

JOURNEY



LIFE ON THE EDGE

Alumna Trish Newport shares stories from the frontlines of humanitarian aid work

ARCTIC TRAGEDY

The mystery of the 1845 Franklin Expedition

SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY

Do police body cameras make us safer?

PLUS

Introducing Lakehead's new president — Dr. Moira McPherson

The uneasy coexistence of wolves and humans



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CONTACT US

Marketing, Branding and
Web Development Director Clayton Browne
Editor Tracey Skehan
Graphic Design Melissa Kastern
Telephone: 807-343-8134, Fax: 807-346-7770
Email: editor@lakeheadu.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor Tracey Skehan, Brandon Walker, Mark Witten,
Caroline Alphonso

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

Office of Annual Fund and Alumni Engagement
Lakehead University
955 Oliver Rd., Thunder Bay, ON Canada P7B 5E1
Telephone: 1-800-832-8076
Fax: 807-343-8999
Email: alumni@lakeheadu.ca or online alumni.lakeheadu.ca

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Your university years were full of firsts. . . your first love, your first heartbreak, your first time away from home.

It's exciting that at 54 years old, the Alumni Association of Lakehead University (AALU) still has some "firsts" up its sleeve.

This fall, Debra Woods (HBCom'05) was elected the first ever president from outside Ontario. She took over from Dr. Michel Beaulieu who will be establishing the new Presidential Advisory Council, comprised of Association past presidents. In addition, the AALU welcomed its first international board member – Mr. Peter Lau, president of Asia One Communication Ltd. of Hong Kong.

In the summer, the Bill Keeler Memorial Golf Classic raised over \$55K for student athletes and student financial aid. The tournament was the first for incoming Lakehead President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Moira McPherson.

Lakehead Orillia held its inaugural Homecoming celebration for an enthusiastic gathering of alumni, staff, and friends behind Simcoe Hall. Many thanks to Principal Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, Jacque Kent, the Lakehead University Student Alumni Association, and the Simcoe County Chapter for organizing this memorable event. In Thunder Bay, for the first time, Homecoming

Debra Woods, President
Alumni Association

Mark Tilbury, Director
Annual Fund and Alumni Engagement

▲ Canadian sportscaster Ron MacLean spent some time with Alumni Association members when he travelled to Thunder Bay to receive an honorary degree in September 2018.

Weekend was combined with the installation of a Lakehead president. Over the weekend, alumni awards were presented to Crystal Davey, Shandor Alphonso, Karl Subban, Sue Craig, Rob Jamieson, and David Hare (Honorary Membership) in front of a record audience of over 200 guests. The AALU also partnered with the recruitment office to have award recipients Shandor Alphonso and Karl Subban talk to high school students at St. Ignatius and Westgate.

Rounding out our event firsts, on December 9 and 12, AALU volunteers cheered up students busy studying for exams with the Food for Thought initiative, the brainchild of University Librarian Karen Keiller. The volunteers made a stressful period manageable by distributing hot chocolate, cookies, and fruit to appreciative students. Anyone wanting to help during the April 2019 exams should get in touch with the Alumni Association office.

Finally, to assist grassroots and student-driven fundraising initiatives, we have launched the crowdfunding site – Lakehead Giving – at donate.lakeheadu.ca.

Perhaps you'll find a project to support for the first time!

ON THE MAP

Lakehead's Seventh President

Dr. Moira McPherson became Lakehead University's seventh President & Vice-Chancellor on September 22, 2018. "I am passionate about the strengths that Lakehead offers as a comprehensive Canadian university as well as a vital member of the economic, social, and cultural communities that we support – and that support us," Dr. McPherson said during her installation speech. She began her career at Lakehead in 1987 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Education and Athletics. After seven successful years as the School of Kinesiology Director, she became Associate Vice-President (Academic). Since then she has served as Lakehead's Deputy Provost, Provost & Vice-President (Academic), and Interim President & Vice-Chancellor. The special ceremony was held at the Hangar in Lakehead Thunder Bay in conjunction with the presentation of the All-Canadian Athletic Awards to Lakehead student athletes. One of the ceremony highlights was the conferral of an honorary degree to hockey icon Ron MacLean.



▲ Dr. Moira McPherson shares a moment with Canadian sportscaster and 2018 honorary degree recipient Ron MacLean during her installation ceremony.

Going Bottle Free

Lakehead Orillia stopped selling bottled water at the beginning of January. The change was announced by Principal Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans. "As Canada's first Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Platinum university campus, Lakehead Orillia is committed to comprehensive sustainability

management and responsible sustainability practices." The ban was instituted after a request from the Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU). Theresa Vandeburg, LUSU vice-president Orillia, explained that "LUSU had a hand in developing this policy because not only do we strongly believe in cutting down on single-use plastics," she said, "but also that water is a human right, not a commodity."

In Conversation

On Saturday, March 2 at 2 pm, join Lakehead English professors Dr. Judith Leggatt and Dr. Monica Flegel in the Brodie Library's Fireside Reading Room for a discussion called: Is Superman an Immigrant?: Race, Ethnicity and the Superhero. In Conversation talks are free of charge and everyone is welcome to attend.

Retired Lakehead Employee?

The Retirees' Association of Lakehead University (RALU) invites all former University staff, faculty members, administrators, spouses, and partners to become a member. Renew old friendships and make new friends at events including monthly lunch meetings and a monthly speaker's program at the 55 Plus Centre on River Street in Thunder Bay. RALU also publishes a regular newsletter. Learn more about RALU at www.lakeheadretirees.ca or send an email to ralu.communications01@gmail.com.



▲ Student Success Director Chris Glover, LUSU Vice-President Orillia Theresa Vandeburg, and Principal Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans at a campus refilling station

CASES Building

The grand opening of the new Centre for Advanced Studies in Engineering and Sciences (CASES) happened on November 30, 2018. Four of Lakehead's newest Canada Research Chairs, three research support units, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and more than seven leading research programs and laboratories are located in the 42,000-square-foot building, which is LEED® Gold certified and cost more than \$26.2 million to design, construct, and equip. The project received \$7.96 million from the Government of Canada, \$1.54 million from the Province of Ontario, \$5 million from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation, \$1 million from FedNor, \$1 million from the City of Thunder Bay, \$6.56 million in capital funding from Lakehead University, and \$855,783 in equipment funding, also from Lakehead.

Indigenous Research Grants

Lakehead researchers are receiving more than \$140,000 in SSHRC Indigenous Research Capacity and Reconciliation – Connection Grants to build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Dr. Martha Dowsley will engage Indigenous youth to create video research stories about Lac Seul First Nation and Dr. Rhonda Koster will work with government associations and Indigenous and settler businesses in the hunting and fishing sector to develop a consultative research process based on common Indigenous cultural concepts. In addition, Dr. Ruth Beatty is organizing an Indigenous Mathematics Conference at Lakehead Orillia that will be held May 3-5 at Simcoe Hall.



▲ CASES ribbon cutting (l-r): Lakehead Board of Governors member Brian McKinnon, Acting Mayor Iain Angus, Lakehead President Dr. Moira McPherson, Thunder Bay-Rainy River MP Don Rusnak, Research and Innovation VP Dr. Andrew Dean, Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Judith Monteith-Farrell, graduate student Jocelyn Bel, and Canada Research Chair in Green Chemicals and Processes Dr. Pedram Fatehi

Lumina Concert

Come enjoy a Department of Music Lumina Concert on March 12 at the Thunder Bay campus. Damian Rivers-Moore on French horn and Derek Oger on piano will be performing from 12:30-1:30 pm

at the William H. Buset Centre for Music and Visual Arts in the Jean McNulty Recital Hall. Tickets are \$15 (\$10 for students).

Contact Jennifer Howie at jhowie@lakeheadu.ca or 807-343-8787 for more information.

