in Aboriginal culture.

| Harvie Legacy Library



shai gil  
FOTOGRAFIA





| Joy Harvie Maclaren

He established himself as a successful lawyer and business person after moving west to Calgary, and became known as the “man who gave it all back.” His contributions included supporting the City of Orillia, where a section of the Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital is named the “Harvie Wing.” He is also a member of the City of Orillia Hall of Fame.

Born in 1922 and raised in Calgary, Joy, a fifth generation Harvie, has followed in her father’s footsteps as an outspoken advocate not only of higher education, but also of minority rights and the goals of Aboriginal people across the country. Given her background, it is not surprising that Joy took on the project of nurturing the growth of the Orillia campus with enthusiasm and unswerving focus. “This is important for the area,” she says. “It serves a great need, as it is the only university campus in the region.”

Once Joy had a sense of the requirements of the new campus, she set out, along with her cousin Patricia Harvie, to gather family support. “Here was an opportunity for the extended Harvie family to honour its heritage and to continue the Harvie legacy of promoting education,” observed Joy. The cousins were successful in raising \$100,000 to support a library to help Lakehead students fulfill their educational aspirations.

As two of Lakehead University Orillia’s earliest patrons, Joy and Patricia were

thrilled to be invited to the grand opening ceremonies at the new campus in September 2010. This fall, their hard work will be recognized with a special dedication and naming ceremony of the Harvie Legacy Library in the new Academic Building.

Lakehead is privileged to count Joy as one of its most important benefactors. She has enriched Canada’s educational and cultural landscape by creating scholarships, a research chair, and the New Sun Conference on Aboriginal Arts. In 1995, Joy was given the honorary title of “New Sun” by the Mohawk, Ojibway, and Blackfoot in recognition of her work for First Nations communities across Canada. Joy has also helped a wide range of organizations become successful, including Canadian Guide Dogs for the Blind, the Hospice at May Court in Ottawa, and the community foundations of both Ottawa and Calgary.

At Carleton University’s 2011 spring convocation ceremonies, Joy was awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Carleton University and her advancement of Aboriginal and Inuit culture and education. Joy also holds an honorary doctorate from her alma mater, McGill University, received for promoting postsecondary education for Canadian Aboriginal students, as well as for being a “quiet activist.”

Her remarkable accomplishments were recently celebrated with her appointment to the Order of Canada. In May 2011, Joy accepted this prestigious award, which recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community, and service to the nation. “Joy is a vibrant and remarkable woman,” says Kim Fedderson, “and we are honoured to now have her family’s exceptional history live on within our new campus.” ■

## The Story Behind the “Century Plant”

A Christmas cactus plant that had been in the Harvie family for more than a century is back home in Orillia, where it lived since the 1870s. It had been passed down through the generations and is now being lovingly cared for by a faculty member at Lakehead’s Orillia campus. In 2010, the year of the opening of the new Orillia campus, Patricia Harvie presented the plant to Orillia Campus Dean Kim Fedderson. She felt it was appropriate that the plant be returned to Orillia, complete with watering can, care instructions, and an explanatory plaque. Alice den Otter, professor of interdisciplinary studies, happened to notice the plant in the dean’s office and admired it. The plant is now thriving in den Otter’s bright corner office. “It’s a remarkable plant,” she says, “and I am honoured to have the responsibility for its care.” ■



