

LAKEHEAD

ALUMNI

SPRING/SUMMER 2012 | VOLUME 29 NUMBER 1

Finding New Paths Adapting Diabetes Education to Aboriginal Cultural Beliefs

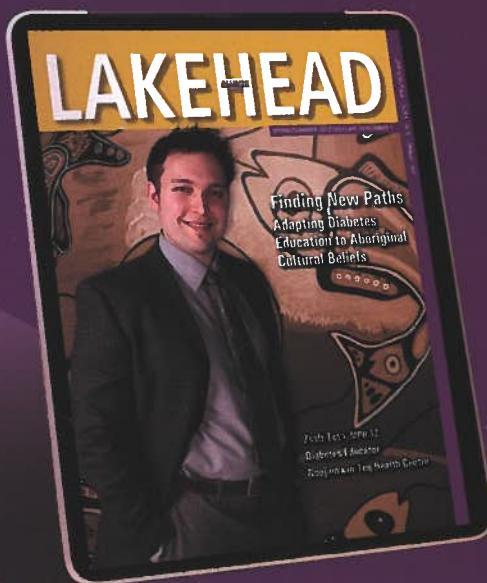
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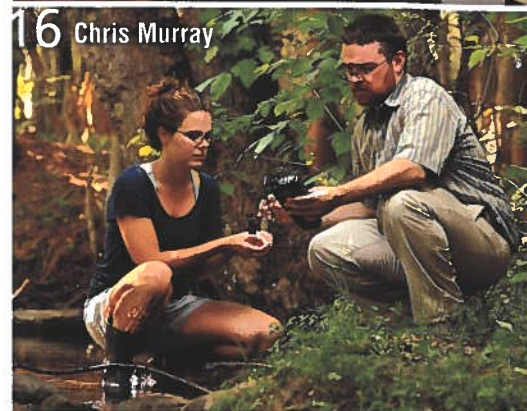
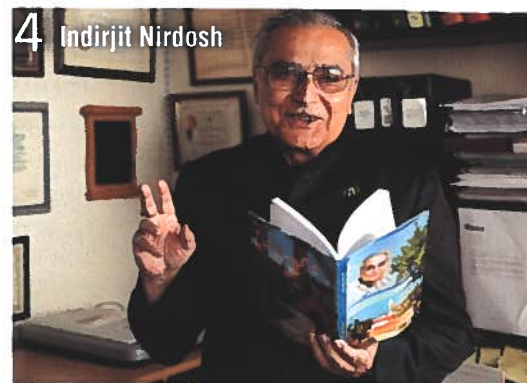
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Editor's Message

by GRAHAM STRONG
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STAY ENGAGED WITH LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Yes, Lakehead University Magazine has gone digital.

Actually, back issues of this Magazine have been available online since 2004 and we know that many of our readers prefer to read the digital version. It's accessible. It's searchable. And it saves paper. Plus, the digital version contains more editorial content than the print version – Alumni news and information that is “fit to print, but just won't fit” in the print version.

Now, for the first time since the publication began, we are asking you if you would prefer to read the online version exclusively. If you say yes, you will receive all future issues by way of an email notification with a link to the Magazine. And, if you register your choice before September 25, 2012, your name will be entered into a draw to win a new Apple iPad courtesy of Lakehead University.

Why the emphasis on digital?

First of all, when we surveyed our alumni by email recently, approximately 90% of those who responded said they would prefer to receive the digital version.

But it's also about costs and where we are investing our dollars. Every year, two issues of Lakehead University Magazine are mailed to more than 30,000 alumni households. And every year, with each new graduation class, more than 2,500 names are added to our Magazine mailing list!

Seventy-five percent of the total cost of producing and distributing the Magazine is taken up by printing and postage and these costs are increasing as we grow. Could this money be better spent elsewhere? Could it be invested in student programming or used to expand our communications in new and innovative ways? We think so. But we need your help to make this change happen.

The Choice is Yours – Digital or Print?

We are asking if you would like to read the Magazine online or whether you would prefer to continue to receive a printed copy.

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President's Perspective

By BRIAN STEVENSON, PhD
President and Vice-Chancellor, Lakehead University

IMAGINING THE FUTURE

The fifth-century Chinese general Sun Tzu proclaimed, "Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to victory. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat." As Lakehead University enters a pivotal phase in its history, we are applying the insights of this master strategist to create an institution adapted to the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The many achievements of the past year – from the hiring of our Founding Dean of Law Lee Stuesser to collaborating with Parks Canada to protect Lake Superior's watershed and ecosystems – did not happen by accident.

They have arisen from carefully laid groundwork, planning, and countless hours of hard work. I'm incredibly grateful for the support of our Senate, Board of Governors, faculty, and staff who are always ready to roll up their sleeves and work as a team for the good of the University.

From this process has sprung the *Academic Plan 2012-2017* and the *Draft Strategic Plan 2013-18*. These blueprints for shaping Lakehead's future are ambitious and bold – as they have to be in this time of economic uncertainty and changing expectations about the role of universities.

The creation of these two foundational documents has been an energizing experience. Administration and faculty have not been afraid to question, to listen honestly, and to be open to new ideas.

This has resulted in an *Academic Plan* that revolves around five priorities: excellence in teaching, learning, and research; extending community engagement; strengthening our commitment to social justice; expanding our international reach; and enhancing support of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students.

The launch of our Achievement Program this past spring is just one example of how we are actively engaging with the community and supporting their aspirations. The Achievement Program will encourage First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and other children who face barriers to postsecondary education to finish high school and enable them to earn credits towards tuition fees at Lakehead.

The *Academic Plan*, which was accepted by the Senate in March, and the *Draft Strategic Plan* are working in tandem to define Lakehead's vision. Both plans

affirm the importance of creating a student-centred learning experience and giving our graduates the skills to become independent thinkers with a strong sense of social and environmental responsibility.

We see the results of this approach to education every day and across all disciplines, such as the work music students are doing with elderly residents in long-term care homes to improve their quality of life.

