# LAKE EAD

SPRING/SUMMER 2009 I VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1

NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CHARTER CLASS

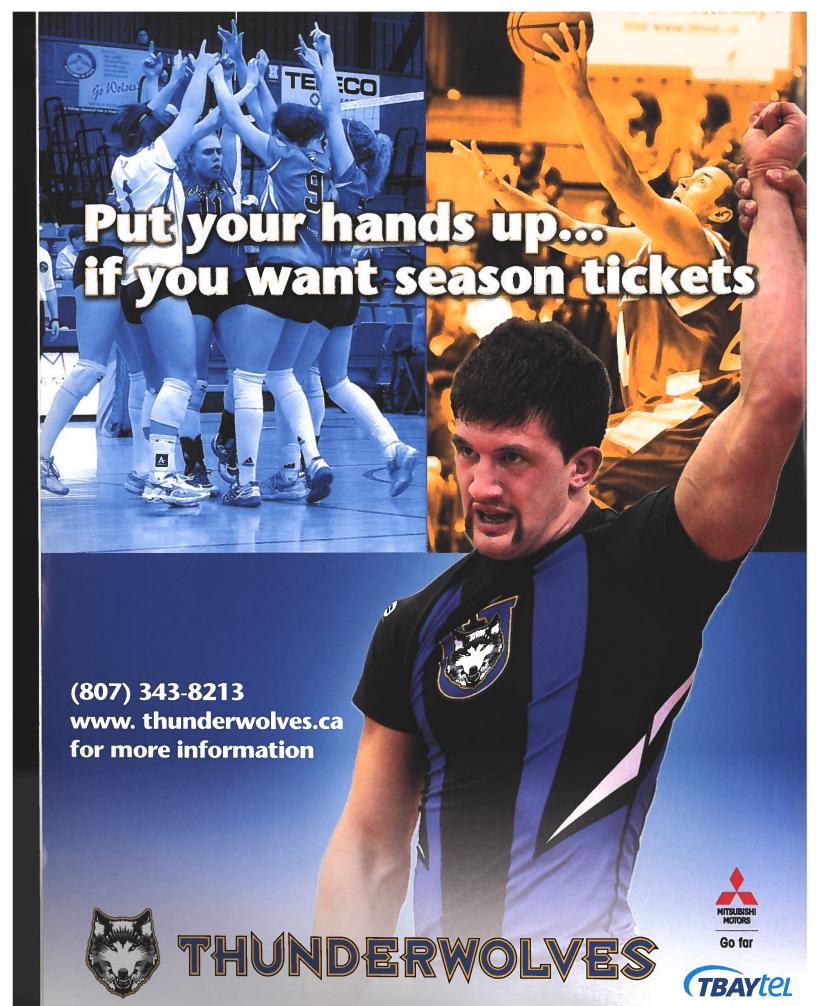
UNIVERSITY CUP HOCKEY

BRUCE STRANG
Distinguished Instructor

GREAT GRADS & STUDENTS

Holly Prince – Social Work Michael Mason – Nursing

Adam Moir, BSc'00, BEd'03 NOSM Class of 2009





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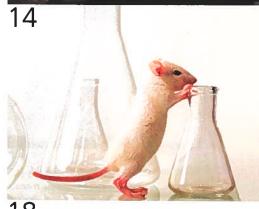
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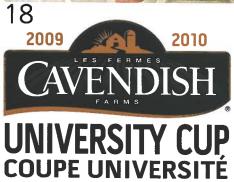
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Cover Photography by Peter Puna

## Editor's Message

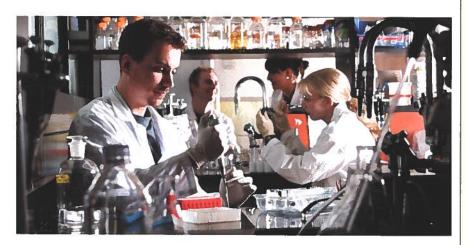
by Frances Harding editor@lakeheadu.ca



## TIME TO CELEBRATE

It is fitting that Adam Moir be on the cover of *Lakehead University Magazine* as we celebrate the graduation of the Charter Class of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) in May 2009. Not only is Adam one of two inaugural year recipients of NOSM Making a Difference – Student Citizenship Award (2006), he is also the recipient of a Lakehead University Entrance Award (1996), given annually by the Alumni Association to a high school graduate demonstrating leadership and community involvement.

But Adam is a modest fellow. When we met for a photo session at the entrance to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre last winter, I had to assure him that by agreeing to be on the cover of the Magazine he is representing all six of the Lakehead University graduates who are part of the Charter Class. The other five not able to join us that day are: Nicole Beauvais (HBSc'05); David Janhunen (HBK'03); Tracy Michano (HBScN'95); Benjamin Quackenbush (MPH'04); and Tara Spicer (NURSP'03, BScN'99). Congratulations to all.



With the cover story in place (NOSM Celebrates Historical Milestones) and a few other ideas involving cardiovascular research (Blood Pressure and H<sub>2</sub>S: What is the Connection?), nursing (Multi-Talented Millennial), and palliative care in Aboriginal communities (Great Grads), it wasn't long before a "Health Sciences" theme had emerged for the Spring/Summer issue that could be linked to another significant piece of news.

In June 2008 Lakehead announced the creation of a new Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences bringing together the Schools of Nursing, Social Work, and Kinesiology, the Department of Psychology, and the academic programs in Public Health and Gerontology – all of which work together with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. Since that time, Lori Livingston, a professor of Kinesiology from Dalhousie University, has been appointed Dean, effective July 1, 2009.

"The new Faculty of Health and Behavioural Sciences offers greater visibility focus, and cohesion for the University's growing number of health students, researchers, and academic programs while also emphasizing health-related basic research," says Lakehead University President Fred Gilbert. "We believe the new Faculty name reflects this focus and will further strengthen Lakehead's academic reputation."

## LAKEHEAD

### SPRING/SUMMER 2009

#### Volume 26, Number 1

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## Letters

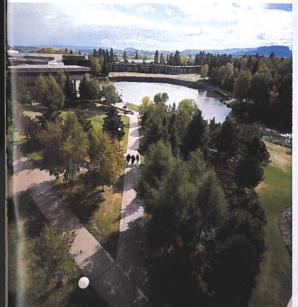
### **ORILLIA CAMPUS**

I graduated from Lakehead's Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Tourism program a number of years ago now (too many to say). As I was reading through your Magazine, I noticed that you are building a campus in Orillia. It occurred to me that it would be good promotion for the University to give out a Lakehead U bumper sticker with every parking permit. As a Torontonian, I notice these stickers from various universities all the time. If you are looking to draw attention to the new campus, this might be an easy way to do it.

Krista Kilian (HBOR'97) Toronto, ON

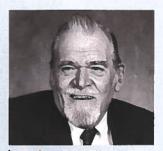
Thank you for your suggestion. We have forwarded it to John Singer, Vice-President (University Advancement) and Eleanor Abaya, Director of Communications.

continued on page 5



### LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY BUILDER

Who first thought of creating a postsecondary educational institution in the Canadian Lakehead? It is hard to say, but the first visible action was when Mayor Fred Robinson put the idea before the Port Arthur city council and got its support. Lakehead Technical Institute, established on June 4, 1946, by an Order-in-Council of the Province of Ontario, was the first result of his proposal.



Professor Tom Miller

A critical move toward developing a university-level institution was the hiring in 1955 of Thomas Breech Miller, PhD, a war hero and a recent doctoral graduate in History from the University of London. Miller had served in the Royal Canadian Air Force, survived being shot down twice, spent four years as a prisoner of war in Germany, and was the first Canadian to win the George Medal. As an undergraduate supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, he had not concentrated on getting top marks. Instead he concentrated on getting as broad an education as possible. Thus when Lakebead Tech asked him to teach first-year History, English, Philosophy, and Political Science, he accepted with alacrity. By all reports he taught those four Arts subjects successfully and, one by one, established the needed departments.

With his foot in the door Miller, along with Doug Fisher and many others, agitated for the establishment of Lakehead University which came about when The Lakehead University Act, 1965, was given royal assent by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Miller headed the History department and for one year doubled up as Director of Extension, which meant sending faculty members out to teach weekend courses in every Northwestern Ontario community large enough to have a high school. Miller received offers for appointments to more prestigious universities but turned them all down. His heart was in the Lakehead, his wife's hometown, and in Lakehead University where he was a prominent figure until his retirement. He died in 1996.