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NOSM Dean

Dr. Sarita Verma will become the new dean and CEO of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM) on July 1, 2019. She will succeed founding dean, Dr. Roger Strasser, who has headed NOSM since 2002. Dr. Verma is currently education vice president at the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. She is a family physician who originally trained as a lawyer at the University of Ottawa (1981) and later completed her medical degree at McMaster University (1991). She has been a diplomat in Canada's Foreign Service and worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Sudan and Ethiopia for several years. "I am deeply committed to serving the people of Northern Ontario," Dr. Verma said, "to leading progress in Indigenous and Francophone health, and cultivating innovation in clinical research."



▲ Dr. Sarita Verma, the new dean and CEO of the Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)



Third Age Learning

Over 50? Looking for interesting and creative education opportunities to stimulate your mind – without the quizzes, grades, and prerequisites? Lakehead Orillia's Department of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) is offering Third Age Learning Lakehead programs – thought-provoking lectures and discussions for Simcoe County residents. Uncovering the Truth: Investigative Journalism in the Age of 'Fake News,' is running on Wednesdays from February 27 to March 27, 2019. Contact CELL Coordinator Dr. Linda Rodenburg at lrodenu@lakeheadu.ca or 705-330-4008 ext. 2632 for more information and to purchase tickets.

Humanities 101

On November 31, 2018, Dr. Kim Feddersen, former Lakehead Orillia principal, hosted a Christmas Open House organized by the Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning at Lakehead Orillia. The event raised money for Humanities 101 – a free 12-week outreach program that gives community members facing financial or social barriers to postsecondary education an introduction to the university experience. The event raised \$17,000 for the program, exceeding their goal of \$12,500.

#1 Research University

In October 2018, Lakehead was ranked the country's #1 research university in the undergraduate category by Re\$earch Infosource – Canada's source of research and development intelligence. This is the fourth year in a row that Lakehead has received this honour, a feat that no other university in the undergraduate category has ever achieved. "We continue to conduct research that is well cited and has an impact from fundamental research to applied research," said Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Lakehead's vice-president, research & innovation. "I am particularly proud of the opportunities that our faculty provide to our students for exciting research projects."

Giving Tuesday

On November 27, 2018, Lakehead's alumni and friends came together to help students continue to pursue their university dreams. Supporters donated a record \$63,001.10 on Giving Tuesday – an international day of charitable giving that kicks off the holiday season. "This is the third year that Lakehead has participated in Giving Tuesday and each year we've seen more donors participating and more dollars invested in our students," said External Relations Vice-President Deb Comuzzi. Recently elected Alumni Association President Debra Woods added, "Thank you to everyone who donated to Lakehead University. Our alumni and friends, in Canada and around the world, answered the call with unparalleled generosity."



◀ According to the Royal Canadian Mint, Mary McPherson's selectively gold-plated portrait of Tecumseh is a \$25 Fine Silver Piedfort.

Tecumseh Coin

A new coin released on September 4, 2018, celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of famed Indigenous leader Tecumseh, was created by Mary McPherson – a fourth-year visual arts student. “I feel extremely grateful to have had the honour of drawing Tecumseh and having the design immortalized on a coin,” said McPherson, who is Ojibway and a Couchiching First Nation member. Tecumseh was a Shawnee chief who allied himself with the British and led hundreds of First Nations warriors into battle. “Tecumseh fought for the wellbeing and independence of his people,” said McPherson.

Kim Wildhaber Ranks among Top 1% in Accounting Exam

This year only 6,163 individuals in Canada passed the rigorous Common Final Examination (CFE) – a key step to attaining the prestigious Certified Public Accountant (CPA) designation. Lakehead alumnus Kim Wildhaber (HBCom'17, Accounting) not only passed, but he also made the CFE Honour Roll – a distinction reserved for the top 1% of all CFE writers in Canada.

The CFE is a three-day evaluation designed to assess candidates' knowledge, judgment, and skills and is a critical part of the Canadian CPA certification program. The process is designed to produce collaborative, strategic decision-makers who will fill business and accounting leadership roles in organizations of all types and sizes.

After Kim graduated from Lakehead University in 2017 with a major in accounting and the Dean Braun

Medal for the Faculty of Business Administration, he embarked on his career at BDO Canada LLP in Dryden, Ontario. While working at BDO, Kim began pursuing the CPA designation.

“It was not until after I graduated and began studying for my CPA exams that I realized how well Lakehead had prepared me,” Kim noted. “Lakehead's program was well aligned with the CPA Competency Map which allowed me to be so successful throughout the CPA program and place on the national CFE honour roll list. It's an accomplishment I hope to build off of as I continue to learn and progress through the accounting profession and towards my designation.”

“Kim was always an exceptional student in our undergraduate program, and I was not surprised to learn that he had distinguished himself at this early stage of his



▲ Kim Wildhaber (HBCom'17, Accounting)

career,” said Associate Professor of Accounting Dr. Camillo Lento. “Placing on the CFE Honour Roll is not an easy task, and is a testament to Kim's intelligence, work ethic, and determination. We are all very happy for Kim for this major accomplishment.”

Death in the Arctic

The Disappearance of the 1845 Franklin Expedition

by Tracey Skehan



▲ By the time of the 1845 expedition (pictured above), Captain Franklin had been on three earlier expeditions to find the Northwest Passage. On the last one, he and his crew barely avoided starvation by gnawing on shoe leather, making Franklin notorious as “the man who ate his boots.”

The ill-fated Franklin Expedition has haunted the public imagination for over 170 years.

In 1845, two British Royal Navy ships – HMS Erebus and HMS Terror – sailed from England to the Canadian Arctic Archipelago under the command of Captain Sir John Franklin. The veteran explorer was charged with mapping the last section of the treacherous Northwest Passage to open up a shorter trading route to Asia running through the Atlantic, Arctic, and Pacific oceans.

There were 128 sailors aboard the two ships and not a single one returned home.

Despite rough weather on the Atlantic crossing, when the Erebus and the Terror docked in Greenland to stock up on provisions, the expedition members were undeterred. In a letter written from Greenland on July 7, 1845, to fellow Arctic explorer, John Richardson, Franklin reported:

“When we have completed our provision from the transport we shall

have full three years’ supplies of everything needful on board – so that if we should be foiled even after this winter, we can, without apprehension remain a second winter.”

Three crewmembers perished while wintering on Beechey Island in 1845-46. This setback, however, seemed surmountable once the ice receded and the ships were able to sail again. Then, in September 1846, the ships became frozen off King William Island. The ice never thawed and more men died – including Captain Franklin in 1847. The remaining 105 sailors abandoned the ships in 1848 and attempted to walk to a Hudson’s Bay depot over 600 miles away. None survived.

Although the Erebus was finally found by a Parks Canada search team in 2014 and the Terror by the Arctic Research Foundation in 2016, the fate of the sailors remains a lasting mystery. Suspicions of lead poisoning, hypothermia, pneumonia, starvation, scurvy, and even cannibalism have been suggested.

Recently, Lakehead anthropologist Dr. Tamara Varney was part of a team of Canadian researchers investigating possible lead poisoning. Previous examinations had found elevated levels in the bodies. Contamination from canned food and the ships’ water filtration systems were considered. “I felt very honoured to be part of this historic project because it’s captivated the minds of so many people,” Dr. Varney said.

Using a synchrotron – a machine that emits confocal X-ray fluorescence – the researchers mapped lead levels in the bones and teeth of the sailors. They were trying to discover several things – whether or not expedition members who survived longer had higher lead levels, if bone formed around the time of death had elevated lead levels compared to older bone, and, lastly, if the Franklin Expedition sailors had significantly higher lead levels than Royal Navy sailors based on the Caribbean island of Antigua during the same time period.