The *Draft Strategic Plan* also emphasizes the importance of nurturing scholarship through teaching and research and this is an area in which Lakehead is gaining national and international recognition. Our researchers are contributing to Canada's knowledge economy and embarking on partnerships with industry and government to stimulate the economies of Northern and Central Ontario. Our Biorefining Institute is revitalizing the forestry sector and our

(continued on Page 15)



| Lakehead President Brian Stevenson and Founding Dean of Law Lee Stuesser in front of PACI, Thunder Bay

Campus News

LAKEHEAD'S SECRET POET

How many engineers-slash-poets do you know? If you went to Lakehead University sometime in the last 30 years, you may know at least one.

Inderjit Nirdosh, a professor emeritus of chemical engineering at Lakehead, has seven mining-related patents to his name – and, so far, three books of poetry. Eight of his poems were put to music for Shankar Mahadevan's latest album, *Teri Hee Parchhaiyan*.

Mahadevan is one of India's most popular singers and Bollywood stars; it would be as if Michael Jackson had stumbled upon his book of poetry and put it to music during the height of his popularity.

"Overnight, my lyrics were all over India," Nirdosh said.

Until recently, students and colleagues had no idea that Nirdosh wrote poetry, never mind that he was now famous in India.

"It wasn't designed to be a secret, it's just that the topic never came up," he said. "I just write for my own pleasure."

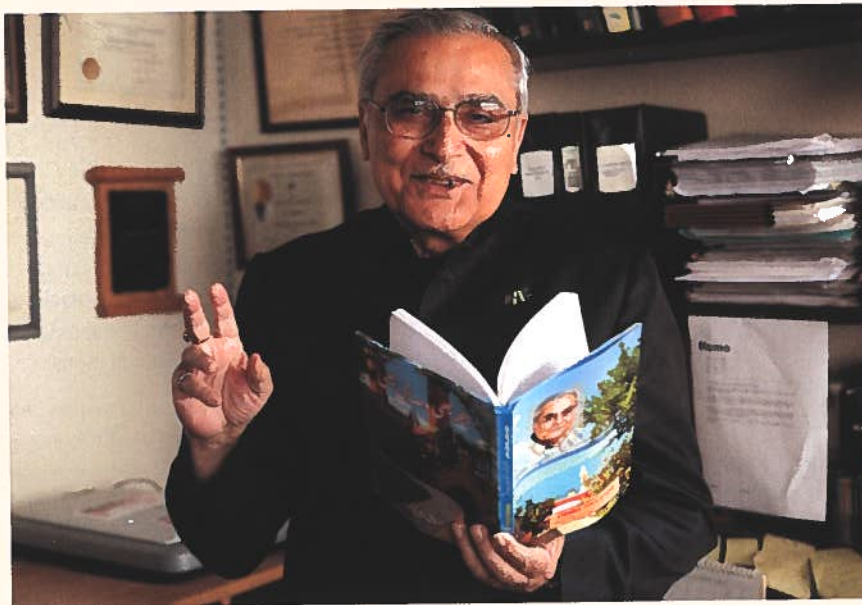
Read more in the online edition: magazine.lakeheadu.ca

STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2018

Strategic planning sets the direction, describes the future the University wants to achieve over the next five years and, in so doing, defines success. It is the basis for monitoring and accountability.

Lakehead University's next decade will be one with a major set of challenges and opportunities including budget constraints, sustainability, comprehensiveness, student needs, and improved access. The Strategic Plan aims to take these all into account, while striving to integrate major successes of the last few years, such as the opening of the Orillia campus and the new Faculty of Law.

Read more: strategicplan.lakeheadu.ca



Professor Inderjit Nirdosh has written poetry since childhood, though few at Lakehead knew until he became an overnight sensation in India

LAST CHANCE TOURISM

Last Chance Tourism: Adapting Tourism Opportunities in a Changing World draws on a range of international case studies that highlight "doom tourism" in different regions and in different contexts.

"In the past, most of the discussion about tourism challenges has pertained to the physical aspects of climate change," said Professor Harvey Lemelin, Lakehead's SSHRC Research Chair in Parks and Protected Areas and co-editor of the book. "What we are trying to do in this book is highlight the physical as well as the various historical, social, and political dimensions of climate change."

LAKEHEAD BRIDGE BUILDERS PLACE SECOND IN LIGHTNESS

Engineering students from Lakehead University placed first among non-US teams and 11th overall in the 2012 National Student Steel Bridge Competition this past May. In total, 52 teams competed including three teams from Canada.

Lakehead, which won the competition last year, consistently performs well in this competition often placing in the top ten. Teams seem to be particularly skilled in the Lightness category and this year



Professor Harvey Lemelin

was no different as their bridge placed second overall in that category.

The University of California, Berkeley, took the top prize, followed by MIT and California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Congratulations go out to team members Raquel Almeida, Norman Fong, Brian Glavish, Xaver Kargl, Timothy Klassen, and Peter Luckai, with faculty advisor Professor Tony Gillies and Civil Engineering Technologist Conrad Hagstrom.