Why did he get the George Medal? Almost home from a raid over Germany, the bomber in which he was the navigator was shot down by a trailing German fighter. The plane crashed, throwing Tom clear. He went back into the burning plane and hauled two crew members to safety. Going to Buckingham Palace to receive his medal, Tom got a big kick out of the fact that his cousin, an army major, who escorted him, had to play second fiddle to a mere sergeant.

Ken Morrison Thunder Bay, ON

During its 40th anniversary celebrations in 2005-2006, Lakehead honored 40 Northern Lights: forty extraordinary men and women who have made a difference to the growth and development of Lakehead University. To read more about Tom Miller, Bill Tamblyn, and others who have made a singular mark on the evolution of Lakehead University, visit http://40northernlights.lakeheadu.ca/

## Campus News



Gregory Pyle and Alla Reznik

### CANADA RESEARCH CHAIRS

Lakehead is pleased to announce the appointments of two new Canada Research Chairs.

Alla Reznik, Canada Research Chair in the Physics of Molecular Imaging, will help to develop an advanced solid-state technology for Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging to be used in the early diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Gregory Pyle, Canada Research Chair in Environmental Biotechnology and Ecotoxicology, will be studying the way in which human activity may interfere with chemical communication systems used by aquatic animals in their environment.

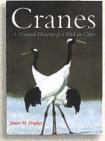
### **FREE TUITION**

Lakehead is offering free tuition for Canadian students with a 95%+ average, coming directly from a recognized Canadian high school. For more information, visit www.lakeheadu.ca



Port Arthur Collegiate Institute, a 99-year-old stone building and Thunder Bay landmark that was closed in 2007, has been acquired by Lakehead University. It will provide additional space for teaching and research.

#### **NEW BOOKS**



## Cranes: A Natural History of a Bird in Crisis

by Janice M. Hughes, Professor of Biology

"The plight of the whooping crane is an epic tale, not bedecked in pomp

and circumstance, but laced heavily with the injuries of cruelty and indifference. Yet all good stories have heroes and villains, and whooping cranes have known both. This book will unravel the tale of their near extinction and their slow climb back from the brink as it reveals those humans that played a hand in the journey; for this, too, is their story." – Janice Hughes



#### **Dog Tracks**

by Ruby Slipperjack, Professor of Indigenous Learning

Dog Tracks is a book that crosses genres: it is a tender story of an uprooted girl who finds home and self, and it is also a

subtle text that gives readers a glimpse of traditional and non-traditional life on a northern Ontario reserve. Thomas King, author of *Green Grass, Running Water*, says "Ruby Slipperjack is one of the strongest Native voices in Canadian literature."

## 2007-2008 Annual Report

Learn more about the growth of research and graduate studies at Lakehead University by reading the Annual Report online at www. lakeheadu.ca/report/



## Letters

### **RESEARCH & INNOVATION**

Lakehead celebrated Research and Innovation Week at its Thunder Bay Campus February 23-27, 2009. Throughout the week, there were guest speakers, panel discussions and debates, a graduate student conference, poster presentations, displays, information sessions, and a celebration of two recipients of the 2008 Lakehead University Distinguished Researcher Awards: Dr. Abdelhamid Tayebi (Electrical Engineering) and Dr. Syed Islam (Political Science). Films were shown, including the premiere of Judy Iseke-Barnes' A Living History of Metis Families as told by Dorothy Chartrand.

According to Research Infosource Inc., Lakehead moved up to 30th place in Canada's Top 50 Research Universities in 2008, based on total sponsored research income as well as research output and impact measures. "The upward movement of our rank in the Top 50 Research Universities is evidence that our researchers and facilities are of world-class calibre," says Dr. Rui Wang, Vice-President (Research). "Our ultimate goal is to be in the top 25 in the next 5-10 years."

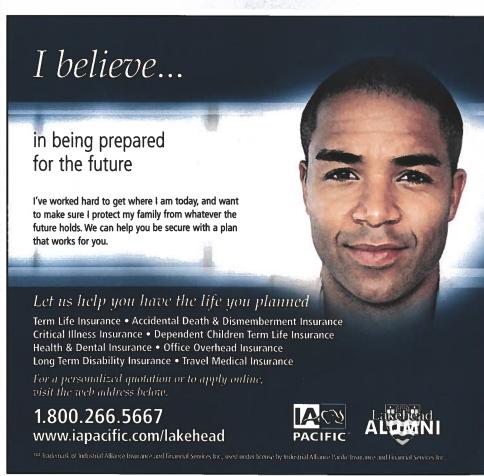


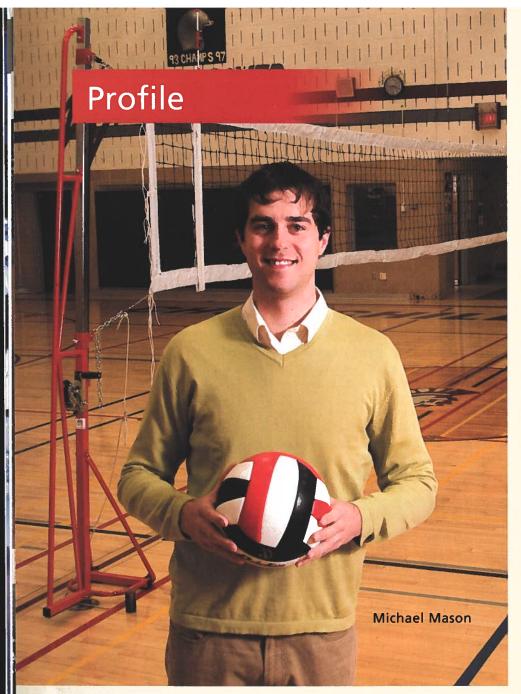
I'm a former student and proud friend and donor of Lakehead University. Though I haven't been to Thunder Bay in over two decades, the time I spent at Lakehead University in that wonderful city is near to my heart and never far away from my thoughts. Therefore, you can understand why I was quite pleased to receive my issue of Lakehead University Magazine recently. However, that pleasure wore off somewhat as I soon realized that the entire issue was devoted to the new campus in Orillia.

I do realize that the new Orillia campus represents a seismic shift in the history of my beloved Lakehead. However, the Thunder Bay campus is still the epicentre of life at Lakehead. Orillia may be the future for the University, but your alumni are motivated mostly by their misty-eyed memories at the main campus in Thunder Bay. You can see then why I would like to see more about the goings-on at the main campus in every issue. In fact, now that I think about it, I would also like to know more about life in wonderful Thunder Bay in general.

Anthony Gualtieri Niagara Falls, ON

Most of the editorial content of the Fall/Winter 2008 issue was devoted to the development of Lakehead University-Orillia Campus because it is so vitally important to Lakehead's future. It was, however, meant as a one-time special issue to draw attention to the development of the campus. In this issue, we hope you'll find lots of news about Thunder Bay and Lakehead University-Thunder Bay Campus.





## Multi-talented Millennial

by Frances Harding

MICHAEL MASON IS A TOP-NOTCH NURSING student who is giving back to his community in a myriad of ways.

He coaches high school volleyball. He sings with the Lakehead University Vocal Ensemble and Opera Studio. He designs

health education workshops with Anishawbe Mushkiki. And he volunteers with the Lutheran Community Care Street Reach Ministry on Simpson Street in Thunder Bay.

Mason was the recipient of a Millennium National In-Course Award in 2008 and

will graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BScN) in May 2009. As a Millennium scholar, he was given the opportunity to secure a \$2,500 Millennium Grant for a community development project of his choice. Not surprisingly, he was successful and chose to direct the funds to enable the Street Reach Ministry to run important, life-changing programs.

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Michael Mason studied first at Queen's University where he earned a place on the Men's Varsity Volleyball team and the ranking "Academic All-Canadian." After graduating in 2006, he enrolled in the Nursing program at Lakehead University, opting for the Three-Year Compressed program so he could complete a four-year BScN degree in three years. Along the way, he stayed at the top of his class and picked up numerous awards and scholarships including the Olga Merz Memorial Scholarship in Nursing and the St. Joseph's Care Group Nurses Award.

"The Nursing Program at Lakehead is unique," says Mason "About 18% of nursing students at Lakehead are male, one of the highest percentages in the country. The Program reflects the environment of the North, and advocates the practice of nursing in a culturally sensitive way. As well, it teaches you the theory of nursing in addition to the clinical skills. You really get a chance to develop your critical thinking skills.

"At the Street Reach Ministry, I have been able to help people who live on the streets to get their lives back together. Through my counseling I have helped one man to get over a drug addiction, another to make contact with lost relatives, and another to seek medical care, as well as countless other positive experiences. I also play guitar and sing at the Centre one day a week, in an attempt to use music as therapy.