Professor Alice den Otter



# Come Out & Support Lakehead Athletes

thunderwolves.ca

VARSITY SPORT SCHEDULE ~ 2011/12 HOME & AWAY GAMES

Team	Date	Time	Venue	VS	Team	Date	Time	Venue	VS
Volleyball	Fri Nov 4, 2011	6:00pm	GUELPH	Lakehead	W. Basketball	Sat Jan 14, 2012	6:00pm	LAURIER	Lakehead
Hockey	Fri Nov 4, 2011	7:30pm	LAURIER	Lakehead	Volleyball	Sat Jan 14, 2012	7:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Brock
Volleyball	Sat Nov 5, 2011	4:00pm	GUELPH	Lakehead	Hockey	Sat Jan 14, 2012	7:30pm	UOIT	Lakehead
Hockey	Sat Nov 5, 2011	7:30pm	LAURIER	Lakehead	M. Basketball	Sat Jan 14, 2012	8:00pm	LAURIER	Lakehead
Volleyball	Sun Nov 6, 2011	1:00pm	McMASTER	Lakehead	W. Basketball	Fri Jan 20, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	McMaster
W. Basketball	Fri Nov 11, 2011	6:00pm	QUEEN'S	Lakehead	Hockey	Fri Jan 20, 2012	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Western
Volleyball	Fri Nov 11, 2011	7:00pm	LAKEHEAD	York	M. Basketball	Fri Jan 20, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	McMaster
Hockey	Fri Nov 11, 2011	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Guelph	Volleyball	Sat Jan 21, 2012	2:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Queen's
M. Basketball	Fri Nov 11, 2011	8:00pm	QUEEN'S	Lakehead	W. Basketball	Sat Jan 21, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	McMaster
W. Basketball	Sat Nov 12, 2011	2:00pm	QUEEN'S	Lakehead	Hockey	Sat Jan 21, 2012	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Western
Volleyball	Sat Nov 12, 2011	7:00pm	LAKEHEAD	York	M. Basketball	Sat Jan 21, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	McMaster
Hockey	Sat Nov 12, 2011	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Guelph	Volleyball	Sun Jan 22, 2012	2:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Queen's
M. Basketball	Sat Nov 12, 2011	4:00pm	QUEEN'S	Lakehead	W. Basketball	Fri Jan 27, 2012	6:00pm	WINDSOR	Lakehead
W. Basketball	Fri Nov 18, 2011	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Toronto	Hockey	Fri Jan 27, 2012	7:15pm	BROCK	Lakehead
Hockey	Fri Nov 18, 2011	7:30pm	WINDSOR	Lakehead	M. Basketball	Fri Jan 27, 2012	8:00pm	WINDSOR	Lakehead
M. Basketball	Fri Nov 18, 2011	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Toronto	W. Basketball	Sat Jan 28, 2012	6:00pm	WINDSOR	Lakehead
Volleyball	Sat Nov 19, 2011	2:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Windsor	Hockey	Sat Jan 28, 2012	7:30pm	WESTERN	Lakehead
W. Basketball	Sat Nov 19, 2011	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Ryerson	M. Basketball	Sat Jan 28, 2012	8:00pm	WINDSOR	Lakehead
Hockey	Sat Nov 19, 2011	7:30pm	WINDSOR	Lakehead	Volleyball	Thurs Feb 2, 2012	7:00pm	OTTAWA	Lakehead
M. Basketball	Sat Nov 19, 2011	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Ryerson	W. Basketball	Fri Feb 3, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Waterloo
Volleyball	Sun Nov 20, 2011	2:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Western	Hockey	Fri Feb 3, 2012	7:15pm	BROCK	Lakehead
W. Basketball	Fri Nov 25, 2011	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Ottawa	M. Basketball	Fri Feb 3, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Waterloo
Hockey	Fri Nov 25, 2011	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Laurier	Volleyball	Sat Feb 4, 2012	6:00pm	WATERLOO	Lakehead
M. Basketball	Fri Nov 25, 2011	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Ottawa	W. Basketball	Sat Feb 4, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Waterloo
W. Basketball	Sat Nov 26, 2011	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Carleton	Hockey	Sat Feb 4, 2012	7:30pm	WESTERN	Lakehead
Hockey	Sat Nov 26, 2011	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Laurier	M. Basketball	Sat Feb 4, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Waterloo
M. Basketball	Sat Nov 26, 2011	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Carleton	Volleyball	Sun Feb 5, 2012	TBA	RYERSON	Lakehead
W. Basketball	Fri Dec 2, 2011	6:00pm	YORK	Lakehead	W. Basketball	Fri Feb 10, 2012	6:00pm	BROCK	Lakehead
M. Basketball	Fri Dec 2, 2011	8:00pm	YORK	Lakehead	Volleyball	Fri Feb 10, 2012	7:00pm	LAKEHEAD	RMC
W. Basketball	Sat Dec 3, 2011	6:00pm	LAURENTIAN	Lakehead	Hockey	Fri Feb 10, 2012	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Brock
M. Basketball	Sat Dec 3, 2011	8:00pm	LAURENTIAN	Lakehead	M. Basketball	Fri Feb 10, 2012	8:00pm	BROCK	Lakehead
W. Basketball	Fri Jan 6, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Western	W. Basketball	Sat Feb 11, 2012	6:00pm	BROCK	Lakehead
Hockey	Fri Jan 6, 2012	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Waterloo	Volleyball	Sat Feb 11, 2012	7:00pm	LAKEHEAD	RMC
M. Basketball	Fri Jan 6, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Western	Hockey	Sat Feb 11, 2012	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Brock
W. Basketball	Sat Jan 7, 2012	7:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Western	M. Basketball	Sat Feb 11, 2012	8:00pm	BROCK	Lakehead
Hockey	Sat Jan 7, 2012	7:30pm	LAKEHEAD	Waterloo	W. Basketball	Fri Feb 17, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Guelph
M. Basketball	Sat Jan 7, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Western	M. Basketball	Fri Feb 17, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Guelph
W. Basketball	Fri Jan 13, 2012	6:00pm	LAURIER	Lakehead	W. Basketball	Sat Feb 18, 2012	6:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Guelph
Hockey	Fri Jan 13, 2012	7:30pm	UOIT	Lakehead	M. Basketball	Sat Feb 18, 2012	8:00pm	LAKEHEAD	Guelph
M. Basketball	Fri Jan 13, 2012	8:00pm	LAURIER	Lakehead					