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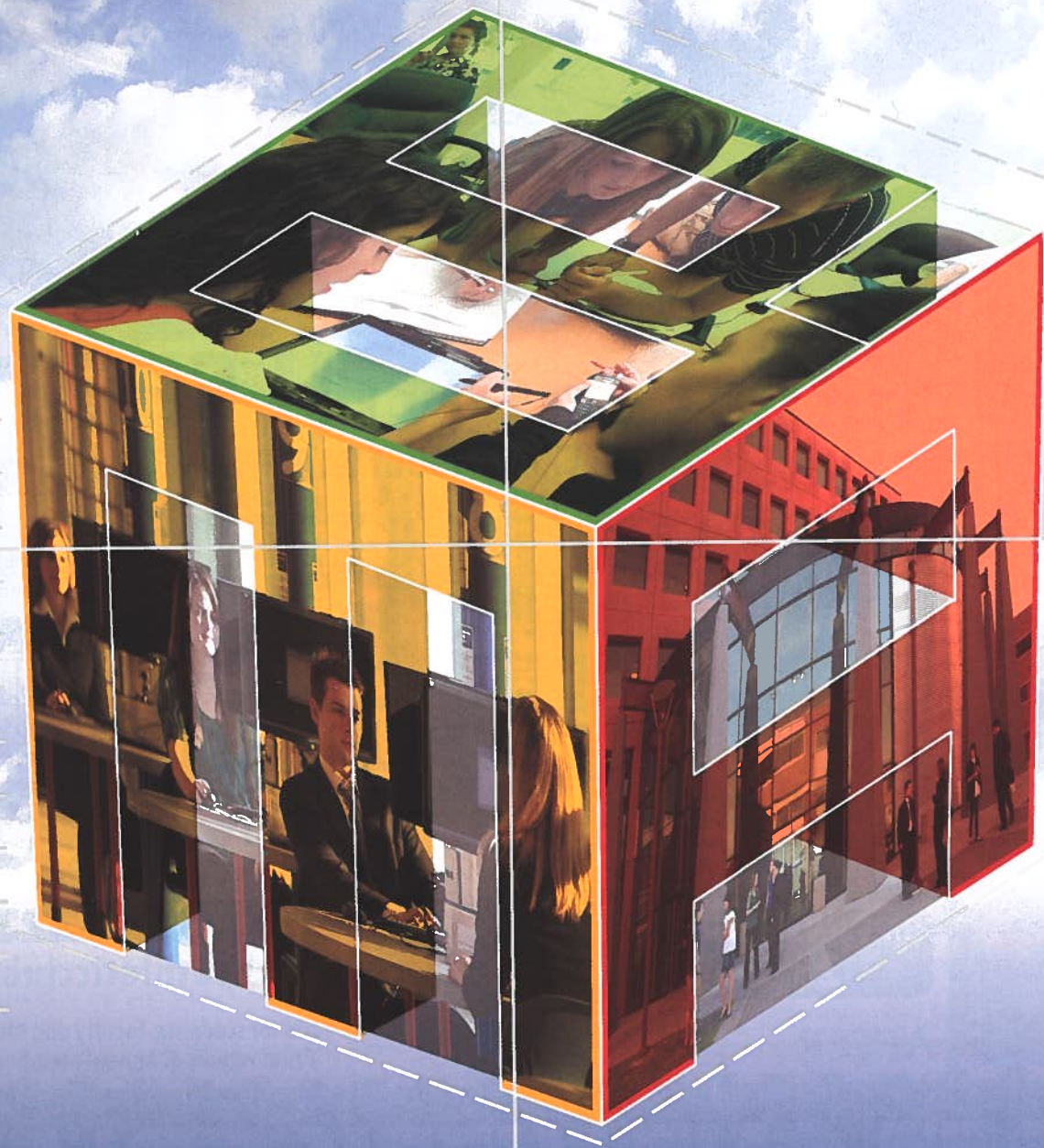
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Campus News

2012 LLOYD DENNIS AWARD WINNER – LANA JOHNSTON

Lana Johnston, a multi-sport varsity athlete, tireless volunteer, and avid booster of Lakehead University Orillia, is this year's winner of the coveted Lloyd Dennis Award recognizing outstanding citizenship and academic excellence.

"To win the Lloyd Dennis Award is such an honour," said Johnston, who graduated with an HBASc in May 2012. She plans to start her Bachelor of Education degree this fall.

During her four years at Lakehead's Orillia campus, Johnston played on the varsity hockey, rowing, and curling teams. But she was much more than a student athlete – she



| Lana Johnston

was also a mentor and leader. "It was obvious to me that she always put the best interest of the team first," said Liz Ross, the student athletics and recreation facilitator who nominated Johnston for the award. "After sustaining a wrist injury early in the rowing season this year, she stepped into a coach boat and helped lead training sessions."

She was also captain and president of the hockey team, a leader among the school's Student Ambassadors, and a member of both the Environmental Sustainability Committee and Club, among other achievements.

"She's one of those students you love to have on campus," Ross said.

RESEARCH UNDER THE SEA

Scuba divers and diver tourism can have a critical impact on marine environments.

"If you're diving and accidentally break a 10-inch piece of coral, you've destroyed a decade of growth in an instant," said Kelsey Johansen (MES'11), graduate of the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism program and now a sessional lecturer at Lakehead University. "I wanted

to develop an educational paradigm that would better inform divers of these issues and encourage them to behave more sustainably."

Johansen set out to interview diver tourism operators and observe underwater diver behaviour. She then developed a model of diver education that advocates for a curriculum which will heighten



| Kelsey Johansen

environmental consciousness and emphasize the responsibility of divers to take ownership of their actions.

Johansen has also taken part in several recreation- and tourism-based initiatives, including investigating the potential benefits of marina development for the town of Red Rock. Currently, she serves as the publicity director and social media coordinator on the Voyageur Trail Association's Coordinating Council and is preparing to give a presentation in Sweden at the 6th International Conference on Monitoring and Management of Visitors in Recreational and Protected Areas, in August.

LAKEHEAD TEAM WINS SIFE AWARD

A team of Lakehead University students has won a prestigious Entrepreneurs First! grant from the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC). Lakehead's Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) beat out 50 other SIFE teams to win a \$2,500 award.

Their proposal, "The Aboriginal Economic Development Program," will help Northwestern Ontario Aboriginal entrepreneurs enhance their business skills and stimulate economic growth in Aboriginal communities.

"We knew the competition would be fierce," said Allison O'Shea, SIFE Lakehead president. "It forced us to think about what makes us unique as well as SIFE's mission to increase the quality of life and standard of living through the positive power of business."



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Lynda McKeown's Legacy Gift Makes Lifelong Learning a Reality

Lynda McKeown strongly believes in lifelong learning.

Sometimes though, it's not that easy to stop a career – and a life – to go back to school. McKeown saw the difficulties first hand. She said one of her biggest challenges as she returned to Lakehead was finding the money to take time off work.

"Anybody who wants to go on and do some studies could use financial assistance," says McKeown. "That's really what possessed me to talk to the University in the first place to think about setting up a donation."

After contacting Lakehead University's Office of Advancement, McKeown set up a legacy gift with her lawyer in the form of an insurance policy in her will, naming Lakehead University as the beneficiary. She specified that it be used to set up an award for returning students to get the financial assistance they need, with preference given to dental hygienists.

"A gift of an insurance policy to the University allows for a large donation at a small cost to the donor," said Lee-Anne Camlin, Major Gifts/Planned Giving Officer at the Office of Advancement.