"I understand that there are great needs in Northwestern Ontario, and have focused my involvement on serving impoverished people and the Aboriginal community. My ultimate goal is to remove inequities and provide hope for the future."

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## The Northern Ontario School of Medicine Celebrates Historical Milestones

by Marek Krasuski



I NOSM Charter Class shown at NOSM's East Campus at Laurentian University in Sudbury

WHEN DR. JOEL LANPHEAR, ASSOCIATE DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AT THE NORTHERN ONTARIO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE (NOSM), contemplates the number of milestones achieved since opening in 2005, he reflects upon his words carefully to summarize the School's distributed model of medical education, a teaching and learning framework enormous in its dimensions and complexity.

"We have to remember that the reason we exist is that our social accountability mandate is to improve access and quality of health care to all of the people of Northern Ontario. In order to do that, we have created an entirely new plan, drawing on the best research and education professionals we could get from around the world to develop this model," he said.

Dr. Lanphear works at NOSM's West Campus at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay, but at any time he may be in Sioux Lookout, Timmins, Bracebridge, or any one of a large number of communities spread across Northern Ontario, an area equal in size to France and Germany but with just 7% of the province's population thinly distributed over this vast region. His itinerary of meetings across the North is not atypical of the nine Associate Deans at the School, each charged with particular responsibilities in executing a model of education unique in the world.

Distributed education at NOSM is collaborative and inclusive. During the planning stages, while the School was still a pan-Northern dream, individuals, physicians, and community members from across Northern Ontario gathered to discuss an education system that would address the historical shortage of medical professionals in under-serviced communities.

NOSM Founding Dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, is the principal architect of the community-based learning model, and brings to the School an impressive list of accomplishments. His work encompasses expertise in rural education at the Monash University School of Rural Health in Australia, and a lifetime of related experience for which he has received international recognition. Much of the School's success, says Dr. Strasser, hinges on the participation of communities.

"The development of this School came about because of the groundswell of support from the communities. Right from the start we developed a relationship that would help us understand and meet their needs. Community-based medical education is a distinctive and essential hallmark of the NOSM model that the School, in consultation with the communities of the North, embraced to best address the shortage of health professionals."

The consensus was to build a made-inthe-North curriculum that would meet the demand for health practitioners as well as focus on leading-edge research directly relevant to Northern populations. Training and graduating resourceful physicians and health professionals with a particular understanding of, and affinity for, people in Northern and remote settings is key to responding to the cultural diversity of the region that NOSM serves.

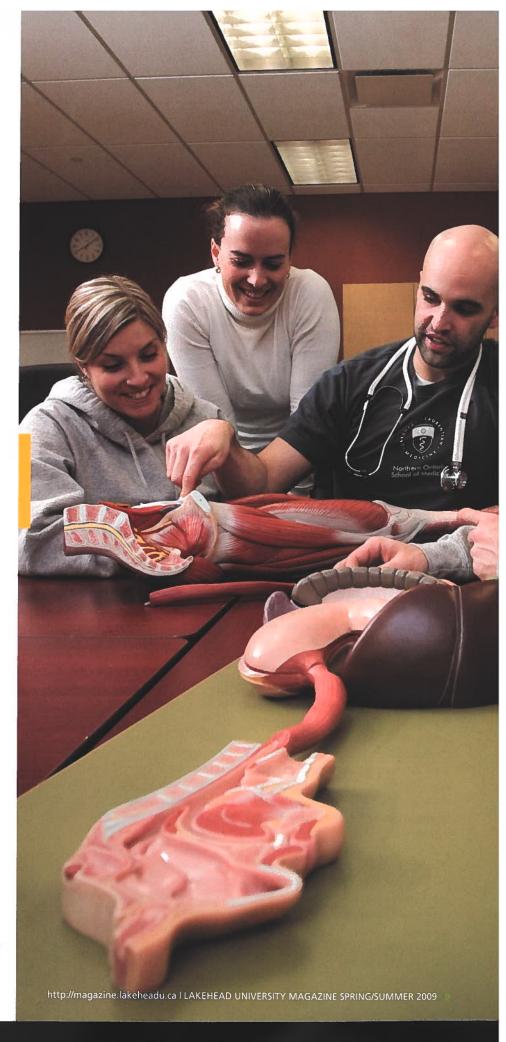
The result of this mandate is a medical education model like no other.

Ninety per cent of undergraduate medical students are from Northern Ontario, and many are from remote and rural communities. Candidates need to be passionate about the North, able to work cooperatively with other team players, and demonstrate sensitivity to cultural and linguistic diversity. Learning is patient-centred, whereby students examine complex cases of real life scenarios in Northern communities.

NOSM medical students divide their time between classroom learning and hands-on clinical training in the many hospitals, clinics, and health centres across the North where they learn and interact with patients under the supervision of experienced physicians. At the end of their first academic year, for example, students benefit from cultural immersion in Aboriginal communities. During this integrated community experience, they are exposed to distinct lifestyles and world views, essential to their understanding of local health determinants. Second-year learners undertake two months of training in rural and remote communities, broadening their exposure to, and deepening their understanding of, medical care and lifestyle opportunities available in these diverse locales.

Third-year students make the transition from classroom learner to clinician in the Comprehensive Community Clerkship program. Here they advance their clinical training in one of 12 medium-sized communities, learning patient-centred care in real-life contexts. During this

(l-r) Megan Messenger, Natalie Moreau, and Alex Anawati





NOSM's West Campus at Lakehead University-Thunder Bay Campus

eight-month term, learners are engaged in a continuity-of-care cycle. They admit patients, chart their medical history, and assist in a health management plan—all unique features that prepare students for the practical challenges of daily practice in Northern communities.

In fourth year, students move on to the major hospitals in Thunder Bay and Sudbury where they complete core rotations in the specialties of Surgery, Medicine, Women's Health, Mental Health, and Children's Health. Upon completion of their four years of undergraduate medical education, NOSM students will have spent nearly 40% of their time living and learning in small, rural, remote, and urban communities across the North.

Charter Class member and Lakehead University graduate David Janhunen (HBK'03) knows well the practical benefits arising from clinical training in communities. Janhunen completed his Clerkship in Fort Frances where he learned to balance the pressing demands faced by a medical student with community involvement and physical exercise which, he says, are essential for the prevention of total burnout.

"I would spend one day with a gynaecologist, the next with a surgeon, and the following days in the emergency room or in a family medicine clinic," says Janhunen. "All these areas of medicine are coming at you all the time. Over the course of the year, this longitudinal program

encouraged me to revisit many aspects of medicine, which I would not have been able to do in a traditional system."

It's an observation echoed by many participants involved in the Comprehensive Community Clerkship. "The Clerkship is a unique aspect of the NOSM program," says Dr. Christine Rossi, coordinator, family physician, and educator at the Sault Area Hospital. "Students are exposed to a range of specialists and are involved in a continuity-of-care experience with patients. NOSM students have a better understanding and appreciation of what a family doctor does after spending eight months in a hospital environment."

Now in their fourth and final year of undergraduate medical training, Charter Class students benefit by hindsight in reflecting on the significance of the intensive third-year clerkship. Adam Moir (BSc'00, BEd'03), a Lakehead University biology graduate (shown on cover), completed his fourth-year rotation at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, immersing himself in one-month blocks of core medical specialties. It is here that the benefits of the Clerkship are revealed.

"When we started our fourth year, some people expected us to have only limited experience. Depending on where we were placed in our Clerkship, however, some of us were involved in as many as 25 surgeries, functioning as first assistants over the course of the year.