For personal email notification of all events contact: [athletics.lakeheadu.ca](mailto:athletics.lakeheadu.ca)



THUNDERWOLVES





# *Nomination Guidelines for* **Alumni Awards**

## **Alumni Honour Award**

The Alumni Honour Award is presented by the Alumni Association to general members, as defined in the constitution of the Association, who have demonstrated distinction or outstanding achievement in one of the following areas: public service; business; humanities; research; science and technology; scholarship; the arts; or, for outstanding personal service rendered to the University over a period of years.

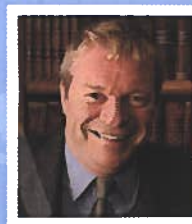
Those chosen will be an alumnus/a whose reputation, achievements or future potential will bring honour and prestige to the Alumni Association of Lakehead University. One award may be granted each year.

## **Young Alumni Award**

Presented in recognition of a graduate from the last ten years who is 40 years of age or younger, and who has achieved significant accomplishments since graduation, either in his/her profession, sport or community service. Those chosen will be an alumnus/a whose reputation, achievements or future potential will bring honour and prestige to the Alumni Association of Lakehead University. One award may be granted each year.

## **Volunteer of the Year**

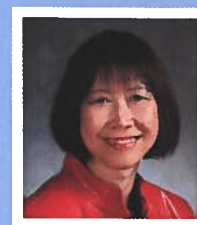
The Volunteer of the Year award was established in 2010 to recognize one of the University's greatest assets, our dedicated alumni volunteers. The award is given annually to an active member of the Lakehead University Alumni Association whose spirit and commitment to Lakehead are exemplary.



David Shannon, BA



Shy-Anne Horvorka, HBMUS, BED



Vonnie Cheng, BSC, HBA, GDIPB

[lakeheadualumni.ca](http://lakeheadualumni.ca)

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draw for **Alumni gifts**.

[lakeheadualumni.ca](http://lakeheadualumni.ca)

**Lakehead**  
**ALUMNI**





## GREAT AMBASSADORS IN GUATEMALA

by  
Tracey Skehan

Photos by  
Mike Snoddon

*"The trip gave me an  
awareness of how much  
NGOs can do and a lasting  
connection to the community.  
It was a simple way to give a  
helping hand."*

*— Neva Bassingthwaite*



Mike and Neva proudly display the plaque acknowledging LUSU's building of the Cruz Marino home

MIKE SNODDON AND NEVA BASSINGTHWAITE'S trip to Guatemala last summer to build a home for a family in the village of San Miguel Duenas turned out to be an experience that changed both of them and one that they are determined will have a lasting effect. The Lakehead Student Union (LUSU) president and vice-president student issues won the trip to volunteer for the charitable organization *From Houses to Homes* in a draw at last year's Canadian Organization of Campus Activities conference.