Education has very much been central in McKeown's own life. Her grandfather, L. Y. McIntosh, MD, modelled lifelong learning. Lynda McKeown graduated from the University of Toronto in 1964 and moved back to become one of Port Arthur and Fort William's first dental hygienists. She went to Lakehead University part-time over the years to get her HBA in Philosophy, with a minor in Occupational Ethics.

McKeown eventually went back full-time and received her MA in Sociology in 1995. Her thesis topic was "The Regulated Health Professions Act and Dental Hygiene: A Study of the Changing Social Organization of Health Care Delivery in Ontario." It was a topic she knew very well, having chaired the Transitional Council 1992-1994 that led to the formation of the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario. She was elected its first president in 1994.

Today McKeown provides independent dental hygiene services for people staying in long-term care facilities, and is an instructor herself.

For Lynda McKeown, setting up a legacy gift for Lakehead University is about giving back to the school that helped her reach her goals. A legacy gift will help future students accomplish their personal and professional goals too.



Lynda McKeown (MA'95) saw first-hand the difficulties of going back to school. She set up a legacy gift that will provide financial assistance to returning students

Legacy gifts such as an insurance policy or a gift in a will are perfect for those who feel they cannot make a donation today, but would like to pledge their support to Lakehead University in the future. Please contact Lee-Anne Camlin, Major Gifts/Planned Giving Officer at the Office of Advancement, at rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca or (807) 345-7792.

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DONOR WALL CELEBRATES "YOUR BRIGHT FUTURE"

On May 25, 2012, many of Lakehead University's donors enjoyed a reception to honour their generous support of the "Your Bright Future" capital campaign. The campaign raised funds to help build the academic building at the University Avenue campus in Orillia.

A highlight of the afternoon event was the unveiling of the new donor wall located in the entrance lobby of the academic building. With its modern design and colourful glass nameplates, the commemorative design was very well received.

"For me, the most impressive part of the event was seeing the Donor Wall and noticing the numerous names – not just of corporations, but also individuals and small Orillia businesses. Proof positive that Lakehead University Orillia is truly a community-driven project," said donor Patricia Harvie. "What a wonderful



The Donor Wall is "proof positive" of Orillia's community support

thing that says about the people of Orillia."

During the event, those in attendance learned how their contributions had made an impact. Current student Rebecca Akra-Sarpong spoke about how Lakehead had provided her with an opportunity to

enrol in the course she wanted while still being close to her family in Toronto.

The community is invited to drop in at any time to see the donor wall, as well as the numerous naming plaques located throughout the building and grounds. ■