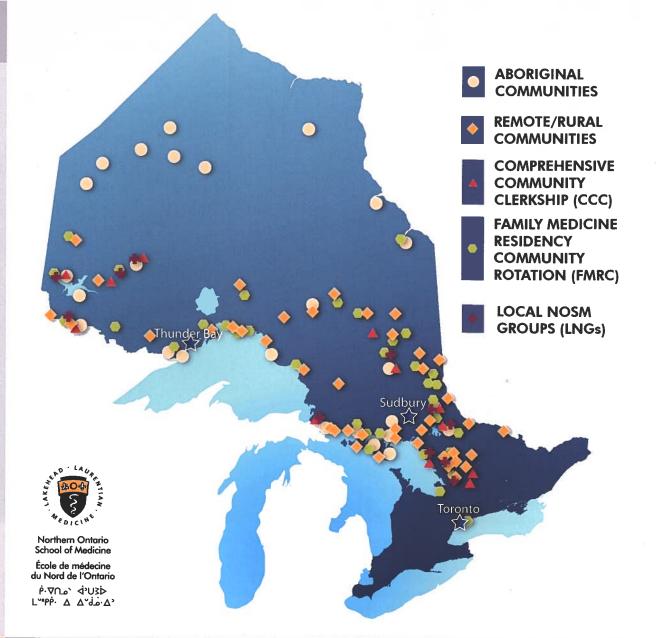
## **NOSM By Numbers**

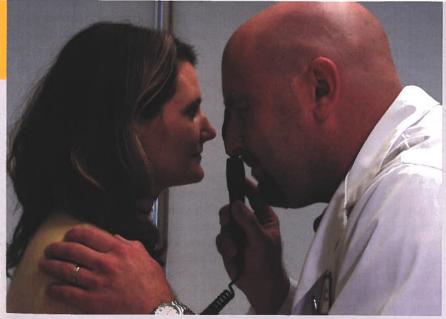
- 224 The number of students currently enrolled in the MD program at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)
- 91 The percentage of the total number of medical students who are from Northern Ontario
- The percentage of the total number of medical students who are self-identified as Aboriginal
- 23 The percentage of the total number of medical students who are self-identified as Francophone
- 45 The percentage of medical students who are from rural and remote communities
- 69 The percentage of the total number of medical students who are female
- 40 The percentage of time a NOSM student will have spent studying in Aboriginal, small urban, or large rural communities by the time the MD program is complete
- >800,000 The number of square kilometres encompassed by NOSM with faculty and staff widely distributed across Northern Ontario
- 70 The number of communities in which NOSM students may undertake part of their clinical learning
- 12 The number of small urban or large rural communities that host all third-year NOSM students undertaking their Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC)
- >200 The number of staff working for NOSM across Northern Ontario
- >800 The number of faculty working for NOSM across Northern Ontario

#### **NOSM Vision & Mission**

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) is a pioneering faculty of medicine working to the highest international standards. Its overall mission is to educate skilled physicians and undertake health research suited to community needs. In fulfilling this mission NOSM will become a cornerstone of community health care in Northern Ontario.

Website: www.nosm.ca





A medical school that links communities, physician teachers, health centres, and two main locations into a seamless network of learning demands enormous resources in the fulfillment of a pan-Northern dream. But it is a dream visualized as a historically unprecedented accomplishment in which all Northerners will benefit.

| Kimberley Perlin and Todd Spencer

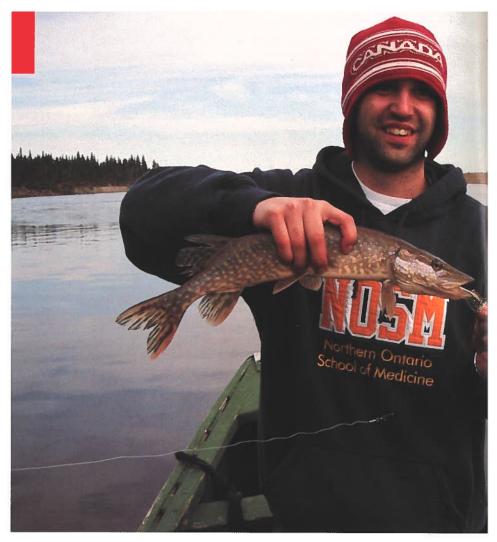
Others came into their fourth year with a lot of emergency room shifts, so it was a real advantage that students from other medical schools did not have." Like many of his colleagues, Adam Moir will remain in the North, choosing to practice in his hometown of Thunder Bay upon completion of his studies.

Widespread research supports the notion that students will return to their places of learning as relationships develop, awareness of lifestyle opportunities increases, and comfort with work environments grows. Physician-teachers involved in training students in the communities, like Dr. Sean Moore at Lake of the Woods District Hospital in Kenora, concur.

"Working through an eight-month session enables students to grow personally by forming bonds with patients and families, and to develop professionally. In smaller hospitals, students have huge opportunities to be involved in medical procedures they would normally not have access to in large, tertiary centres." Kenora is one of many communities that enjoys a reputation for strong family physicians and specialists, another incentive for budding doctors to integrate into a cooperative and robust health network.

The Northern Ontario School of Medicine, which received full accreditation this year, will graduate its first cohort of medical students in May 2009. This is a precedentsetting accomplishment in the annals of Northern Ontario history as 55 new doctors educated in the North move on to complete residency training in the region and beyond.

Though monumental in its far-reaching effects, this is by no means a singular success. The Charter Class graduation stands alongside equally important achievements. Over 30 residents from NOSM's Family Medicine Residents of the Canadian Shield (RoCS) program will also complete training this year to pursue careers as family physicians or continue with additional specialty training. This two-year post graduate residency is the newest Family Medicine



Alex Anawati takes advantage of the great fishing around Fort Albany during one of his placements with a First Nations community in Northern Ontario

program in Canada. Students are drawn from undergraduate MD programs across Canada and beyond to train in Sudbury, Thunder Bay, North Bay, Timmins, and Sault Ste. Marie, as well as distributed rotations sites spanning the whole of Northern Ontario. While the focus of the program is to train doctors in rural settings, residents who complete their residency training with NOSM attain the necessary skills to practice medicine in any type of health delivery system.

Last summer, six family physicians with specialties in Emergency Medicine graduated from NOSM's Post Graduate Year 3 program. All remained to practice in the North. Approval for new programs in Pediatrics and General Surgery will result in more physicians pursuing these specialties at NOSM as well.

In August 2008, the first class of dietetic interns graduated from the Northern

Ontario Dietetic Internship Program (NODIP), fully appreciative of the unique health-care needs of Northern Ontario and the cultural diversity of its population. The NODIP program is another example of NOSM's commitment to answering the shortage of all health-care professionals in Northern Ontario.

Paralleling NOSM's success in medical education is a strong commitment to research. This year marks the fourth Northern Health Research Conference (NHRC) in which students, researchers. and residents will share new knowledge arising from their research initiatives in community-based settings. This year's NHRC is May 29 and 30 at Lakehead University. Other milestones include the Partnership Opportunities in Research Gathering, an unprecedented occasion that brought together Aboriginal communities, the School, and research organizations to set a new course in establishing respectful,



collaborative, and mutually beneficial relationships with Aboriginal research participants and communities.

A medical school that links communities, physician teachers, health centres, and two main locations into a seamless network of learning demands enormous resources in the fulfillment of a pan-Northern dream. But it is a dream visualized as an historically unprecedented accomplishment in which all Northerners will benefit.

"Most exciting in this process will be the time when our students are working in Northern communities and themselves functioning as physician-teachers for new students progressing through the NOSM curriculum. This will have an enormous impact on health care in the North," Dr. Lanphear concluded.

Marek Krasuski is a writer with the Northern Ontario School of Medicine.

## Keep in Touch



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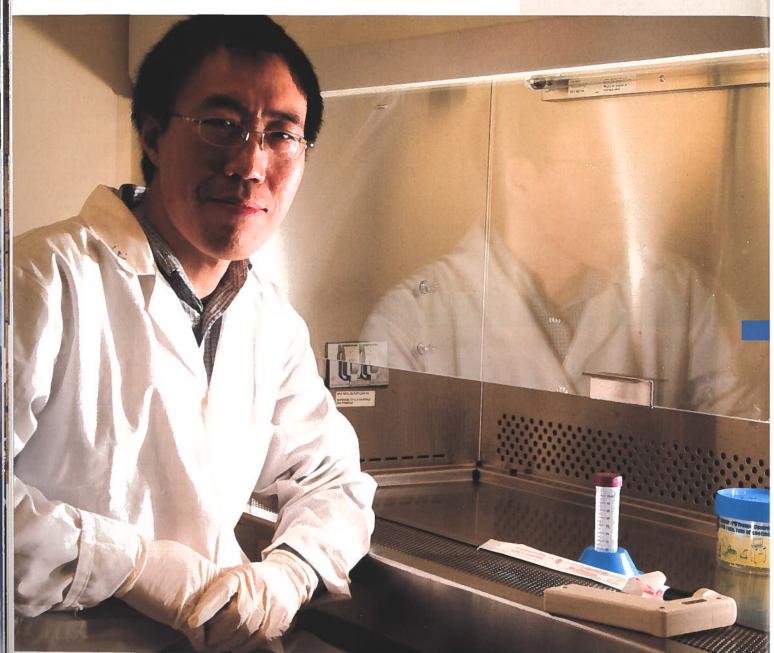
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## BLOOD PRESSURE AND H<sub>2</sub>S: WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

by Eleanor S. Abaya



Scientists from Lakehead University, University of Saskatchewan, and Johns Hopkins University have discovered that hydrogen sulfide ( $H_2S$ ) – the gas that smells like rotten eggs – regulates blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels. Their findings are believed to have broad applications to human physiology and disease.