Poverty is widespread in Guatemala leaving many without proper housing or adequate food. *From Houses to Homes* tries to overcome this situation by "giving people sturdy, long-lasting houses," says Mike. The concrete 13' x 19' house with windows and a cement floor that Neva and Mike built is now the home of the Cruz Marino family which includes the grandparents, their three daughters and sons-in-law, and their grandchildren.





| A crew member installs a window

Mike and Neva were part of a crew of volunteers from Germany, France, and Belgium who, together with two skilled Guatemalan workers, built the home in five days. The LUSU duo stayed in the city of Antigua and journeyed to the job site on the back of a pickup truck. They threw themselves into the project with enthusiasm even though they were novices when it came to construction work.

They were both happy with the process and the end result. "It really helped connect me to Guatemala and made me feel more like an international citizen," Neva observed. The two are considering going back for a longer period of four to six months and, says Mike, "We would also like Lakehead to do something similar on a yearly basis and give other students the chance to have this kind of experience." ■



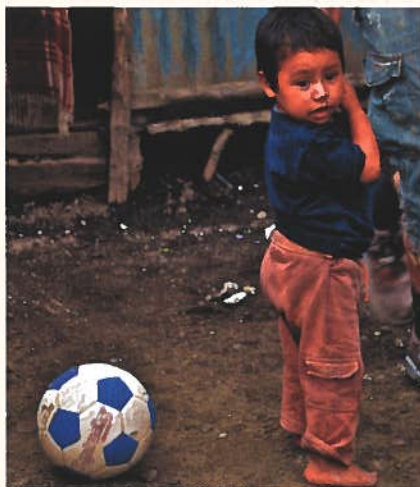
| I love painting! Neva shows that she's not afraid of a challenge



| San Miguel Duenas



| The Cruz Marino family



| Neighbourhood children added laughter and fun to construction crew's days



| Mike and Neva hard at work preparing the house's foundation



| One of the many dogs that roamed the streets



# Class Notes

## 1970s

**Robert Manson** (BA'74, BEd'93, HBA'95) works for AIDS Thunder Bay, a non-profit organization aimed at raising HIV/AIDS awareness in Northwestern Ontario. As the organization's education communication coordinator, Bob is an advocate for community involvement and outreach at the local, regional, and international levels. Bob would like to extend a special invitation to attend the fourth Annual World AIDS Day Breakfast hosted by AIDS Thunder Bay at the Victoria Inn on December 1, 2011 from 7:30 to 8:45 am to all students and alumni who have connections, direct or indirect, to those affected by HIV/AIDS.

The World Golf Teachers' Federation (WGTF) listed **David Reid** (BScF'74) as a Top 100 World Golf Teacher in 2010. David is currently entering his 24th year of golf teaching and has taught more than 15,000 lessons to over 10,000 clients. He has also certified more than 300 golf teaching professionals as a director and examiner for the Canadian Golf Teachers' Federation (CGTF).

**John K. Mason** (HBSc'75) was named the project manager of mining services with the Thunder Bay Community Economic Development Commission (CEDC) on June 13, 2011. John is the author of many geological reports and has extensive knowledge of the mining industry acquired through his 36 years with the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry. He will use this wealth of information to pursue the CEDC's strategy of realizing the full economic and job creation potential of Northwestern Ontario's burgeoning mining and exploration sector.

**Dr. Stewart Kennedy** (BScN'77) was appointed as the 130th president of the Ontario Medical Association on May 1, 2011. Stewart has been practicing family medicine in Thunder Bay for over 25 years. He has many initiatives planned for the coming year including developing partnerships with other associations to improve access to health care, working with government and other health

providers, expanding electronic medical records, and enhancing the quality and effectiveness of patient care.

## 1990s

**Sonya Hansen-Chunick** (née Hansen) (BSc'98, BEd'98) is celebrating her tenth year of teaching with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board.

## 2000s

**Brad Buset** (HBComm'04) is an account supervisor at Espresso, a multinational corporation. Brad frequently exceeds client expectations by combining traditional marketing tools with innovative methods. Brad is also an avid amateur chef with no limitations.