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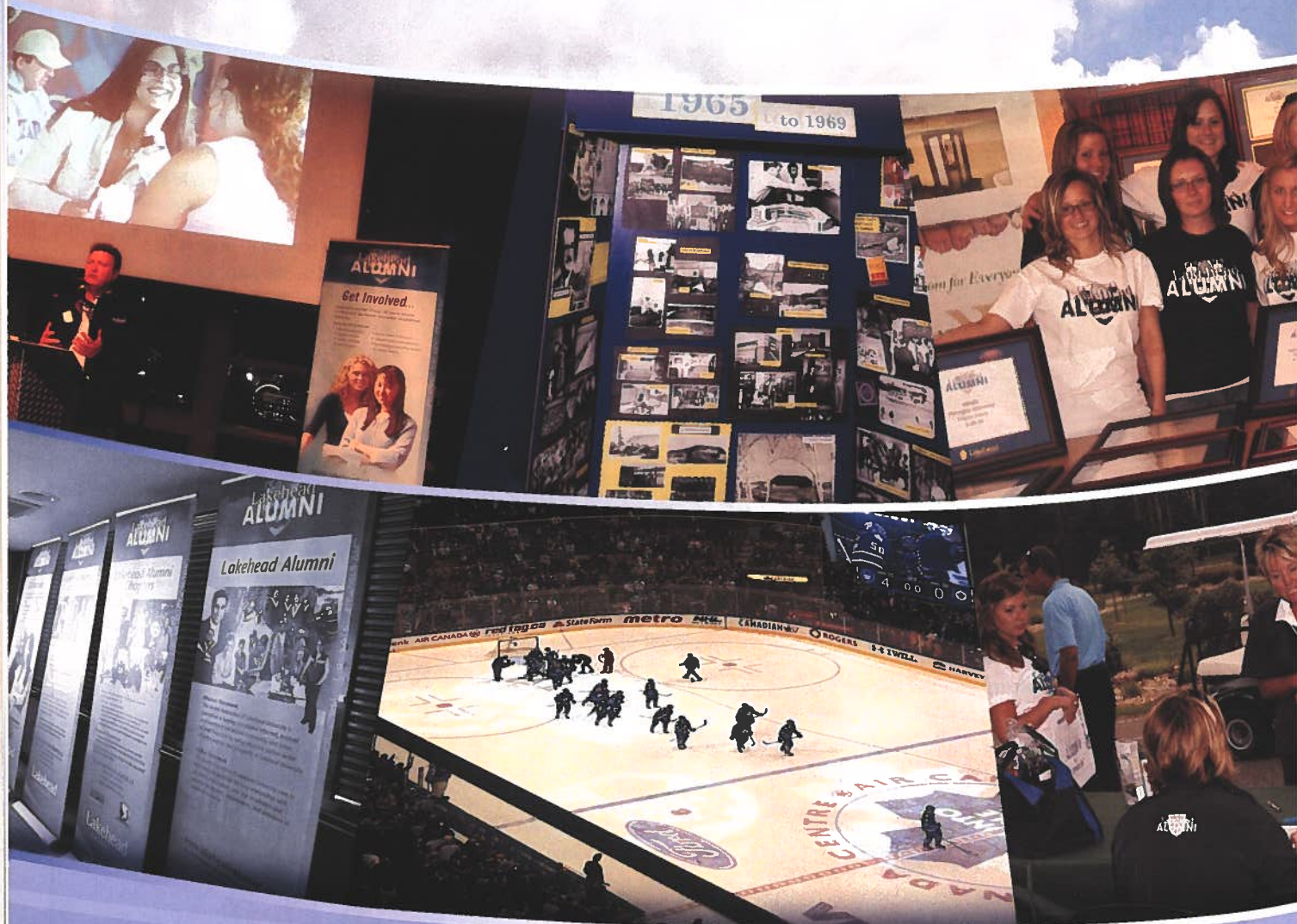
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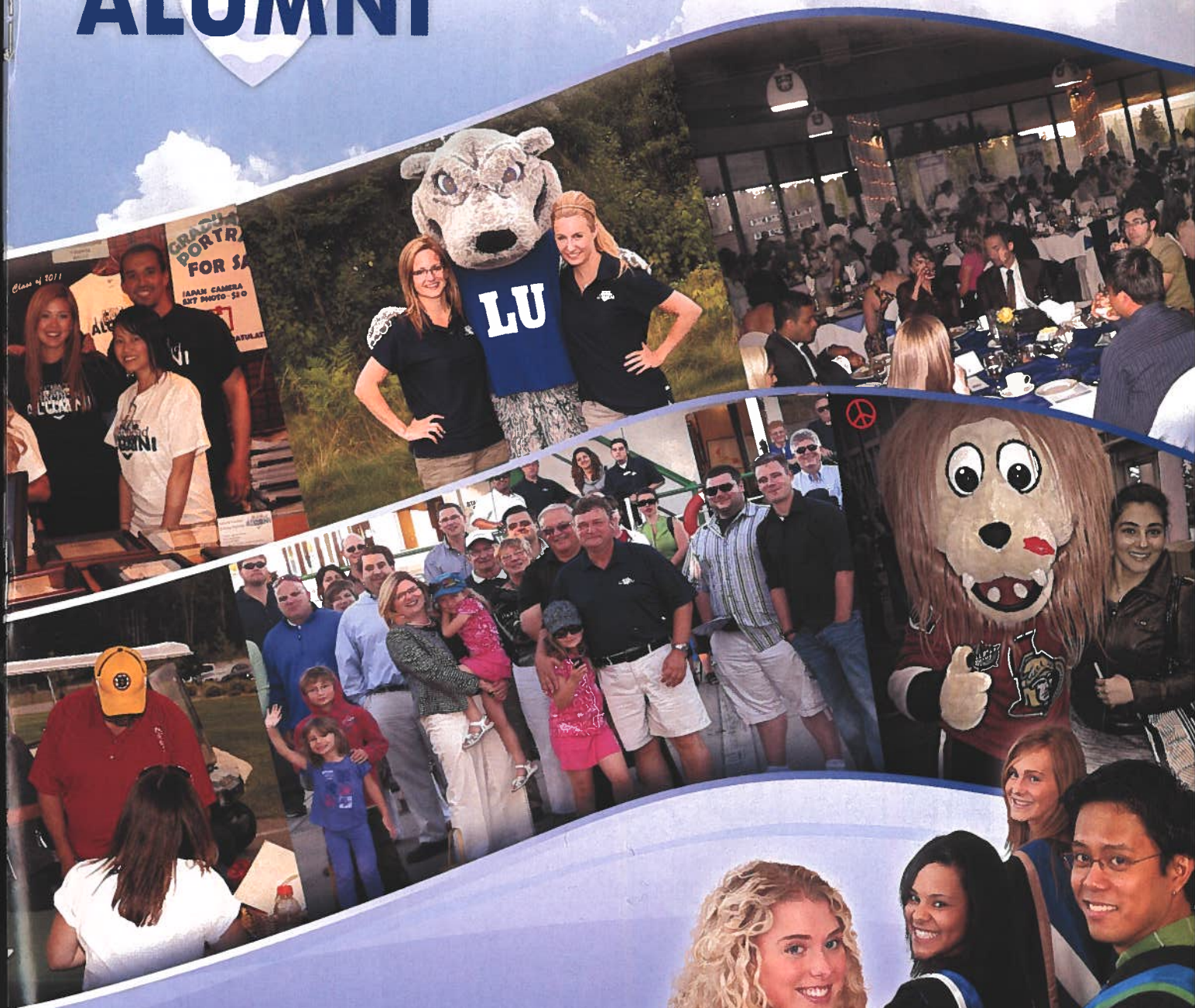


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| *Zsolt Toth completed a Master of Public Health degree while staying at home, maintaining family ties, and serving his community*

Finding new *Paths*

Zsolt Toth Is Adapting Diabetes Education to Aboriginal Cultural Beliefs

By Susan Goldberg

“NICE TO MEET YOU; WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING?”

Even if they don't say it out loud, it's a fair bet that that's what residents of Northern Ontario's more remote communities are thinking when they meet a new healthcare practitioner.

“We know that people aren't really here to stay,” says Valerie Beaudin, a registered practical nurse and diabetes worker in her First Nations community of M'Chigeeng, on Lake Huron's Manitoulin Island. “We get used to somebody, we get comfortable with them, and then they're gone.”

Zsolt Toth, however, is an exception. The diabetes dietitian educator has worked for the past six years at the Noojmowin Teg Health Centre on Manitoulin, and he has no plans to leave any time soon. It's great news for his clients, the members of seven First Nations communities on

"I look back at my MPH and I think, 'Wow'," Toth says. "Lakehead University really allowed me to do things I didn't actually believe I could do."

the island who rely on his expertise and support as they manage a chronic disease that disproportionately affects Canada's Aboriginal communities.

A native of Serbia (then part of Yugoslavia), Toth, 33, grew up in Nova Scotia, where he earned two Bachelor of Science degrees: the first in kinesiology from Dalhousie University, and the second in dietetics from Mount St. Vincent University. This year, Toth added another degree under his belt when he completed a Master of Public Health (MPH) at Lakehead — completed entirely through distance education. For his thesis project, he studied the impact of Aboriginal cultural beliefs on the acceptance of dietary recommendations for type 2 diabetes. He chose the topic, he says, in the face of some of the communication barriers between him and his clients.

"I think a lot of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal health professionals go into

communities with this belief that we have this expertise, we have this information, and that if we can just tell people about it, they'll listen," he says. And yet, he notes, so often that information isn't acted upon. "I had this inkling that there was some kind of cultural component to this, some kind of community-wide belief or attitude. And so I decided to explore those cultural beliefs and attitudes."