Guangdong Yang



AN INTERNATIONAL TEAM OF SCIENTISTS has discovered that cells inside the blood vessels of mice – as well as in people – naturally produce hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and this gas controls blood pressure.

H<sub>2</sub>S is produced in the thin, endothelial lining of blood vessels and regulates blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels. As the newest member of a family of so-called "gasotransmitters," this messenger molecule is akin in function, if not form, to chemical signals like nitric oxide, dopamine, and acetylcholine that relay signals between nerve cells, and excite or put the brakes on mind-brain activities.

Dr. Rui Wang, Vice-President (Research) of Lakehead University and principal author of the paper on these findings published in the October 24, 2008 issue of *Science*, says, "It's difficult to overestimate the biological importance of hydrogen sulfide or its implications in hypertension as well as diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases. In fact, most human diseases probably have something to do with gasotransmitters."

"Now that we know hydrogen sulfide's role in regulating blood pressure, it may be possible to design drug therapies that enhance its formation as an alternative to the current methods of treatment for hypertension," says Johns Hopkins neuroscientist Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, a co-corresponding author of the paper.

Conducting their investigations using mice missing a gene for an enzyme known as CSE, long suspected as responsible for making H<sub>2</sub>S, the researchers first measured H<sub>2</sub>S levels in a variety of tissues in the CSE-deficient mice and compared them to normal mice.

The researchers found that the gas was largely depleted in the cardiovascular systems of the altered mice, engineered by Rui Wang and Lingyun Wu of the University of Saskatchewan, whereas normal mice had higher levels – clear evidence that H<sub>2</sub>S is normally made by mammalian tissues using CSE.

Next, the scientists applied tiny cuffs to the tails of the mice and measured their blood pressure, noting systolic blood pressure spikes of almost 18 mmHg higher in animals lacking CSE compared with normal mice. In humans the healthiest adult systolic pressure is 120 mmHg or less, and high blood pressure is defined as 140 mmHg or more.

Finally, the team tested how blood vessels of CSE-deficient mice responded to the chemical neurotransmitter methacholine, known to relax normal blood vessels. The blood vessels of the altered mice relaxed hardly at all, indicating that H<sub>2</sub>S was largely responsible for relaxation.

Because gasotransmitters are highly conserved in mammals, the findings of the research are believed to have broad applications to human physiology and disease.

"In terms of relaxing blood vessels, it looks like H<sub>2</sub>S might be as important as nitric oxide," Snyder says, referring to the first gasotransmitter that was discovered two decades ago to regulate blood pressure.

Just because these two gas molecules perform similar functions doesn't

mean they're redundant, says Wang.

"Nature has added on layer upon layer of complexity to provide a better and tighter control of body function – in this case, of blood pressure."

Although CSE, the enzyme that activates H<sub>2</sub>S, was characterized more than half a century ago, the new work is the first to reveal that its trigger works similarly and involves the same molecules as the trigger for nitric oxide, thus putting into place the final piece of the picture puzzle showing how H<sub>2</sub>S regulates blood pressure by relaxing blood vessels.

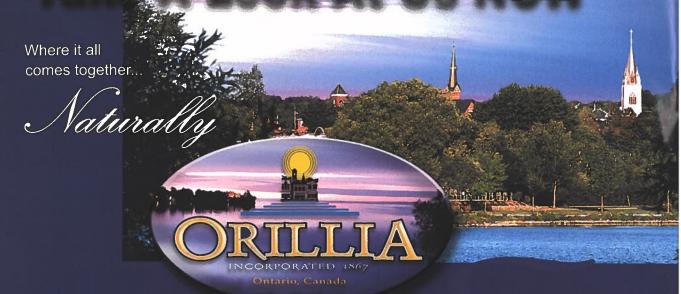
The research was supported by grants from the U.S. Public Health Service and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) as well as a Research Scientist Award from CIHR.

Authors of the paper are Guangdong Yang, Lingyun Wu, Bo Jiang, Wei Yang, Jiansong Qi, Kun Cao, Qinghe Meng, all of the University of Saskatchewan; Rui Wang and Shengming Zhang of Lakehead University; and Asif K. Mustafa, Weitong Mu, and Soloman H. Snyder, all of Johns Hopkins University.



Dr. Rui Wang and Guangdong Yang work together in Lakehead's Cardiovascular Research Lab

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Fox Baster, Grace H, Fuhman, Andrew J, Fulder S, Andrew S, Fullman M, Andrew J, Fullman M, An

Lakehead University wants to hear from you! If we have lost touch with you or if you know of any of the grads on the list below, please contact us today.

## 1970s Graduates

Saleem Ahmed George Akagi Morag Alexander Elizabeth Ambro Judy Anderson Spyridon Apostolides Margaret Balas Donald Bayne Scott Beange Doreen Beaucage Doreen Bent Joseph Berube Glenn Birch Marie Blake Donald Bland Henry Bobinski Marilyn Bolton Elizabeth Bond Mary Bordyniuk Stephanie Boyko Richard Bozvnski Nancy Brady **Armin Braslins** Denis Brearton Linda Broeders Sharen Brown Louise Bruley Ron Buckno Mirjana Budimirovic-Stiiovic Miriam Bugara Katherine Busch Norman Butler Richard Button Susan Campbell John Campbell Vern Campigotto Joanne Cerutti Eric Chan Ronald Chan-A-Shing Mee-Shan Chung Cameron Clarke Brian Clerihew Linda Cole **Richard Collins** Luella Cook Brian Cooke

Louis Covello

Richard Cranston

Susan Cox

Ernest Crocker Shelby Crosby Beverly Currie Rita Damoiseaux Gilles De Repentigny Robert Denis Nelson Devereaux Mary Devine Douglas DiGiacomo Catherine Dixon Elizabeth Dolcetti Garry Drake Helen Drindak Paul Dutton Ihor Dziadyk Harwood Earl Lavina Evans Jacques Fafard lames Fallen Roman Fedorowycz Charlene Fitzpatrick Andrea Flanagan Michael Folkema Nancy Forbes Joanne Forbes Margaret Foster Ringard Frank Krishna Gajraj Robert Gammage Susan Garrett Farhat Ghaemmaghami Florence Gibson Joanne Goulet Murray Graham William Gratton Douglas Grav Susan Grimmer Marinus Groenveld Irene Gushulak Gary Hansen Fleanor Hansen Robert Hardie Paul Heckley lelte Heerema Daniel Hennenfent Jaqueline Hoffman Donna Hogan Ronald Holmes Sandra Horbaty Harold Howlett **Edmond Huna** 

Myrna Hurdon Glennis Irnie Gary Ironside Evelyn Iwachewski Donald Jennings Iohanna Iohnston Ruth Johnston **Burton** Jones Lynne Jopling Charles Jordan David Joseph Carolyn Josephson Sudhir Ioshi Shirley Kachkowski Anna Kaminski Theodore Karp Peter Kszor Valerie Keatley George Keffer Marion Kelly David Kerr Sonja Kivilahti Joseph Kliner Larry Kopechanski Lloyd Koski Mary Kowalchuk Darlene Kraft Ulrich Krings Lawrence Kristalovich Catherine Kruchak Joanne Kutchyera Kui Kwan Vijay Kwatra Wavne Ladoucer Bernadette Laframboise Lana Lago Jo-Anne Lago Sushila Lalsingh Richard Lampshire Daniel Langille Pik-Shing Lau Jack Lavender Robert Leach Dianne Leclair Andre Lefort William Lehto Laas Leivat Suzanne Lemay Peter Lenardon Marion Leroux

Nai-Bun Leung Michael Li John Lieskowsky Brian Lindsev Yuen-Kwan Lo Dale Long Marie Losier Juhani Louko Timothy Lovelock Penelope Lupe John Lysnes Barbara Lysnes Dale MacKenzie lames MacKinnon John MacMillan John MacReady Fuad Maliha Eleanor Matchett Trudi McCarthy-Perrier leanette McEwen Frank McGuigan Peter McKelvie Robert McLaren lean McLeod George McMillan Charles McOuat Josephine Meakin Damon Merredew Barry Miller Clifford Miller Richard Moats Gordon Moffatt Vincent Mollicola lanice Montgomery William Moodrey Lloyd Morgan Pauline Morin lane Morrison David Morrison Robert Mudicka Ernest Nelson Micheline Neumann Carol Newman Sandra Nieppola Louise Nishikawa Ianice Northan Larry Northway Mary-Lou O'Donnell Douglas Oldham Robert Oliver Takuo Omae