If any of these hypotheses had been proven true, it would have pointed to lead poisoning as a major factor in the Franklin Expedition tragedy. Instead, Dr. Varney and her colleagues found the opposite – the lead levels of expedition members who died later were the same as those who died earlier and the Franklin sailors’ lead levels were comparable to the Antigua sailors. The only mixed result came regarding the bone formation of the Franklin sailors. Bone structures near the time of death, Dr. Varney noted in a 2018 CBC interview, “definitely showed lead exposure. But then, there was an equal number that didn’t show lead exposure.” Taken together, the researchers were able to discount lead poisoning as the cause of death.

The saga of the Franklin Expedition still holds many secrets to unlock. The body of Captain John Franklin, for one, remains unfound.

WOLVES NEED TO BE RESPECTED

by Brandon Walker

Lynn Rummelgas (HBASc'15/ MSc'17) has thought a lot about wolves since earning her master's in biology at Lakehead University Orillia.



▲ Researcher Lynn Rummelgas lives near Algonquin Park – the area of Canada made famous by the paintings of the Group of Seven. On her walks and horseback rides near the park, Lynn has encountered wolves several times.

She recently moved to a farm near Algonquin Park where she occasionally spots wolves while out walking or horseback riding. When she does, she considers what she learned from her research. Lynn undertook case studies for 28 farms west of the park that had livestock killed by wolves and she interviewed people outside that area to gauge their opinions.

“I was looking into attitudes regarding the wolf harvest ban that the provincial government put in place a few years earlier,” she says. “When people live near a protected zone they look at things differently than city dwellers who may have voted for these harvest bans. It was a hot topic.”

Lynn discovered that many people either love or hate wolves – and they are the most vocal groups. She also conducted a livestock depredation study that tracked the number and type of livestock killed by wolves, coyotes, and wolf-and-coyote hybrids. In addition, she reviewed each farmer's management practices, the size of farms, how far they were from Algonquin Park, and what they farmed – sheep, cattle, or chickens.

“I’ve been on trails where wolves were tracking moose – it was a little unnerving, but they stayed away from us.”

Her research provided strategies for sharing wilderness areas with, and educating people about, this misunderstood creature. Since wolves will not change how they act, it's up to us to alter our attitudes and behaviours toward wolves. “Mostly we need to learn to respect wolves and live in harmony with them,” Lynn says.

“Understanding wolves and their behaviours is very important. Most farmers already have great management plans in place including measures like putting up good fencing and lighting, patrolling property boundaries, using guardian dogs, and so on.”

She thinks that education is critical for those around Algonquin Park as well as for people in southern areas who want to save all wolves. “I encourage both sides to have a more realistic attitude. My goal was always about finding a balance.”

Lynn believes that people's attitudes about wolves form when they're young. “We all have these preconceived ideas because of stories we hear and share – creating fear. Urban people may think of a wolf as a mystical creator and an icon representing nature, while other people imagine the Big Bad Wolf or Peter and the Wolf. Those stories really do shape our attitudes.”

If wolves can find a different food source instead of livestock, they will go elsewhere, Lynn says. “They're very elusive. Most people can't say they've even seen a wolf in Ontario. I've been on trails where wolves were tracking moose – it was a little unnerving, but they stayed away from us.”

Lynn runs the Muskoka Dog Academy, which offers obedience training and behaviour modification, and her experiences there remind her that there are parallels between dogs and wolves. “Their DNA is almost the same. Some wolves are dominant and some are passive or submissive. They have strict hierarchies in the wolf world. So do dogs.”

Lynn, who also completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts and Science at Lakehead, continues to be a vital part of Lakehead Orillia. She will teach the course Aboriginal Peoples and Natural Resources this winter and will continue working on her PhD in forest studies next fall.

Lakehead University program helps elementary school children break barriers

by Caroline Alphonso, Education Reporter, The Globe and Mail
ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED ON OCTOBER 1, 2018, BY THE GLOBE AND MAIL

Eliza Paul was building paper race cars in the engineering department at Lakehead University when she was nine years old.

She also learned how to monitor someone's heart rate, studied Indigenous history and earned financial credits to cover tuition in her freshman year that was still almost a decade away.

It was part of a creative initiative that connected the Thunder Bay, Ont.-based university with schools in the area, helping provide children as young as Grade 4 who face socioeconomic challenges a chance to start envisioning their futures early and earn financial support to make it a reality.

"I want to be the first one to graduate in my family," said Eliza, now 13, who is Indigenous and living in foster care.

Christine Scheibler, who has cared for Eliza since birth, added: "My daughter has a goal now. It has made her think of the future and what she wants to be."

Educators and researchers are increasingly realizing that exposing students like Eliza to postsecondary schooling should start in the elementary-school years. That's around the time the gap in literacy between those from disadvantaged backgrounds and other students starts to show and, by the middle-school years, they may grow disengaged in academics. By high school, it could be too late, some say, because many students have started to solidify their academic career.

Fiona Deller, senior executive director of research and policy at the Higher Education Quality

Council of Ontario, a government agency, said many intervention programs tend to happen in high school, because there's a natural link to a postsecondary education. But she said that engaging children from disadvantaged backgrounds early in their schooling builds their confidence and self-esteem.

"It may be early to actually talk about university and college, specifically, but it's not too early to start building a student's academic confidence. Not only the confidence that they can do this, but the ability to navigate the education system and believe they belong there and they can succeed and excel in the academic system," Ms. Deller said.

The initiative at Lakehead, funded through donations, began eight years ago in partnership with the local public and Catholic school boards, and just expanded this past week to two other nearby districts, where students will travel for an hour and a half to get to campus. The University of Winnipeg has a similar program. Eligible students starting in Grade 4 must maintain good grades, participate in school or community programs, and attend the university at least once a year for a day of activities that involves athletics and exposure to different faculties.

They earn financial credits each year, and when they receive their high-school diplomas, those credits could equal as much as an entire year's tuition. Not everyone will take a direct path to university, so the money will be held for up to five years.

Sherri-Lynne Pharand, superintendent of education at Lakehead Public Schools, said school staff became interested several years ago in developing a program for children to see



▲ Thirteen-year-old Grade 8 student Eliza Paul is in a program that will cover the first year of tuition at Lakehead University if she completes the university's achievement program.

Photo Credit: Fred Lum

themselves attending university in the future. They contacted Lakehead and were encouraged to find out it was planning a similar initiative.

About 65 students are enrolled in the program, and the majority of them are Indigenous. Others have parents who didn't attend university and don't have the financial means to do so.

"It's so rewarding," Ms. Pharand said. "Kids think about different career pathways and opportunities that are open to them that they really would not have thought about without this program."

Amanda Stefanile, the program's co-ordinator at Lakehead University, said she and her staff capture the elementary students' attention with athletics on their visits to campus, and then introduce hands-on activities with various faculties, including engineering and nursing.

To learn how to support the Achievement Program, contact Kathryn Davidson, Philanthropy Director, at

*E: kjdavids@lakeheadu.ca
T: (807) 343-8476*

You can also donate online at donate.lakeheadu.ca.

Q&A WITH PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR

Dr. Moira McPherson

Your background is in Kinesiology. What drew you to this field and what type of Kinesiology research have you been involved in?

Throughout my youth, I was a keen athlete but also really enjoyed science and math at school. My interest in pursuing a university degree was sparked by learning about Kinesiology – an emerging area of study focused on the science of movement. As a graduate student, I specialized in

applied biomechanics, which was a perfect fit with my sport background and academic interests. Following the completion of my PhD, I worked extensively with a number of national sport governing bodies as a sport biomechanist as well as with the Coaching Association of Canada. My research focus was mainly on the kinematics of winter sports skills (specifically cross-country skiing, figure skating and hockey, and ski jumping), and on qualitative biomechanical analysis.