Toth has learned, for example, about the importance of family and community to his clients' ability to manage diabetes. For example, the standard, westernized model of one-on-one sessions between healthcare provider and client doesn't necessarily map well onto Aboriginal communities, where family or even community-wide meetings may well have more impact. Respect for family and Elders is also key to his clients' success. Toth learned the hard way that he couldn't simply tell a woman with diabetes to refuse her

mother's constant offers of cake. "It's actually insulting to say no in that situation. It's going against cultural norms, so of course what I'm telling her is not going to work. That was an 'a-ha' moment."

These kinds of "a-ha" insights have informed Toth's research and allowed him to work with his clients in what he terms "culturally safe" ways: being aware of and giving advice that works within cultural perspectives, and finding ways to reach community members where they're coming from. For example, his research suggested that diabetes education teaching at pow wows — which can tempt participants with a wide array of potentially diabetes-unfriendly foods — would be welcome. With the help of a Northern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative Grant of about \$26,000, Toth set up interactive Diabetes Wellness Interactive Health Information tents at pow wows on Manitoulin in the summer of 2011.

This series of posters promoting the Diabetes Wellness Team reinforces the Medicine Wheel, which represents among other things physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual well-being





Toth credits the MPH program with simultaneously opening doors for him while allowing him to deepen his roots on Manitoulin.

His approach has earned his clients' trust. "Zsolt has been taken into and embraced by the community, which is a tough thing to do," says Valerie Beaudin. "It seems that [his clients] are really able to embrace him and what he's saying. He's a huge asset to our community."

That emphasis on community played a large role in Toth's decision to study at Lakehead through distance education. A Northern Ontario university, he figured, "would understand the context in which I worked." Crucially, the program allowed him to stay in his community, continue to work, and provide continuous care for his clients while maintaining their trust. In this sense, the distance education model is a huge boon not only to students, but to the region.

"There is a noted shortage of health professionals in Northwestern Ontario but more explicitly in some of these remote areas," says Lori Livingston, dean of health and behavioural sciences. "So the fact that Lakehead can allow people in this program to go to school while staying at home, maintaining family ties, and still serving their communities is a tremendous asset. Because those communities cannot afford for those professionals to be away."

Of course, distance education offers its own challenges: students must be comfortable with little direct contact with professors and campus. "Zsolt had to be more self-disciplined than a typical grad student, especially with a full-time job," says Professor Ian Newhouse, one of Toth's thesis supervisors (the two met in person only upon Toth's graduation). "He really had to be highly motivated. But he was. And one key to his motivation is that he could see the direct application of his thesis project in his regular job."

Toth credits the MPH program with simultaneously opening doors for him while allowing him to deepen his roots on Manitoulin. Getting his MPH through distance education at Lakehead, he says, gave him new experience and grounding in research, presentation, and communication



Manitoulin Island is located south of Sault Ste. Marie, and is home to seven First Nations.

skills, and taught him about writing proposals and grant applications. Partly as a result, he has no intention of taking the "hello-I-must-be-going" approach to healthcare so common to the region. With a job he loves, opportunities for research, and skills developed at Lakehead — not to mention a partner and extended family on Manitoulin — he's in it for the long haul.

"I look back at my MPH and I think, 'Wow,'" he says. "Lakehead University really allowed me to do things I didn't actually believe I could do." ■

"I think a lot of health professionals go into communities with this belief that we have this expertise, and that if we can just tell people about it, they'll listen," Zsolt Toth says. Often though, that information isn't acted upon.

President's Perspective (continued)

proposed Centre of Excellence in Mineral Exploration and Sustainable Mining Development will accelerate Northern Ontario's drive to become a leading Canadian mining hub.

As the *Draft Strategic Plan* goes through its internal consultation phase that concludes in November 2012, I am convinced that Lakehead will emerge as a stronger and more responsive institution.

And we have been fortunate to welcome new additions to our senior administration team who share the commitment of the University community to making the goals and dreams of these plans a reality.

Deb Comuzzi, who arrives in August to take on the role of vice-president, external relations, will facilitate our shift to greater community engagement and build on

the already rewarding relationship we have with our alumni and volunteers. Kathy Pozihun, a Lakehead alum, is taking the reins from another Lakehead alum — our



*Kathy Pozihun (HBCom'92)
incoming VP, Finance
and Administration*

extremely capable retiring Vice-President Finance and Administration Michael Pawlowski (Dip Bus'69, HBCom'71).

Leigh-Ellen Keating, our recently hired director of Lakehead International, will further our quest to attract the brightest scholars from across the globe while Toby Goodfellow, director of the newly-created media relations department, will raise Lakehead's profile using multiple platforms.

This combination of sound strategy and a loyal team dedicated to its execution leaves no doubt that Lakehead University will shine as one of Canada's educational innovators. ■

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Industry Partner Supports Orillia Campus Teaching and Research

by Kathy Hunt



Professor Chris Murray (right) is shown here with students Ethan Mask and Lindsey Jaanussen. Murray and his research team are working with an industry partner, which is developing environmentally sustainable products for the global market

We have many water filtration systems for water we take from our lakes, but what about the water – and pollutants – we put in them? Traditionally, storm sewers simply carry runoff into the water system carrying with it pollutants like phosphorus, which is a major cause of algae blooms and fish kills.

Lakehead University Orillia's Christopher (Chris) Murray, an assistant professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, is looking for better ways of filtering that water to reduce phosphorus and other contaminants. His project represents the first time the Orillia campus has worked with an industry research partner, and the results will likely have world-wide applications.

That partner is Imbrium, a filtration company that is part of the Monteco family of companies. Before taking a professorship at Lakehead, Murray was an employee at Monteco, a Canadian clean-technology company that develops and launches environmentally sustainable

products internationally in the water and energy sectors.

Murray said that Monteco has been involved with very small-scale research projects with one of his undergraduate classes. About 20 students studied topics such as removing oil from wastewater, salt contamination of surface water, and limiting greenhouse gas emissions from petrochemical plants. All the projects were short-term and there were no commercial objectives.

"It was a great experience for my students to be able to talk to people actually working on solutions to problems like these and learn more about real-life scientific issues in the community," Murray said.