Susan Orchard **Edmund Otte** Sally Pajunen Gail Palubiski Shirley-Ann Panula Verena Paoliello Joanne Parisotto Carl Pasemko Paul Paularinne Deochandra Persuad Walter Petryshyn Edgar Pidgeon Simone Poirier Wai-Hon Poon Johanna Pruys Diane Pyhtila Teodozia Pysh Claudette Pyykka Romas Ramanciauskas William Rankin Arnold Rawana Barbara Riordan lo-Ann Roach Sharon Roadhouse lacqueline Robertson James Rodger Lvnda Roukkola Barbara Roy George Roy Michael Sabadoz Marie Sadowick Mary Sammon Edward Sandau Sandra Sandberg Cheryl Sandberg Joseph Sandrin Frank Saraka Martin Satama Shirley Savitsky **Dorothy Schmidt** Karl Schottroff Susan Schultz David Schultz Robert Seki Norah Serino Mohamed Shahabudeen Marilyn Simpson Alfred Smith Joseph Snopek David Sovereign Frank Spriggs

Barbara Steele Marilyn Stevens **Hugh Stewart** Margaret Stewart Carole Stoyand Jane Sullivan Patricia Sullivan-Kenyon **Gary Summers** John Sykes Douglas Taylor James Telfer Beverley Thomas Alistair Thomson Evelyn Tindale Leslie Tippin Io-Anne Treftlin Vicki Trevisanutto Margrid Trimble Della Van Walleghan Neil Verdone Edward Walker Alice Wall Olga Wallace James Walsh James Ward Kathrvn Wareham Laureen Weiler Gregory Welch **David Wells** Gerald Wells Lesle Wesa Brian Weston Nancy Wickman D'Arcy Wilson Elizabeth Wirth Andreas Woischwill John Woischwill Man-Kong Wong Robert Woods Doris Woolley Lauraine Wright John Wright Terrance Youmans Shea Yu Robert Zachary Marcia Zizman Ianis Zrobach

Joel Stapansky

lames Starr

Graduates are listed by year of first Business degree or diploma. For a complete list of "lost"alumni, please visit www.lakeheadualumni.ca

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## UNIVERSITY CUP COUPE UNIVERSITÉ

- PRESENTED BY TBAYTEL PRÉSENTÉE PAR -

The CIS Men's Hockey Championship was a resounding success, thanks to the many volunteers who helped stage the five-day event last March. "Our volunteers were the backbone of the effort and I can't thank them enough," says Lakehead Athletics Director Tom Warden.

The University of New Brunswick's Varsity Reds emerged victorious after an exciting weekend competition involving six University teams: UNB Varsity Reds, St. Mary's Huskies, Western Ontario Mustangs, Lakehead Thunderwolves, McGill Redmen, and Alberta Golden Bears.

The Lakehead Thunderwolves, as host team, did not get the results they wanted (losing 2-1 to the Golden Bears and 3-1 to the Varsity Reds), but they did play well against two of the top teams in the country. And they are looking forward to competing next year when, once again, Lakehead University will host the Cavendish University Cup.

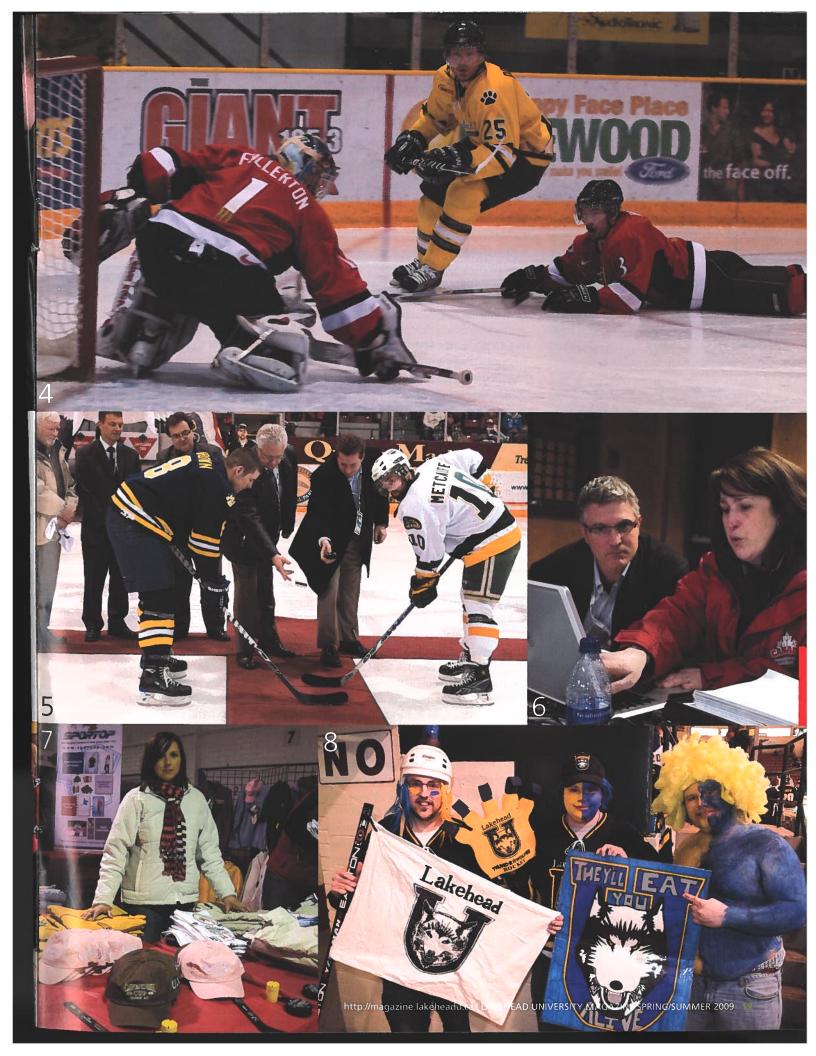
Volunteers Help make Event a Resounding Success



- 1. Hockey fans of all ages come together
- 2. Todd Brush, RBC Investment and Retirement Planner, carries the Torino Olympics torch, sponsored by RBC
- 3. University of New Brunswick's Varsity Reds, 2009 University Cup Champions
- 4. Scott Dobben in action for the Thunderwolves
- 5. Don Campbell, President & CEO of TBayTel, and Jeff Rose, Vice-President of Marketing, Cavendish Farms, take part in a ceremonial puck drop
- 6. Athletics Director Tom Warden works with Sheila-Ann Newton, Manager, Events & Programs, CIS
- 7. Rachel De Franceschi of Sportop Marketing sells Cavendish Cup merchandise
- 8. True blue Thunderwolves fans

Photos by Mike Lavoie





## **Class Notes**

### 1970s

Dennis Battrum (HBSc'75) is a member of the Advisory Council of New Cantech Ventures in Vancouver, BC. He is Founder and President of marketfriendly, inc., a company that offers metals and scrap metal market research, metal market news services, and metals and scrap metals inventory validation and valuation. As well, Dennis is a director of Sprott Molybdenum Participation Corporation.

Clive Llewellyn (MA'77) serves as a Director on the Board of Kristina Capital Corp. in Calgary, AB. Clive has been a partner with the law firm Fleming LLP since 1991.

Helene Savard (ForDip'79) is the Coordinator of the ecosystem management and the natural resource law management programs at Fleming College, Frost Campus. After graduation she worked for the MNR in Terrace Bay then moved to Kenora where she started Eldorado Forestry. From August 2006 to December 2007, Helene worked in Dubai at the Canadian University of Dubai School of Environment and Health. As Chair, she designed a state-of-the-art laboratory and the curriculum for three undergraduate degrees. She and her husband Guy live in Peterborough, ON.

## 1980s

#### 25th Reunion of Les Bucherons

The 1984 HBScF Lakehead University grads (a.k.a. Les Bucherons) are organizing their 25th anniversary for the civic holiday weekend in August 2009 (July 31 to August 2, 2009), in Thunder Bay. The Organizing Committee (Greg Pawson, Corrinne Nelson, Erin Leffers, Nancy Tomlinson-Houle, Mark Speers, and Dave Hayhurst) is trying to pull together

contact information for 1984 grads, and the few stragglers (1985 grads). They are also looking for information on other classmates you may have stayed in touch with over the years. If you were part of "Les Bucherons," please contact Greg Pawson (greg.pawson@ontario.ca) or Erin Leffers (erin.leffers@ontario.ca) with your up-to-date contact information.