You were a competitive figure skater from a young age. Have the qualities that made you a successful athlete been helpful to you in your academic career?

Absolutely! Back in my skating days, the mastery of both compulsory figures and free skating skills was mandatory. We needed to spend an incredible amount of time on the ice training, as well as doing off-ice conditioning. From the time I was 11, I started almost every day on the ice (winter and summer) at 6:30 or 7 am. As I moved through high school, I needed to be really organized and I developed the discipline, resilience, and time management skills that certainly helped me to succeed during my postgraduate studies – and have been critical in the development of my professional career.

As a competitive skater, I travelled extensively as part of an initiative to promote youth sport, and in particular figure skating, across the province of Quebec. We bussed and flew into many rural and remote communities to perform and to meet community members. I observed the social and cultural strengths and challenges associated with living in remote locations and in resource-based

economies. I also recall how incredibly welcoming and appreciative the people in these communities were. Those experiences continue to inspire me in my commitment to Lakehead and to the communities we serve.

Since arriving at Lakehead in 1987, you've served in many different roles including Director of the School of Kinesiology, Deputy Provost, and Provost & Vice-President (Academic). Can you share a couple of highlights from your tenure at Lakehead?

I had the opportunity to serve as the Director of the School of Kinesiology for seven terrific years. We developed a strong team and implemented many positive changes that built on the program foundation initiated by my predecessors. The School of Kinesiology is unique in many ways – it provides students with a compelling mix of practice and theory and prepares them for postgraduate study in a number of multi- and interdisciplinary areas, as well as for careers in allied health professions. Lakehead's Kin grads are professional kinesiologists, doctors, scholars and scientists, educators and social workers whose accomplishments are valued locally and around the globe. Their success is due to the deep commitment of faculty to serve our students, and is a commitment I see embraced across Lakehead.

Serving as the Deputy Provost was an important development in my career at Lakehead. This was a new position at the University that included a focus on transitioning the University to the provincially-mandated Quality Assurance Framework. Without a doubt, one of the highlights as Deputy Provost was leading the external program review

process and experiencing firsthand the overwhelming appreciation the external reviewers expressed for our programs and for the extraordinary campus and community experiences we provide.

How is the role of universities in contemporary society changing?

In a recent report by the Royal Bank of Canada on the skills economy, CEO Dave McKay states, “The next generation is entering the workforce at a time of profound economic, social and technological change.” Paul Davidson, who heads Universities Canada, says that the role of universities responding to this challenge is to “build resilient, persevering young people who are fluent in cultural diversity.” I believe we need to work together across disciplines and with our partners to address design and delivery options that will prepare our learners, young and mature, to move back and forth between and among postsecondary education credentials and jobs and create new dynamic careers that the future demands.

What are some of the challenges and opportunities that Lakehead faces right now?

Across the province, universities face many challenges, including managing enrolment and changing demographics. This is particularly the case in the North and in Simcoe County. Achieving optimal student enrolment will be a key to staying true to our goals and to making changes needed to achieve those goals. As a regional comprehensive university with two campuses, we

will always feel pressure to provide greater breadth in programming while ensuring the authentic depth of scholarship and experience that sets our students apart. Political, community, and regional imperatives require changes to what we do and how we do our work without losing sight of our mandate to provide deep, effective, and accessible learning and scholarship. We need to be careful managers of current funding and aggressive cultivators of new resources.

What is your vision for Lakehead University?

At my installation in September, I stated that my Vision as the new President is to weave innovation, discovery, and learning to cultivate more pathways and partnerships and to create a new physical and virtual presence that is the Lakehead of OUR Future. I am committed to championing new innovations and entrepreneurial approaches by engaging all of our members to identify and make the small and large changes we need. We know our ticket to success is continuing to offer the best possible learning experiences in class, on campus, and online! Our new strategic plan is a detailed roadmap directing us to where we need to go. An overarching theme of Lakehead’s 2018-2023 Strategic Plan is to enhance our role creating future leaders and continue to engage in positive relationships with the communities surrounding our campuses. To do this we are continuing to prioritize high-calibre research and learning as well as building strong local, global, and Indigenous partnerships that champion equity and access.

Is there a key project or initiative that you will be focusing on over the next year?

Over the next year, I will be continuing to lead the implementation of our new strategic plan priorities. I am passionate about our plans for the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre, a long-held dream of our Indigenous faculty, staff, and advisory members, and of Lakehead University. Building this facility will allow us to provide programming and support services to Indigenous students and expand postsecondary education opportunities for youth in communities across Northern Ontario. It is central to our vision for Lakehead Thunder Bay! We have many exciting plans for the growth of Lakehead Orillia and our partnership work in Simcoe County. I am really excited to be working with the Principal of the campus along with a keen group of internal and external community members there to take Lakehead Orillia to the next stage.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?

I have lived, loved, and breathed Lakehead in my academic and leadership career for many years. I am passionate about the strengths that Lakehead offers as a comprehensive and unique Canadian university, as well as a vital member of the economic, social, and cultural communities that we support – and that support us. I am honoured to work with our university members and all of our incredible Alumni, donors, and supporters – far and wide – to help us fulfill our shared goals.

Alumni

ASSOCIATION HONOURS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Do you know a Lakehead graduate who is an exceptional person? **Nominate them for an award!**

NOW OPEN
Deadline March 31, 2019

The Alumni Association of Lakehead University has been honouring distinguished alumni since 1988 when the first Alumni Honour Award was given. The Outstanding Young Alumni Award was added in 2004.

Alumni Honour Award

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

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award is presented annually in recognition of a graduate, 40 years of age or younger, who has achieved significant accomplishments since graduation, either in their profession, sport or community service.



◀ Crystal Davey '05, '10
2018 Outstanding Young Alumni
Award Recipient

Visit alumni.lakeheadu.ca and select "Engage" for the nomination form and for more details or call Jill at (807) 346-7784 | Toll Free: 1-800-832-8076



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Alumni
Engage. Celebrate. Share.

Past Award Recipients

Alumni Honour Award

2018 Karl Subban, '83, '84
Sue Craig, '91, '01
2017 Ken Boshcoff, '72
Darren Lentz, '96, '07
2016 Liana Frenette '88
David Lod '03
Peter Lau '86
2015 Jill Marrick, '88
Kevin Page, '80
Kevin Ford, '78

2014 Ahmoo Angeconeg, '94
Mae Katt, '86, '95
Gary Polonsky, '77
Scott Kress, '93
2013 Arnold Park, '71, '72
Dolores Wawia, '83, '85
Dr. Linda Rodenburg, '99
2012 Jamie Sokalsky, '80
Phillip Walford, '70
2011 Steve Ashton, '86
Dave Shannon, '86

2010 Larry Hebert, '69, '70, '78
Jim Sanders, '69
2009 Dr. Thomas Ryan
Poh Lam Tan, '80
2008 Glenn A. Miller, '69
Dr. Elizabeth Murray, '88
Duncan Weller, '89
2007 Gwen Dubois-Wing, '82
2006 Tracy Buckler, '99
2005 Stephen Low, '74
2004 Robert Mace, '83

2003 Dennis Turcotte, '83, '85
2002 Joseph R. Baratta, '70, '75, '80
2001 Peter J. Prior, '70
2000 Margaret R. Page, '67
1999 Diane Schoemperlenm, '66
1998 D. John Valley, '71, '73
1997 Betty C. Coates, '69
1996 Joseph R. Logozzo, '70
1995 Robert J. Gregor, '70

Lakehead Giving



We are pleased to present Lakehead's new platform!

A unique funding platform for University projects, both large and small, Lakehead Giving allows Alumni and friends of Lakehead to make an impact on specific University initiatives that they feel connected to.

In fact, project champions and supporters will be able to share projects with their friends and social networks, encouraging them to make gifts too.