But this project is much, much bigger. Imbrium says its SorbtiveMedia, an absorbent, gravel-like material, filters up to 90% of the total phosphorus (including a large portion of dissolved phosphorus) and sediment, which carries additional pollutants. It is available in the North American and European markets, though

according to its website the company is expanding globally. One high-profile watershed is in Montgomery County, Maryland. Managers there will use SorbtiveMedia to filter runoff as part of their plan to help reduce, by 3.1 million pounds, the amount of phosphorus currently in Chesapeake Bay.

It is an innovative solution. The system doesn't require electricity or indeed any human intervention, other than to replace the SorbtiveMedia in its huge storage chambers every year or two. Once the pollutants are captured, they don't leach back into water.

Monteco wants to make the material even more environmentally friendly. In 2011, the company provided the funding for Kayla Snyder, an arts and science student at Lakehead, to spend six months looking at ways to improve the product. Murray himself continues to explore the next steps in the process, focusing on water quality and biodegradable materials, and finding alternative uses for the spent media. ■

GEOLOGY STUDENT GOLD RUSH

Victoria Stinson will never be broke. Even while working toward her Master of Science in Geology, Stinson has received many employment opportunities, all with exceptional rates of pay. One all-expense tour through the Rocky Mountains she attended with other geologists culminated in job offers from major global companies.

Stinson's particular specialty is gold deposits. From mapping her findings, she can interpret the history of the rocks in the area and determine whether or not they possess gold. "It's a lot like being a detective," Stinson said.

Lakehead was the ideal university for her. "We have some of the best profs in the world and the support they offer to students is incredible," she said. "And, unlike at some other universities where you have to travel to do fieldwork, Lakehead is surrounded by rock. You just have to walk outside." ■



| Victoria Stinson

BOOKS

Professor Paul R. Carr in the Department of Sociology and the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies has won the American Educational Studies Association's Critic's Choice Book Award for his book entitled *Does Your Vote Count? Critical Pedagogy and Democracy*, published in 2010 by Peter Lang. ■



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Class Notes

1970s

Cyril Dabydeen (HBA'73) edited *Beyond Sangre Grande: Caribbean Writing Today*, published by TSAR Publications in September 2011. This is a contemporary selection of writings from some of the key writers now living in Canada, the US, the UK, and various countries of the Caribbean. He also wrote *Short Stories of Cyril Dabydeen: Guyana Classics Series*, published by Caribbean Studies at the University of Warwick in 2011.

1980s

Jamie Sokalsky (HBCom'80) has been appointed president and CEO of Barrick Gold Corporation, as of June 6, 2012. He joined Barrick as treasurer in 1993, and became CFO in 1999, a position he held before this appointment. Previously, he was an executive at George Weston Limited for 10 years.

Dr. Mary Bluehardt (BPHE'80, MSc Theory of Coaching'82) was dean of health sciences at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT), and moved to Corner Brook, Newfoundland, in June 2011 to take on a more senior leadership role as vice president (Grenfell Campus) Memorial University of Newfoundland.

1990s

Jim Sutherland (MA English'99) taught ESL in South Korea and China from 2000 to 2008, and is now working

as a freelance editor, proofreader, and writer. He is also the author of several books, now available on Amazon Kindle, including a story about living in Korea, and three stories about farm life in southern Ontario. *Tara's Story: Conversations with a Cat* was published in March 2012.

Will Stafford (MScF'99) runs G2S Pickin Patch Inc., a you-pick fruit farm near Prince Albert, SK, with his wife Genevieve Greif and their two children Kaelum and Athena. Will also provides GIS/Spatial Consulting.

2000s

Genevieve Knauff (HBScF'00, BED'03) was one of six women to win an Influential Women of Northern Ontario Award in May 2012. Genevieve is the owner of gck Consulting Ltd. and has over a decade of professional experience offering business, facilitation, and economic development consulting services.

Todd Denault (BED'02) published the trade paperback edition of *The Greatest Game* with McClelland and Stewart in October 2011. The book details the game between the Montreal Canadiens and the Central Red Army hockey team played on December 31, 1975 during Super Series '76. Denault also wrote *Jacques Plante*, the first full-scale biography of a legendary and award-winning NHL goalie who transformed the game. ■

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Education Students Design Interactive "Jurassic Park"

A group of 25 of Lakehead Orillia professional year education students designed Jurassic Park 2012, a conference held in May for gifted elementary school students from the Simcoe County District School Board.



2012 Lakehead University ALUMNI AWARDS

Every year, awards are presented by the Alumni Association to general members who demonstrate distinction or outstanding achievement in public service, business, humanities, research, science and technology, scholarship, or the arts. Congratulations to this year's winners!

ALUMNI HONOUR AWARD Recipients

Jamie Sokalsky
HBComm
President & CEO
Barrick Gold



Philip Walford
BSc
President, Marathon Gold



YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD Recipients

Michael Friscolanti
BA, HBA
Senior Writer, Maclean's
Magazine



Matthew Tocheri
HBA
Physical Anthropologist,
Smithsonian Institute



Lakehead ALUMNI

NEW GOALS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

by Graham Strong

Emma Brightwell has options.

Coming off a stellar year on the mats, Brightwell won pretty much everything she could in women's wrestling in 2012: a gold medal at the OUA championship, a gold medal at the CIS championship (hosted at Lakehead's Thunder Bay campus), Most Outstanding Female Wrestler of the CIS championship, OUA Woman of Influence, and Lakehead University's Female Athlete of the Year.

Impressive, yes, but exponentially so when you consider that she just started wrestling again in late 2011 after being sidelined for almost two years.

"It was exciting to go from not even being able to walk to winning the CIS," Brightwell said. "I was pretty emotional after my last match."

Nevertheless, her successes were overshadowed by the fact that her battles with injury essentially forced her out of the Olympics this year, a goal she had from an early age. The wrestling trials for the Canadian Olympic team took place in December, when she was just getting back to practice.

"It was still a little bit hard for me (while the trials were going on)," Brightwell said. "In high school, these were always the trials that I was going to go for. I was so excited. But, I have to keep in mind everything that is in the future for me."