**John Caleb MacDonald** (BEd'07), a Peterborough native, learned about teaching in the far north while studying at Lakehead University. Caleb moved to Hull Beach, Nunavut, where he met his fiancée, Larissa Geraghty, while taking their respective students to floor hockey games. Caleb and Larissa had to ride their snowmobiles hundreds of miles across the tundra to see each other. When a teaching position became available at Larissa's school in Igoolik, a small island just south of the northern tip of Baffin Island, Caleb moved there to be with the love of his life.

**Matthew deJong** (HBSc'08) has begun a new position with the Town of Marmora as a building inspector and bylaw officer assisting the chief building officer. In order to prepare for this position, Matthew completed a series of certification programs and courses to enhance his skills and give him the appropriate accreditation.

**Kelsey Johansen** (BA'08, HBSc'08, HBOR'08, MES'11) is in the final stages of completing her MES in nature-based recreation and tourism. Her thesis focuses on effective environmental communication with scuba divers. Kelsey's involvement with Lakehead included spearheading the MES Speaker Series, an annual series of public lectures on various topics. Kelsey also served

as a graduate student senator on the Senate Academic, Senate Academic Appeals, and Senate Research Committees. Kelsey now works for the City of Thunder Bay as its acting community environmental action plan coordinator, following the completion of an NOHFC-funded internship as the recreation and tourism development coordinator for the Town of Marathon.

**Megan Ott** (HBComm'08), Dean Braun Medal recipient, wanted to avoid the mundane routine of an office career so she moved to London, England, and began her career with Paramount Pictures. Currently, she is working with an English indie-pop band, Amoriste. Since the band signed a private investment deal, the Lakehead alum has been responsible for handling its campaign and planning the release of an EP/album as well as touring, event planning, marketing, and promotion. "The music industry is quite literally the hardest thing to get into," says Megan. "While you can spend one to two years in college studying arts management, or something similar, there is no clear route into the market."

## 2010s

**Noah Boakye-Yiadom** (MPH'10) completed his work with women's studies professor Lori Chambers with the goal of creating a learning space for young and potential fathers after seeing the dire need for paternal involvement, especially among black fathers, in the Toronto community. Noah's Afro-centric centre is backed by Toronto Community Housing and the YMCA and is funded by the Youth Challenge Fund. The centre will provide parenting classes, leadership building programs, and other resources needed by young single parents.