Current Projects include:

- Food Security for Students
- Thunderwolves Curling
- Superior Science Camp
- Humanities 101 (Lakehead Orillia)
- The Labyrinth

To see all our current projects, visit donate.lakeheadu.ca

2018 CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

GIVING *Tuesday*

\$63,001.¹⁰ RAISED

FROM APPROXIMATELY **148** DONORS



AVERAGE
GIFT SIZE:
\$240



NEW
DONORS:
18



ALUMNI:
104



STAFF/
FACULTY:
52



DONATIONS CAME FROM:

8/10 PROVINCES
1/3 TERRITORIES

FURTHEST GIFT CAME FROM: **CHINA**

100% OF ALL GIFTS WENT TO THE AREA
OF NEED SELECTED BY THE DONOR

1994	Dennis H. McPherson, '88, '89, '93
1993	Lyn McLeod, '84, '86
1992	Rick Lang, '76
1991	Anthony Petrina, '53
1990	Dusty Miller, '69
1989	Dr. Lorne Everett, '66, '68
1988	Dr. Ronald Duhamel, '68

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

2018	Shandor Alphonso, '09, '10 Crystal Davey, '05, '10
2017	Lloyd Lobo, '05
2016	Coleman Hell, '11 Nathan Lawrence, '07 Dr. Ofelia Jianu, '08, '10 Joshua Briand '15
2015	Julie Cosgrove, '04 Michael Nitz, '04 Luan Ngo, '08 Carla Whillier '07

2014	Ashleigh Quarrell, '09 Dr. Christopher Mushquash, '02, '04 Eric McGoey, '02
2013	Mehdi Dashtban, '12 Deanna Burgart, '10 Crystal Luchkiw, '09 Michael Thorn, '10, '11
2012	Michael Friscolanti, '99 Dr. Matthew Tocheri, '99
2011	Shy-Anne Hovorka, '00, '03 Michael Power, '92

2010	Dr. Michel Beaulieu, '01, '03 Anthony Leblanc, '93
2009	Terry Robinson, '97
2008	Catherine (Kate) Bird, '94
2007	James Dennison, '95, '99
2006	Herpreet Lamba, '98
2005	Christopher Fernyc, '97
2004	D. Todd Moore, '98

Life on the Edge

Trish Newport (BA'00,
Outdoor Recreation) reaches
out to people in crisis

by Tracey Skehan

► Trish in the Yukon in 2002. "Ninety percent of people in Whitehorse know Trish's name," her friend Rob Horne says. "They are proud and excited that someone from their community is doing what she's doing. Those who are her friends count themselves as fortunate."





▲ "Trish is one of the most senior managers who works in the field," reports fellow MSF colleague and friend Victoria Christensen-Lopez. Trish spent the end of 2018 and the start of 2019 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), a country that is trying to fight the spread of Ebola. After returning from the DRC, Trish will be in Paris for several months to establish an office harmonizing the Ebola response.

The sun beat down on a one-storey stucco building in Tchad – an African country where temperatures often reach a blistering 45 degrees Celsius.

It was an afternoon in 2012 as a group of women made their way outside this malnutrition hospital run by the government health authority and the humanitarian organization Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Trish Newport (BA'00), a Canadian aid worker, watched the women in their beautifully patterned cotton robes raise their arms to the sky and begin crooning. "What are they singing about?" Trish asked a translator standing nearby. "A child has just died," he replied. "They are praying for him not to return to earth as a human, because being a human in Tchad is too painful. They are asking for him to return as a bird or a

tree instead." In Tchad, malnutrition is responsible for nearly half of all child deaths.

It was a scene that was difficult to witness, but Trish did not look away. She has been doing her best to confront these realities since she was a child growing up in Oakville, Ontario. "I have never thrived in 'easy,'" she says. "I do better in situations where I am challenged physically, mentally, or emotionally." She vividly remembers when a catastrophic famine struck Ethiopia in 1985. Sensationalized pictures of malnourished children flooded the news. "I had nightmares for years trying to figure out why these children were starving," Trish says, "and why it wasn't me in those pictures – it was my 10-year-old existential crisis."

That same year, Trish's grandmother, a doctor, retired and went to Malawi, Africa, to practice medicine. She began writing her granddaughter monthly letters chronicling her experiences. "I was totally mesmerized," Trish says. "She gave me a very strong desire to work in humanitarian aid."

Trish's resolve never wavered after these early formative events and she pursued her vocation in a way that was methodical yet quirky. "My grandma told me that I marched to the beat of my own drummer," she says. "As a kid, I was absolutely clueless about following any norms or social rules." When she finished high school, Trish applied to Lakehead's outdoor recreation program, believing it would help her develop as a person and move her forward on her journey towards humanitarian work.

She became a well-known figure on the Thunder Bay campus. "Trish inspired a lot of students because she had strong values she lived by," says fellow outdoor rec grad Rob Horne.

"Trish was very passionate about animal rights and human rights. She was the first vegan I'd ever met but she was never preachy or judgmental about other people's choices."

In third year, Trish, Rob, and several other outdoor rec students shared a house. Trish lived in a hammock in the basement. "She was in a funk band called the Filling Station," he recalls. "At home, she'd play the didgeridoo and the bongo and write music."

Trish and Rob have remained good friends. "He's like my family," she says. After graduating, both of them ended up moving west and working with at-risk youth for the Yukon government. Trish's fondness for testing herself meant that she wasn't interested in renting an apartment or buying a house. Instead, her home for 10 years was a simple canvas tent. "I loved living in a context where if I didn't cut the firewood or haul water, I would feel the consequences," she says.



▲ Trish during the summer of 2002 building the frame for the tent she lived in for 10 years. Now she lives in a "chalet" which she describes as "an elegant cross between a chalet and a shed." The 12 x 16 foot cabin has no electricity or running water.



▲ Trish and John, a nurse, at a hospital on the border of Sudan and South Sudan in the Abyei Administrative Area. “It’s a no man’s land,” Trish says, “but the number of lives the hospital has been able to save over the last 10 years – with very little health infrastructure – is incredible.”

Marching to the Beat of her own Drummer

Several years later, Trish applied to the University of British Columbia’s nursing school and then got practical experience at the Whitehorse General Hospital. But even before she started her degree, she had her sights set on one organization alone – MSF.

Also known as Doctors Without Borders, MSF’s stated purpose is to “provide medical humanitarian assistance to save lives and ease the suffering of people in crisis situations – including epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare – irrespective of race, religion, creed or political convictions.”

In 2009, Trish embarked on her first overseas mission. Her destination was an MSF malnutrition hospital in Djibouti – a small country cradled in the Horn of Africa. During this period, Somalians displaced by civil war were travelling through Djibouti on route to Yemen. It was a gruelling trek made with little food or water. “Djibouti showed me that my role as an MSF nurse was more about supervision

and teaching than direct clinical care,” Trish says. “It was about leadership and risk management, skills I learned in outdoor rec.”

The majority of people Trish works with on MSF missions are local staff from regions facing crisis. In a disputed territory between the border of South Sudan and Sudan, for instance, MSF is able to deliver excellent care in difficult conditions because of South Sudanese hospital workers. “I have a profound respect for the local staff,” Trish says, “their dedication is beyond anything I’ve seen.”

It was on the border of two other African countries – Cameroun and the Central African Republic (CAR) – that Victoria Christensen-Lopez first encountered Trish. “We clicked straight away,” Victoria says.

Now based at the MSF headquarters in Geneva, Victoria was in charge of the response to a massive influx of refugees from CAR following ethnic violence in 2014. Trish oversaw the medical side of the operation. “People were walking for weeks to get to the border of Cameroun,”

Trish says. “One family arrived at our health centre after eating only leaves for weeks.”