Part of that future, it turned out, was becoming Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU) president for 2012-13. Brightwell found out that she won the election while competing for the OUA championship. It was proof, if she needed it, that she had other opportunities.

"It's taught me that you can't stick with one goal your whole life, you have to

EMMA BRIGHTWELL, HBA'12
LUSU PRESIDENT
2012-13

modify and sometimes you have to change. Your life's not over if one goal doesn't happen," Brightwell said, who graduated with an HBA in Sociology in May 2012.

It's still early in her tenure, so Brightwell hasn't considered too much what will come next. But, as mentioned above, she

has options – including two more years of OUA eligibility to compensate for time lost to injury. The 2016 Olympics are also on the horizon...

For now though, she's focused on the present.

"I found a life outside of wrestling, and I'm pretty happy with what's going on now." ■



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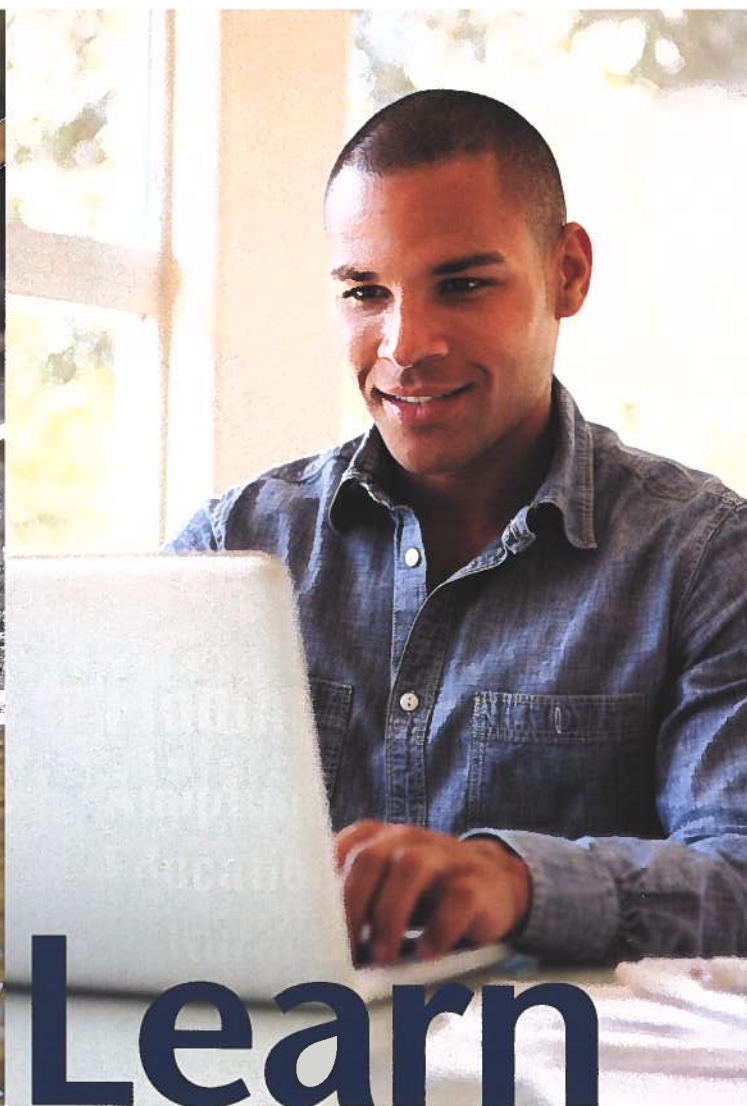
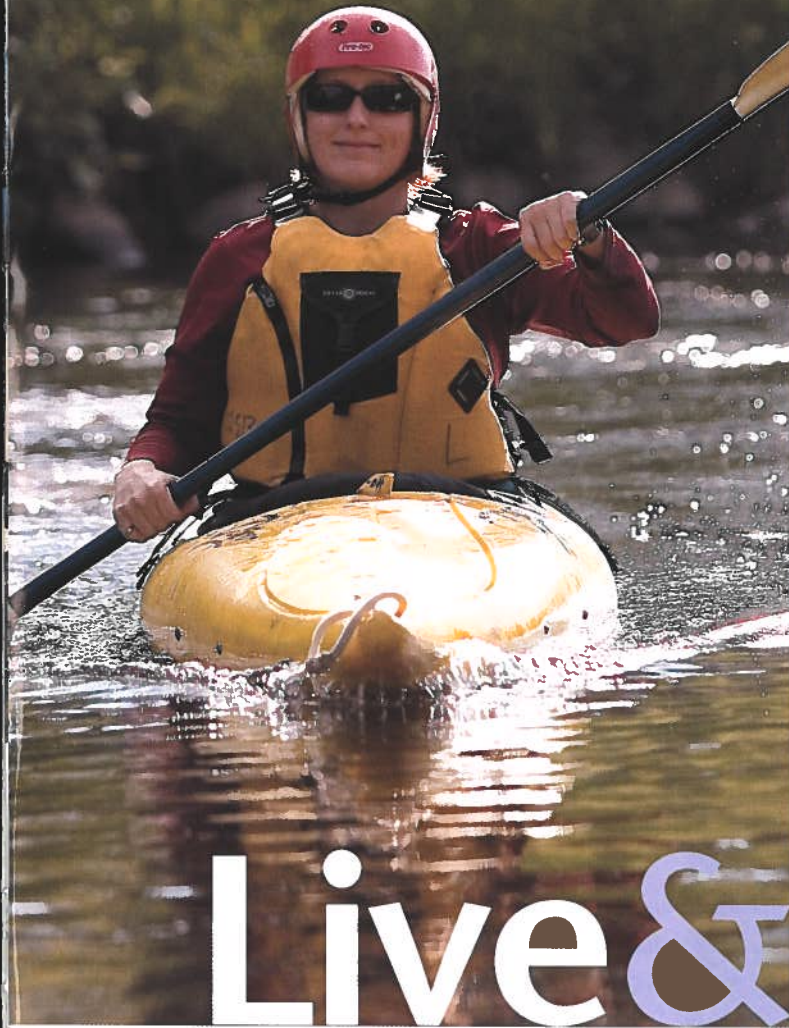
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