John Crocco (BA'82/BEd'83) has been appointed Director of Education and Secretary/Treasurer of the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB), one of the largest boards in Ontario. John currently holds the position of Superintendent of Education for the NCDSB.

Kathleen (Kath) Swayze (BPHE'83) recently accepted the position of Director of Student Affairs for the new Niagara Campus of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University, where she is currently an Assistant Clinical Professor. She continues to be Medical Director at Ridley College, and practices family and sports medicine in St. Catharines, ON.

After living in Australia for 21 years, **Kevin M. Tomlinson** (HBSc'84) is now the Managing Director with Westwind Partners in London, England, where he lives with his wife Jeanette Drew and their two daughters.

Tim Twomey (HBSc'83) has joined Premier Gold Mines Ltd. as its Exploration Manager. A professional geologist, Tim has over 25 years of exploration, production, and management experience in Saskatchewan and Ontario, including the Thunder Bay and Kirkland Lake regions. More recently, he was Senior Exploration Geologist with Goldcorp's regional exploration team in the Red Lake Area.

**Bing Yoenathan** (BSc'85) is living in Surabaya, Indonesia, with his wife Astrid and their two sons, Eric and Juan. Bing is working in soy manufacturing.

### 1990s

Darcy Killeen (BAdmin'90) is Executive Director of CONTACT, the largest photography festival in the world with over 1,000 artists at more than 200 venues across the Greater Toronto Area. Previously Darcy held a variety of positions in the financial community including VP Finance and CFO of Comnetix Inc., CFO of Delta Engineering, and Associate Director of Arbitrage with Nesbitt Burns in their Wall St. office in New York City. Subsequent to graduating from Lakehead, Darcy also completed his CMA designation and received his MBA from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Visit www. contactphoto.com

Matthew Hollands (HBScF'90) has recently relocated his business, Hollands Forestry Consulting, to Sudbury, ON. He offers business, forestry, and economic development services.

In 2007, **David G. Leonard** (BEng'91) was appointed President of Keata Pharma, a subsidiary of PharmEng International Inc., a full-serve consulting and contract manufacturing company with manufacturing facilities in Perth, ON, and Sydney, NS.

David Gosse (BEng'93) is Vice-President, Manufacturing, for Canexus Income Fund in Calgary, AB, responsible for production and operating costs for all North American plants, and the provision of functional support to South American operations. He joined Canexus' predecessor company (Nexen Chemicals) in 1997, holding various positions of increasing responsibility. He received an MBA from Athabasca University and is a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists, and Geophysicists of Alberta.

Ron Greidanus (HBMus'94) is a pianist who performed Hummel's Piano Concerto, Opus 85, in the Caledon Chamber Concerts series in February 2008. After graduating from Lakehead, Ron studied at the Sweelink Conservatory in Amsterdam. He has performed with the Rochester Philharmonic, the Vancouver Philharmonic, and the Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra. The Hummel Piano Concerto is rarely heard in concert as it is considered "impossible" to play.

Erik Knutsen (HBA'96) is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at Queen's University in Kingston, ON.

Karen Simpson (BEd/BSc'97) is an elementary school teacher at Brechin Public School in Simcoe County. She married Kenneth Szijarto in 2006.

Michael Black (HBK'98) is the Business Development Manager at Attends Healthcare Products. He lives in Burlington, ON, with his wife Helen Macneil and their son Quinn, born in July 2006.

Tony Koukos (BAdmin'98) is a professional photographer who has found inspiration throughout the world. Tony lives in Canada but he regularly ventures off to many corners of the world and will soon visit Africa and South America. His work can be seen at www.tonykoukos.com

#### 2000s

Steven Baric (HBMusic'00) accepted the position of Music Director for Cobourg's St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and began his new position on June 1, 2008. Steven was organist at First Presbyterian Church in Thunder Bay as well as a composer, ballet accompanist, and guitarist in a wedding band. He is married to Tara and they now have a daughter, Mila.

Judy Vogrig (BA'02) retired June 30, 2008, after a 40-year career at Lakehead University. She began in the Department of Geology and worked with many Deans in many departments. Her last position on campus was Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities.

In January 2008, Allison Kelley (HBA'02, MEd'05) was appointed Member Services Officer at The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) in Ottawa. Allison is a fluently bilingual library and research professional with more than 12 years of professional experience providing library services in both academic and public settings. Prior to joining CRKN, she has held positions as Reference Librarian with the University of Ottawa, and as Bibliothèque de référence virtuelle (BRV) Librarian with Ottawa Public Libraries.

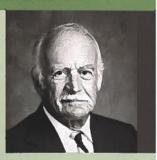
Patrick Brunelle (BA/BEd'03) has started a travel business in Costa Rica called Exclusive X-cursions Travel. Learn more online: www.travelext.com

In 2008, Julie Cosgrove (HBFA'04) received a Visual Arts award from the K.M. Hunter Foundation valued at \$8,000. The award, one of six given in the fields of film and multimedia, dance, literature, music, theatre, and visual arts, is presented to an individual emerging artist who has completed his/her training, begun to produce a body of work, and is starting to make a significant mark in the field. Julie has been working as a professional artist for the past five years and has exhibited her paintings locally and nationally.

Amy Shute (BSc'05) has been appointed Project Geologist - Northeastern Ontario at Delta Uranium Inc., an exploration company engaged in uranium exploration in the Kenora and Timmins areas. A recipient of several awards and grants, Amy has recently completed her summer work terms as a project geologist in Northern Ontario. She is currently completing her Master of Science in Geology.

## **IN MEMORIAM**

William (Bill) Tamblyn, the first President and Vice-Chancellor of Lakehead University, passed away on March 31, 2009.



Bill Tamblyn

graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Science degree and Master of Commerce degree. He joined the Board of Governors of Lakehead Technical Institute in 1951 and worked to develop the young institution, first into Lakehead College of Arts, Science and Technology in 1956 and then into a full-fledged university in 1965. During his tenure as President (1965-1972), the University experienced a dynamic period of change. Enrolment grew to over 3,000 students and the first capital campaign was launched.

Tamblyn was named to the Province of Ontario's Council for the Arts by the provincial cabinet in 1968, and he served as Executive Assistant to MP Robert Andras in 1973. He received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from Lakehead in 1981, and was later conferred as a Fellow of the University in 1984. In May of 1993, Bill Tamblyn was the only individual from Northwestern Ontario to be awarded the Order of Ontario by Lieutenant Governor Henry N.R. Jackman.

In June 2007 the Lakehead University Centennial Building was dedicated to Bill. Tamblyn. The Centennial Building is now referred to as the William (Bill) Tamblyn Centennial Building, as it was one of the first major buildings on campus during his presidency.

Should friends so desire, memorial donations may be made to the Parkinson Foundation or the William Tamblyn Scholarship Fund at Lakehead University.

Class Notes Read More Online http://magazine.lakeheadu.ca





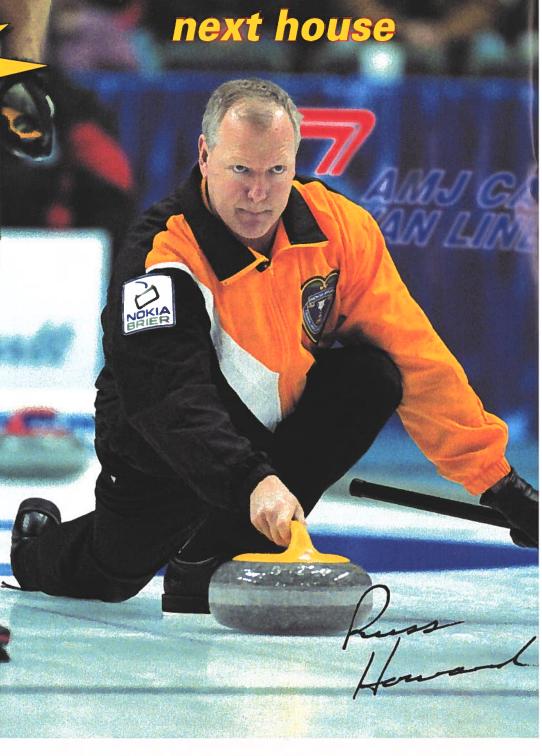
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## **IN MEMORIAM**

Saul Laskin (BA'99), a longtime friend and graduate of Lakehead University, passed away October 4, 2008. Laskin served as the new city of Thunder Bay's first mayor from 1970 until 1972. In 1987, he was named a Fellow of Lakehead University. In 1995, the University bestowed upon him an Honorary Doctor of Laws.