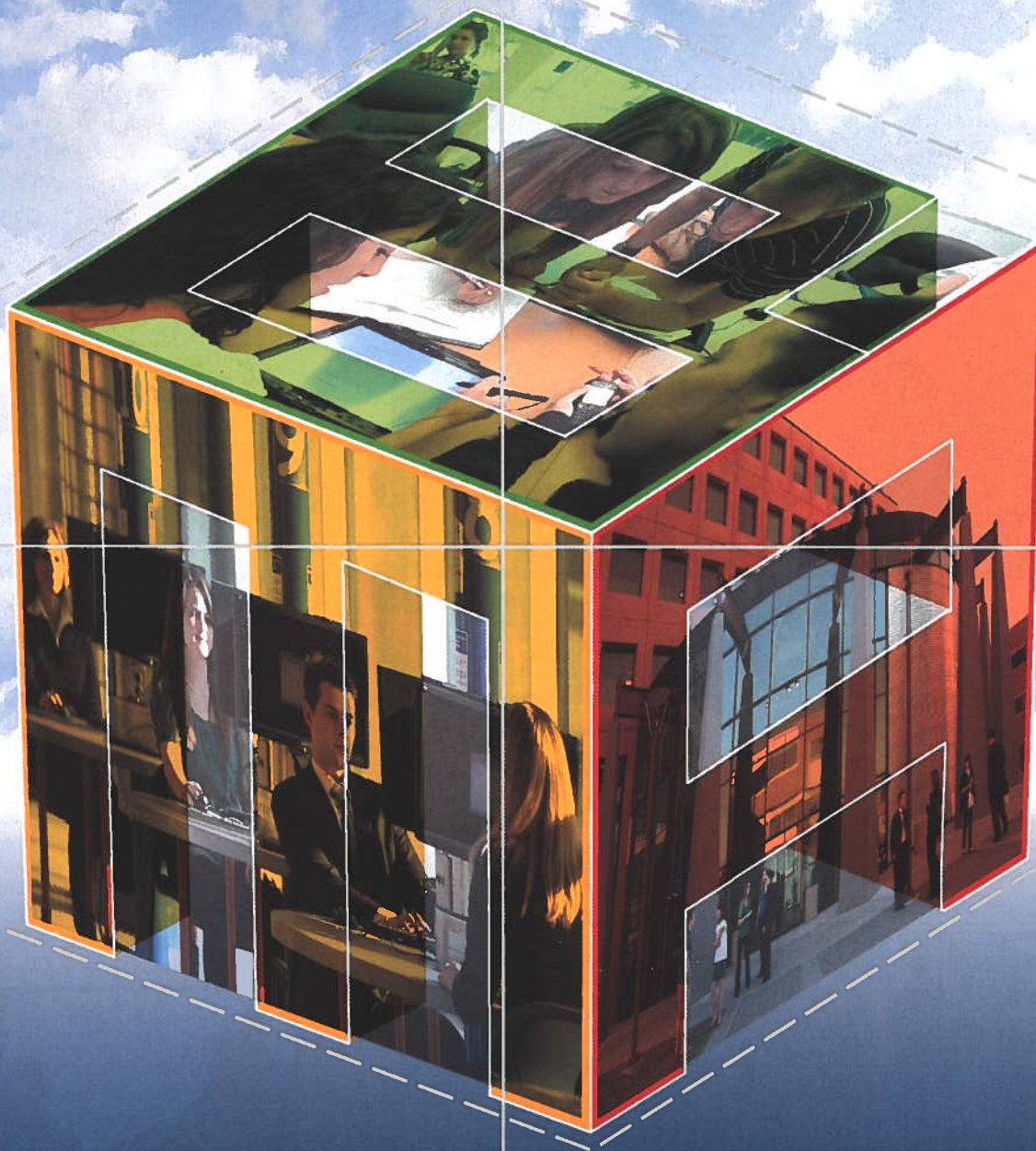
## In Memoriam

**Hugh N. McLeod**, Lakehead University Professor Emeritus, passed away in Toronto on July 1, 2011. Professor McLeod had a long career in the field of psychology. He was a clinical psychologist in several Canadian and British hospitals, as well as a beloved professor of psychology at the University of Saskatchewan and Lakehead University. ■



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# Student Profile

## A Man on a Mission

by Tracey Skehan



*Chris Lusty, MBA student and president of the Mariposa Folk Festival Foundation*



Chris Lusty is known for throwing himself into his projects and being unafraid to try new things. This is evident from the many hats he currently wears including software engineer, part-time Lakehead MBA student, and president of the Mariposa Folk Festival Foundation. Despite the sometimes daunting workload this creates, having clear objectives allows Chris to excel in all of these roles. He credits his MBA studies, of which he has one year left, with helping him to think more strategically. "I'm a hands-off president," he says, "my approach is to find good people and let them do their thing."

After completing a Bachelor of Science in Engineering at the University of Guelph and working in the Guelph area for several years, Chris relocated to Gravenhurst to be close to family. For the past 20 years he has made Orillia and area his home. Along the way, Chris developed automated titrator software that calculates the concentrations of solutions in potable water and

wastewater. His company, Hinterland Software, is now the third largest supplier of this technology in the world.

Chris's capacity for invention has been apparent during his time as Mariposa's president. He remarks that "I'm drawn to the Festival because I'm good at it and it's my major community contribution – I want Orillia to grow culturally and economically." Approximately 20,000 people attended the Mariposa Folk Festival this past July and many also took the opportunity to attend the ArtsU programming (see page 6).

"One of the more exciting things has been our partnership with Lakehead," says Chris, "ArtsU is something we hadn't done before. It helps extend the reach of the Festival and it's something that people want." Chris hopes to safeguard the Mariposa Folk Festival's future and reveals that "My main focus is to build a sustainability fund. Over the next year or so we will be looking for donations and bequests so that the Festival will be able to weather a rainy weekend."