Trish and Victoria became a close-knit team. “She’d come to my room at 4:30 in the morning,” Victoria says, “climb onto my bed with her laptop and we’d have coffee and do paperwork for a couple of hours.” Since then Victoria has seen Trish take on increasingly important roles. “You could easily underestimate Trish when you first meet her,” says Victoria. “She is physically small, only about 5’2”, but she has an internal strength beyond anything you’d imagine and a huge capacity for compassion.”

“MSF moved their clinics every time the combat zone moved – at some points, we were only 2 km from the front line.”

Victoria was also impressed by Trish’s fearlessness. “She has this peace with her mortality that most people don’t,” she explains. It was a quality that became indispensable when Trish accepted a post as a project coordinator responding to the Mosul war in Iraq. “In 2014, ISIS took over Mosul – a city of more than 1.8 million – and controlled it for two years,” Trish says. “Then in 2016, the Iraqi Army, the Kurdish Peshmerga, and the US army launched an offensive to take it back.”

MSF was there to provide trauma stabilization to the injured – mostly civilians but sometimes soldiers if the army response team was overwhelmed. “To treat the wounded right away,” Trish says, “MSF moved their clinics every time the combat zone moved – at some points, we were only 2 km from the front line.”

When Trish and her team were closest to the action, they wore bulletproof jackets and took other precautions to ensure that they stayed safe.

Even in the bleakest of circumstances, Trish finds hope. “I have witnessed the incredible power of humans, from both the positive and the negative perspectives. And I have seen the strength of the human spirit.”

Friends she has made like Mahmoud – a Mosul resident and a guard at MSF’s trauma stabilization unit – inspire Trish with their resilience. Mahmoud was a familiar sight in the city because he always carried a mint plant with him. The small potted plant had been grown by his youngest daughter and he’d promised to care for it when his family went to a displacement camp to escape the conflict. “On days when the fighting was really intense,” Trish wrote in a story for the *Globe and Mail* newspaper, “I would look outside the clinic to see Mahmoud sitting calmly in his shelter – with the plant on his lap.” When it was time for Trish to return home to the Yukon, Mahmoud brought her some mint seeds. “He asked me to plant the seeds at home, where the plants could have a better life.”

Despite the intense nature of the high-security assignments Trish chooses, she says she laughs a lot. Once, in Niger, Trish and a colleague were working late at headquarters. “He texted me saying ‘What are you doing?’ and me, being a geek, texted back, ‘I’m hiding.’” As he began counting down from 10, Trish looked around wildly for a place to conceal herself – there was nothing but a big table and an armoire.

Trish opened the armoire and saw that the bottom shelf was empty.

“It was only about a foot and a half tall, but I do yoga so I’m super bendy,” Trish says. She wedged herself into the shelf and shut the door. Suddenly, she heard voices. Her colleague was called outside and footsteps began ringing down the corridor. She felt a creeping dread when she realized it was her boss and all of the staff delegates. They paused at her empty office and her boss said, “This room is free, let’s meet here.”

Should I stay or should I go now?

Trish was stuck, in more ways than one. Should she make her escape after everyone dispersed or stay – twisted up like a pretzel – where she would overhear confidential information?

“I have to get out now,” Trish decided. The delegates, deep in conversation, fell silent when the armoire door swung open and an arm, followed by a head and then the rest of Trish, emerged from the tiny space. Trish straightened herself up and said – with a puzzled expression on her

face – “Well, it wasn’t in there,” and walked out of the room.

In between MSF missions, Trish returns to the Yukon – a place where she can recharge emotionally and psychologically. “When I’m home, I want to be moving and in the trees. I go hiking and walking with my friends – both my human friends and my dog friends.” Most recently, Trish has been in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), combatting Ebola. “It’s a horrible disease that attacks families and communities,” she says. “Initially, the virus has a 90-92% death rate.” During the DRC’s first outbreak of 2018, Trish ran an MSF project that used a new experimental Ebola vaccine to contain the outbreak.

Trish’s willingness to reach out to those who are struggling, even when it would be easy to be overwhelmed with despair, has brought her fulfillment. “Every day I am grateful for who I am, for where I come from and how I live, for the people I have in my life, and for the work I do. I think I am one of the luckiest people in the world.”



▲ Trish in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with MSF colleagues. “Now, I fly into any country and I have an instant family and an instant team,” Trish says. “It’s not so different from Lakehead.”

Body Cameras and Policing

DR. ALANA SAULNIER INVESTIGATES THE IMPACT OF SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

by Mark Witten

How do you feel about the growing use of surveillance technologies – such as drones or body-worn cameras (BWCs) – by law enforcement officials?

Some people believe that equipping police officers with body-worn video cameras will reduce the use of force by officers and improve police accountability. Others are concerned about privacy – especially being filmed in a sensitive or dangerous situation. If someone becomes a victim of crime, potentially anyone could watch footage of them at their most vulnerable.

Criminology researcher Dr. Alana Saulnier investigates not only public and police perceptions of these new surveillance tools, but also their real world impact on policing, society, and individuals.

“Body cameras are being used increasingly by police services in the United States and are starting to be used in Canada, mainly in pilot projects. This research enables public policy-makers to determine the best use of body cameras, whether they truly make a difference in practice, and if the benefits justify the investment,” says Dr. Saulnier, an assistant professor and criminology

program coordinator in Lakehead Orillia’s interdisciplinary studies department.

In 2018, the Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) brought in Dr. Saulnier as an independent reviewer to help evaluate the effectiveness of body-worn cameras for the police, partner agencies, and the community in a one-year pilot project. Previously, she’d helped evaluate the Chicago Police Department’s BWC pilot project while a visiting assistant professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

“In the wake of a series of high profile police-involved killings in America, body cameras are seen as a way to improve the accountability of police and citizens. But Canadian policing is very different. It’s important to not rely on data from U.S. studies in making our decisions,” she says.

In the DRPS Body-Worn Camera Pilot Project, 65 officers from Pickering’s 19 Division, along with the Traffic Enforcement Unit and 2018 Festive RIDE campaign members, are wearing body cameras until June 2019. Officers turn on the camera before arriving at a call for service, or when they start investigating or interacting with individuals, and inform people when they’re being recorded. Dr. Saulnier’s evaluation explores the

effects of BWCs on officer and public perceptions, victims’ concerns, police service outcomes, and prosecution outcomes.

Dr. Saulnier’s research will also assess whether the use of body cameras has an impact on police service outcomes such as arrest rates, complaints, tickets issued, and vehicle stops. Prosecution outcomes provide insight into the effect of BWCs on the quality of police evidence.

The project also breaks new ground by considering the concerns of victims of serious crimes such as sexual assault, domestic violence, and human trafficking. “The victim’s perspective is almost completely unexplored globally. We’ll be conducting interviews with survivors to better understand this perspective. Some may not want the camera on in a moment of crisis and any policy on body cameras should address victims’ concerns about consent,” she says.

Dr. Saulnier is encouraged that the Durham Regional Police are conducting a thorough and objective assessment of body cameras. “Police practice should be guided by evidence, and the evaluation is making an important contribution to evidence-based police policy on BWC use in Canada,” she says. The outcomes of the evaluation will be shared with DRPS in a report anticipated for late 2019.

◀ Dr. Saulnier’s team of undergraduate research assistants out on a cold night in December 2018. They are conducting a field experiment with members of the Durham Regional Police’s RIDE program. The highly standardized police contact with drivers stopped at the RIDE checkpoint proceeded as usual, except that in half of the contacts, officers wore BWCs. Afterwards, community members were invited to complete an online survey about their interaction.



VARSITY SPORTS

OUR STUDENT ATHLETES AND COACHES APPRECIATE HAVING FANS IN THE STANDS AT THEIR AWAY GAMES!