Professor Peggy Tripp passed away on September 30, 2008. A faculty member at Lakehead University since 1980, Tripp served as a Professor of Biology in the Faculty of Science and Environmental Studies and as a Professor of Women's Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Her teaching areas included Ecofeminism, Women and Science, Environmental Ethics and the Forest, Science Under Scrutiny, and Genetics.

David Zanatta (BA'85) passed away peacefully after a lengthy illness, on July 13, 2008, at the age of 49. Zanatta worked as a social worker in Sault Ste Marie. The best pure scorer in Lakehead history, David followed his brother John from Sault Ste. Marie to Thunder Bay to pursue basketball. He played in 1978-79, 1979-80, 1981-82 and 1983-84. He was one of the top point guards in Canada while playing for Lakehead. David Zanatta was named Lakehead Male Freshman Athlete of the Year in 1978-79 and Male Athlete of the Year in 1981-82. He was inducted into the Lakehead Athletics Wall of Fame in 2005.

Professor Ernst Zimmermann passed away in hospital on August 24, 2008. A member of the Department of History since 1967, Zimmermann taught German and Russian history for over 30 years, but he is particularly remembered by generations of students for his course on historiography. He served as Chair of the Department of History, Dean of Arts, and President of the Lakehead University Faculty Association, and was a member of the Senate and the Board of Governors. Following his retirement in 1996, Ernst Zimmermann and his wife Beverly Leaman established an endowment for an annual award to a senior student in History.







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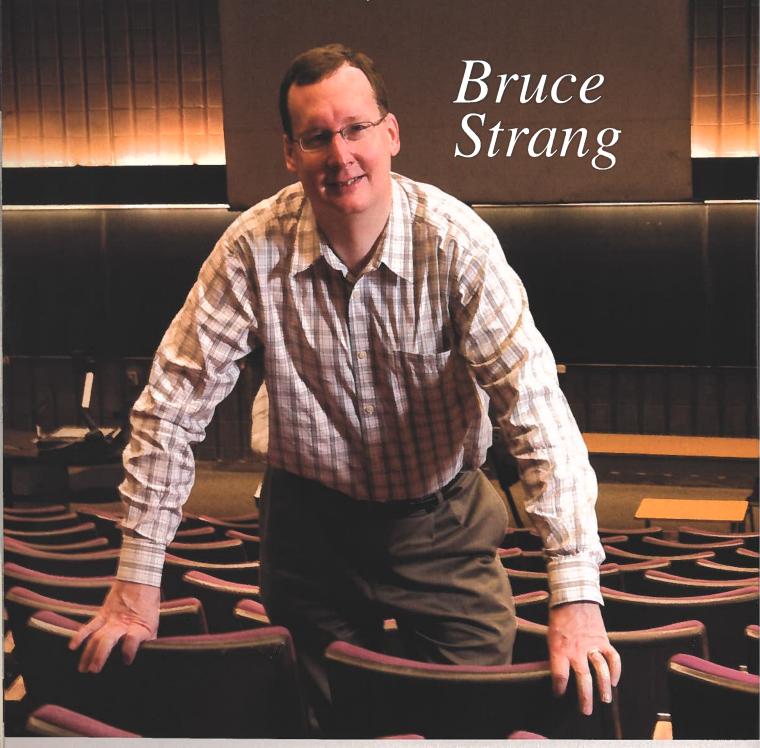
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## Distinguished Instructor

by Frances Harding



Swimming in the Deep End

## THIS YEAR'S DISTINGUISHED INSTRUCTOR knows what it is like to struggle as an undergraduate and to be inspired by an exceptional teacher.

Professor Bruce Strang dropped out of university before completing the fourth year of a grueling double major degree program in history and economics at the University of Winnipeg. He returned four years later to complete an Honours BA in History, and fortunately met an outstanding professor – Robert J. Young – who put him on course for a career in academia.

It was Bob Young who suggested that Strang pursue graduate work. When he enrolled in the Master's program at McMaster University to specialize in European History (and later in the PhD program at the same university), he vowed to take every opportunity to learn how to become an effective teacher at the university level.

The central tenet of Bruce Strang's teaching philosophy is to "emphasize deep rather than surface learning." In surface learning students "typically reduce the material to a series of unconnected facts to be memorized. Rote memorization increases students' short-term knowledge, but this activity does not fundamentally change the learner."

The deep or transformational approach involves "students attempting to make sense of what they have learned." Students begin to "see things in a different light and develop new ways to understand and to process information. More importantly, they should have experienced a transformation in their learning abilities that they will be able to apply to other subjects."

Strang focuses on small group learning and the development of effective writing skills. He values all of his students and derives the most satisfaction in helping each student realize his or her potential. Not surprisingly he garners rave reviews from his students and his name shows up regularly on Maclean's [magazine] "Most Popular Profs" list.

Vice-President (Academic) and Provost Laurie Hayes believes that Professor Bruce Strang embodies two of the key principles contained within the Lakehead Academic Plan: that every teacher is a researcher and every researcher is a teacher. Bruce Strang's students, she says, attest to his passion for his subject matter, his sensitivity to students, his high expectations, and his awesome job of making History interesting.

## | Bruce Strang, Professor of History



## LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED INSTRUCTORS

- 1989 Manfred Kehlenbeck
  Department of Geology
- 1990 Peggy Tripp

  Department of Biology
- 1991 S. Ali Mirza

  Department of Civil

  Engineering
- 1992 W. G. Heath

  Department of English
- 1993 Victor Smith

  Department of History
- 1994 Darlene Steven
  School of Nursing
- 1995 Inderjit Nirdosh

  Department of Chemical

  Engineering
- 1996 Jane Taylor
  School of Kinesiology
- 1998 Kim Fedderson
  Faculty of Social Sciences &
  Humanities; now Orillia
  Campus Dean
- 1999 Ken Brown
  Faculty of Forestry & the
  Forest Environment
- 2000 Rick Holmes

  Department of English
- 2002 Tom Potter
  Outdoor Recreation, Parks
  & Tourism
- 2003 J. Michael Richardson Department of English
- 2004 Margaret McKee School of Social Work
- 2005 Walter Epp Faculty of Education
- 2006 Ulf Runesson
  Faculty of Forestry & the
  Forest Environment
- 2007 Philip Fralick

  Department of Geology



by Frances Harding

HOLLY PRINCE KNEW SHE WANTED to work in the field of Palliative Care after spending two weeks at a Toronto hospital with a close friend who was dying of lymphoma, surrounded by his family and friends.

"I was an undergraduate student at the time and very distressed by the whole experience," she says. "I didn't understand much about cancer and no one in the family was talking about death and dying." In hindsight, she regretted not being able to be more helpful. After returning to Thunder Bay and speaking with her professors, she realized this kind of care had a name — palliative care — and that if she learned more about it, she might be able to "make something meaningful" of her friend's death.

Prince, who has a diploma in Native Mental Health from Confederation College, went on to complete a Master's Degree in Social Work at Lakehead University under the supervision of Professor Mary Lou Kelley. Kelley is the Director of the Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health (CERAH), which is at the national forefront of Rural Palliative Care, Palliative Care for Seniors, and Palliative Care for Aboriginals. "Palliative care isn't a place," says Kelley. "It is a program of care for the patient and the family that encompasses disease management, pain and symptom management, psychological, social, and spiritual needs, end-of-life care and planning, and dealing with mourning, loss, and grief."

In the spring of 2008 CERAH, in partnership with the Kenora Chiefs' Advisory and the Fort Frances-based Gizhewaadiziwin Health Access Centre, received a \$100,000 grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada for a project entitled Improving End-of-Life Care

for Aboriginal Elders with Cancer and other Chronic Diseases. As CERAH's Aboriginal Research Coordinator, Holly Prince has been involved with a variety of initiatives relating to this project, including the development of a new curriculum to educate front-line health care workers. She is currently working to improve palliative care services in 12 First Nations communities in Northwestern Ontario.

Prince is the first person in her family to graduate from university. She loves the field of palliative care, and says it has given her some of the most rewarding work she has done so far in her career as a Social Worker. "I enjoy teaching and breaking down barriers," she says. "I would never say I am an expert in Aboriginal palliative care; what I do have are certain skills that provide me with the opportunity to liaise with First Nations people and get them connected."

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