Chris is also contemplating what the future holds for him. "I still have the business but in the next two or three years, I plan to sell it and do something different. I'll take it as it comes but I would like to get involved in the start-up of another company or maybe do some overseas work." Whatever Chris chooses to do next, it's guaranteed to be an intriguing and successful venture. ■



*Chris Lusty inducts longtime Mariposa volunteer, Jim Carnrite, into the Mariposa Folk Festival Hall of Fame*



### President's Perspective (Cont'd.)

In my first year as president, I have witnessed the remarkable spirit of our students and their accomplishments have inspired me. I think of the efforts of our Orillia athletes who, in the past year, formed their first varsity rowing and curling teams. And I am especially proud of the exciting new partnership that Lakehead has formed with the YMCA that allows all Orillia students access to YMCA facilities throughout the Simcoe/Muskoka region. Our Thunder Bay campus athletes were also impressive in their tenacity and spirit. Last year the men's basketball team was a powerhouse, winning the Ontario championships and taking home the Wilson Cup for the first time in team history. The women's Nordic skiing team likewise continued their winning ways, securing the Ontario championships for the seventh year in a row.

But Lakehead has also shown that true sport means more than just winning awards, it means reaching for the best within you and sharing it with others. Our hockey team and our athletics director, Tom Warden, showed us how this is done when they travelled north, through a partnership with Wasaya Airways, and spent a few days coaching Fort Hope First Nation children. In return, these wonderful kids taught our team a few lessons as well – lessons about life in the north, the love of hockey, and the universal language of sport.

It's evident that in the true definition of "inspire," our students are breathing life into Lakehead University. This past spring Lakehead's civil engineering students won first place and beat 47 other universities at the twentieth annual U.S. National Student Steel Bridge Competition in the United States – becoming the first Canadian team ever to win the competition.

I'm delighted that in my short time as president I have seen so many momentous achievements. The drive and dedication of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni guides me as together we work towards ensuring that Lakehead University continues to flourish. As I review the progress of the Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses, I am secure in my conviction of the transformative role Lakehead University students and alumni will continue to play in their communities and the world at large. ■

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## Champion Bridge Builders Have Nerves of Steel

Civil Engineering Team Places First at  
2011 AISC/ASCE U.S. National Student  
Steel Bridge Competition



(l-r): Dave Enns, Kristen Myles, Damien Ch'ng, Cory Goulet, and Chris Kukkee

©Daniela Weaver Photography

Lakehead's bridge building team proved their mettle at the 2011 AISC/ASCE U.S. National Student Steel Bridge Competition by winning the highly coveted first place award. Forty-eight university teams participated in this invitational competition showcasing the best in contemporary bridge building. The Lakehead team travelled to host university Texas A & M where they built a 22-foot-long scale model bridge, weighing only 141 pounds, in an astonishing 4.74 minutes.

Graduating civil engineering students Damien Ch'ng, Kristen Myles, Dave Enns, Chris Kukkee, and Cory Goulet demonstrated that they thrived on Lakehead's emphasis on independent critical thinking as well as the encouragement of their faculty advisors Professor Tony Gillies and Professor Timo

Tikka. As Professor Gillies points out, "Their elegant bridge design solution for this year's competition was the lightest and fastest built bridge in the competition, yet performed superbly in structural efficiency, which is a measure of design excellence."

Bridge specifications for the competition change every year so that students are confronted by new challenges similar to those they will face in the work world. This year's project required the design and simulated construction of a deck bridge spanning a river running through a national park. The team's engineering feat is chronicled in "Two Decades of National Steel Bridge Competition," an article in the July 2011 issue of the American magazine Modern Steel Construction (MSC).

In the article, team member Dave Enns reveals that "the troubleshooting

experiences on this project were really valuable. It's a prime example of showing up on a job site and site conditions aren't exactly what you anticipated and making corrections on the fly." Even though the team maintained its calm under pressure, Professor Tikka confessed, "It gets really nerve wracking when the assembled bridges are loaded with 2,500 pounds of angle iron to simulate a loaded truck crossing the bridge."

All the hard work and planning coalesced on competition day when the team not only won first place overall but also came in first in the categories of construction speed, lightness, and efficiency. This achievement made them the first Canadian team to win in the competition's twenty-year history. ■

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Watch the exciting YouTube video of the construction of the 2011 championship bridge at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJNVebYqNcv>



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