Coach's Highlight | Andrew Wilkins (BA'13, BEd'14) HEAD COACH, THUNDERWOLVES HOCKEY

"The support we receive at these away games from our alumni is truly unreal. Two games stick out to me in particular. During the 2016-2017 season game versus Laurier we came back from a three goal deficit in the third period to win. The Alumni in attendance were the loudest fans in the stands - motivating our players like it was a home game!

This season at the University of Toronto, we had a convincing win at the varsity arena. Our guys knew the alumni were in the rink, as there were about 100 people wearing the alumni varsity scarves. After our win, the team saluted the alumni, our way of saying thank you for the support! The support we receive is outstanding – it speaks volumes to the positive experience you get at Lakehead."

VARSITY AWAY GAMES: 2018-2019 SCHEDULE OF DATES, SECOND SEMESTER

Date	VS	City	Varsity Sport
Friday, February 1	Waterloo Warriors	Waterloo	Men's and Women's Basketball
Friday, February 1	Western Mustangs	London	Women's Volleyball
Saturday, February 2	Waterloo Warriors	Waterloo	Men's and Women's Basketball
Saturday, February 2	Western Mustangs	London	Women's Volleyball
Sunday, February 3	Brock Badgers	St. Catharines	Women's Volleyball
Friday, February 8	Laurier Golden Hawks	Waterloo	Men's and Women's Basketball
Friday, February 8*	Western Mustangs	London	Men's Hockey
Saturday, February 9	Western Mustangs	London	Men's Hockey
Saturday, February 9*	Laurier Golden Hawks	Waterloo	Men's and Women's Basketball
Saturday, February 23	Queen's Gaels	Kingston	Women's Volleyball
Sunday, February 24	RMC Paladins	Kingston	Women's Volleyball

* Alumni event confirmed for this game. Visit alumni.lakeheadu.ca for up-to-date event details. At the time of printing the wrestling schedules were unavailable.

Want to receive an invitation to these events?

Make sure we have your up-to-date email address and/ or phone number. Contact the Annual Fund and Alumni Engagement Office by calling 1-800-832-8076 or by emailing alumni@lakeheadu.ca.

Having Fans in the Stands can be a tremendous advantage for a visiting team. We encourage you to attend games in your town as much as possible. The coaches and players appreciate your cheers!

We're going to be back with an even more ambitious schedule of engagement in collaboration with our varsity teams. Keep an eye on your email inbox starting in September!

See you next season!

For a complete listing of varsity games, visit thunderwolves.ca
We look forward to seeing you on the road, and at HOME in the THUNDERDOME!

The Shirley (Ricketts) Symington Memorial Nursing Award



Opening Up International Experiences for Lakehead Students

It was a January day in one of the remotest corners on Earth and Shirley Symington was in her element.

She, her husband Jim, and their daughter Sarah had sailed from Argentina to the frigid Southern Ocean before disembarking with their fellow tourists at an island off the Antarctic coast. They were soon walking through a colony of thousands of squawking king penguins. The three-foot-tall birds were completely unperturbed by the visitors in bright red parkas. "Antarctica has incredible wildlife – seals, whales, and birds," Jim says. "It was a thrill to see them."

For Shirley – a passionate animal lover – going to Antarctica had been one of her long-held dreams. "She was an adventurous and feisty lady," Jim explains. Before she passed away on July 13, 2018, Shirley, a retired nurse, and Jim, a retired chartered accountant and financial

controller, had travelled throughout the globe. "We've been to Antarctica twice as well as Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Arctic," Jim says, "but Africa and Antarctica were Shirley's favourite destinations."

Jim is now honouring Shirley's bold spirit and her community leadership by establishing the Shirley (Ricketts) Symington Memorial Nursing Award. "I'd like to leave something for our children, our grandchildren, and the people whose lives she touched to remember her by," he says.

Shirley's long nursing career ranged from home visiting and hospital care to teaching and public health. She was also a dedicated Girl Guide leader and an active member of many Thunder Bay organizations. "She was a very caring person – it showed in her work and how she treated people," Jim says.

Shirley grew up in London, Ontario, and met her future husband while they were both working in Toronto. Jim was sharing an apartment with two friends and Shirley was living on the same floor with two roommates as well. "One evening we were having a party and we needed a cup of gin," Jim recalls. "I asked my roommates to borrow some." They knocked on all the doors along the corridor before reaching Shirley's place. Fortunately, she had some gin to spare and a lifelong partnership was born.

After they had children, Shirley and Jim moved to Thunder Bay – Jim was originally from Northwestern Ontario and they thought it would be a good place to raise a family. It didn't take long for the couple to become vital members of the community.

▲ Shirley (centre), Jim (right), and their daughter Sarah (left) on Antarctica's Deception Island in 2012. The island is a scientific research station and the site of an active volcano.

Shirley and Jim Symington's commitment to their hometown prompted them to become generous Lakehead University supporters. They have donated to multiple awards and bursaries because "Lakehead allows a lot more young people in this area to get an excellent postsecondary education," Jim says. "Many of my classmates couldn't afford university even though they had the ability."

The new Shirley (Ricketts) Symington Memorial Nursing Award will be given to a fourth-year nursing student from Northwestern Ontario with demonstrated financial need to assist with the travel costs of an international clinical placement.

"When the School of Nursing told me about their overseas clinical program," Jim says, "I thought it would be a good idea to help a student nurse see life from a different perspective and get their clinical training at the same time – and it epitomizes who Shirley was. She would be very proud of this award."



▲ Shirley and Jim Symington enjoy a summer afternoon at their home in Thunder Bay.

To learn more about how you can support Lakehead nursing students who will provide critical health care, please contact Kathryn Davidson, Philanthropy Director, at

*E: kjdavids@lakeheadu.ca
T: (807) 343-8476*

Your legacy is enriching my future.



The support I received through the estate of Florence Shuttleworth-Higgins has allowed me to focus more on my studies, bringing me closer to my career goals and dreams.

~ **Marinda Tran**, Bachelor of Arts
Recipient of the Florence Higgins Music Scholarship
(2017), Lakehead University



For information on how to include a charitable gift in your will to Lakehead University contact Lee-Anne Camlin at:
T: (807) 346-7792 E: rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca
All requests remain confidential with no obligation

**EXCEPTIONAL.
UNCONVENTIONAL.**



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH EDUCATION

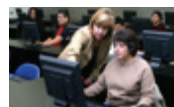
The Achievement Program is Lakehead University's commitment to support access to postsecondary education by providing opportunity to students who experience socioeconomic barriers.



HOW IT WORKS

- + LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH SCHOOL BOARDS
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PARTICIPATING STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE PROVIDED WITH:



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WORKSHOPS**



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SERIES**



**ATHLETIC MENTORS
AND ACADEMIC
TUTORS**

TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN MAKE A GIFT TO THE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kathryn Davidson
Philanthropy Director,
External Relations

T: (807) 343-8476
E: kathryn.davidson@lakeheadu.ca
W: lakeheadu.ca/achievement

TURNING POINTS

Alumni Spotlight

Mary Bluechardt Leads Mount Saint Vincent University

Dr. Mary Bluechardt (née Sinkins) (HBPHE'80/MSc'83)

became the 13th president and vice-chancellor of Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on July 1, 2017. "Mount Saint Vincent University has a reputation for academic and research excellence, collaboration, and commitment to social justice," Mary said. "My personal and professional passions align strongly with the university's approach."

Mary brings more than 25 years in the postsecondary sector to her role as Mount Saint Vincent's president. Immediately before joining the Mount, she was vice-president of Memorial University's Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. She was first appointed to that position in 2011 and re-appointed in 2016.

While at Grenfell, Mary bolstered the campus's teaching and learning, student health and wellness, research, supports for Aboriginal students, recruitment, public engagement, and internationalization activities. "In particular, she has overseen the opening of a new Aboriginal student centre and the appointment of an Aboriginal student services officer, enhanced partnerships and relationships with the Grenfell Campus Students' Union, and increased student support centres and spaces – and these experiences will be of great value to the Mount," noted Jolene Mahody, the Mount's Board of Governors' chair and search committee lead.



▲ Dr. Mary Bluechardt (née Sinkins)
(HBPHE'80/MSc'83)

Other highlights from Mary's career include serving as the Faculty of Health Sciences dean at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and the dean of the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation at Memorial University. She was also with Special Olympics Canada for five years as national director of coach development.

Mary holds a PhD in Exercise Science and Health Promotion from the University of Toronto as well as an Honours Bachelor of Physical Education and a Master of Science from Lakehead University.

Mary still maintains her connection with Lakehead and says that she would love to attend a Class of 1980 BPHE event.

1980s

Maureen Adamson (née O'Brien) (BAdm'86)

was appointed president of Fleming College in Peterborough, Ontario, in June 2018. She is the first Peterborough native and Fleming graduate to hold this position. Maureen earned a business administration diploma from Fleming before getting her business administration degree from Lakehead University. She also has an MBA from the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. She has 25 years of experience in health care, government, not-for-profit, and postsecondary management, most recently serving as Ontario's deputy minister for culture, tourism and sport. She's also been president and CEO of the Michener Institute, vice-president of corporate services at Mohawk College, and CEO of Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

1990s

Jennifer Tallman (née Baxter) (HBScF'92)

is the chief forester of EACOM Timber in Northeastern Ontario where she is responsible for overseeing forest management plans. Jennifer has always been drawn to the outdoors – as a youngster, she was an enthusiastic member of the Ministry of Natural Resources' Junior Ranger program. After graduating from Lakehead, she worked as a forester-in-training with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Cochrane. Before being hired by EACOM in 2015, she worked at the Iroquois Falls paper mill for more than 20 years. In 2017, Jennifer was promoted

to her current position, becoming EACOM's first female chief forester. She also belongs to Women in Wood, a group that encourages women in the forestry sector.

Jill Wheatley (BEd'99) is in the Himalayas as part of her quest to run mountains around the world following a traumatic brain injury that left her with 70% vision loss. Since completing her Lakehead education degree, Jill has worked as a physical education teacher in Singapore, Russia, and Switzerland. It was while teaching in Bavaria, Germany, in 2014, that she was accidentally struck in the head during a baseball practice session with her students. Her injuries were so severe that she was not expected to live. "I have struggled with acceptance of how drastically my life changed so quickly," she said. At one point while recovering in Colorado, she became mesmerized by the mountains outside her window, setting her current adventure in motion. "By sharing, I hope that Lakehead students and the entire community may find inspiration in my story, hope and patience in times of adversity." Learn more about Jill's journey on mountainsofmymind.com.

2000s

Christopher Britt (BSc'09/ HBOR'10/BEd'10), the administrative coordinator of the Xet'olacw Community School in British Columbia, just north of Whistler in Lil'wat Territory, recently filmed a short documentary about the outreach ski program he has been leading since March 2017. The film – Belongs to the

Youth (I Tsuwa Sa I Stsmált) – had its world premiere at the 43 American Indian Film Festival in San Francisco in November 2018. It is also showing at several other festivals in the coming months. Christopher says that the project was shaped by his time in Lakehead's outdoor recreation, science, and education programs. He has dedicated the film to one of his mentors, outdoor recreation professor Dr. Brent Cuthbertson, who passed away in 2014.

Mursal Khalif (BSc'00) was appointed the minister of health in Jubbaland State – an autonomous region of Somalia in July 2018. Mursal is a health care executive who has worked in hospital operations, human resources, diversity and inclusion programs, and community health initiatives. He has built successful teams to improve health care delivery and has received several awards including the 2014 Amerinet Health Care Achievement Award for Financial & Operational improvements. In 2010-2011, he held a fellowship in Community Health Leadership at Harvard University.

2010s

Carlo Porretta (BEd'10) was appointed principal of Northwestern Ontario's Geraldton Composite High School and B.A. Parker Public School on August 20, 2018. Carlo began his teaching career at Chief Simeon McKay Education Centre in Kasabonika Lake First Nation, Ontario. Before accepting his current position, he was the vice-principal of St. Andrew's K-12 School in High Prairie, Alberta. In addition to his Lakehead education degree, Carlo has a Masters of Arts and

a Bachelor of Arts degree from York University. He holds specialist qualifications in guidance and special education as well as principal qualifications.

Kienan Wilson (BEd'15) has been vice-principal of the Jousard School in northern Alberta since July 2018. Kienan was first hired as a teacher by the elementary school in 2017. He has also worked as an educational outreach specialist facilitating science programs for Indigenous communities in Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia. Prior to joining the Jousard School, Kienan taught at the Atikameg School on the Whitefish Lake First Nation Reserve in northern Alberta. As well as his Lakehead education degree, Kienan has a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from York University.

In Memoriam

David Parsons (Dipl For'65/ BA'69/HBA'72/MA'75)

David Parsons was a well-respected and much-loved English professor at Lakehead University for more than 30 years. David passed away peacefully and with unwavering courage and dignity on August 31, 2018, surrounded by his children and his brothers. He was born on June 30, 1943, in Fort William, Ontario. He attended local schools and graduated from Lakehead with a diploma in Forestry, and an HBA and a Master of Arts, both in English. He was the co-author of two books on the writing process, a sought-after basketball referee for over 20 years, and an athlete himself.

TURNING POINTS

David hiked in the Rockies, snorkelled with sea turtles off Buck Island, slept on a Chinese junk in Halong Bay, slid down the Great Wall of China, climbed the ruins of Angkor Wat, and strolled the beaches of southern Thailand and Florida. Family and friends gathered at the 5 Forks restaurant on September 4, 2018, to share stories and celebrate David's life. Donations to the Northern Cancer Fund or the Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame would be greatly appreciated.

**Dr. Gregory Joseph Spivak
(BSc'89/HBSc'92/MSc'94)**

Students, faculty, and staff at Lakehead University were saddened by the loss of Dr.

Gregory Spivak – an active researcher and an award-winning chemistry professor who joined Lakehead in 1999. Greg was a Lakehead alumnus who obtained his HBSc in chemistry in 1992, earning first class standing, as well as an MSc in 1994. He then earned a PhD at the University of Western Ontario and held postdoctoral positions at Indiana University and Queen's University. He returned to Thunder Bay to take up a faculty position in inorganic chemistry in 1999. Greg held multiple NSERC grants, supervised students at all levels, from first-year undergraduate to PhD, and published in top-ranked journals in his sub-discipline of organometallic chemistry.

He taught thousands of students during his career at Lakehead and received a student-nominated Contribution to Teaching award in 2017. A memorial service was held for Greg on August 31, 2018, at Harbourview Funeral Centre in Thunder Bay. Lakehead's flags were lowered to half mast on that day in honour of his passing. Plans for a Lakehead University award in Greg's name are currently underway.

Memorial donations may be made at donate.lakeheadu.ca. Please indicate on the page that you are making a donation in Greg's memory.



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Applications now open for the Alumni Entrance Award

For over 35 years the Alumni Association of Lakehead University has been awarding the Alumni Entrance Award.

It is one of the largest donor-funded awards at Lakehead University with a value of \$10,000 (\$2,500 per year for four years).

Eligible applicants must:

- Be an immediate family member of a Lakehead University alumnus/alumna. Immediate family is defined as: spouse, sister, brother, child, parent, grandparent, or grandchild.
- Have a minimum overall 80% average.
- Demonstrate strong leadership qualities and community involvement.

- Plan to attend Lakehead University in the 2019-20 academic year on a full-time basis.

For a full list of conditions of the award and application form, visit alumni.lakeheadu.ca and select "Engage."

Deadline April 30, 2019

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