



March  
2014

# President's Report to the Board of Governors



Lakehead  
UNIVERSITY





## ***OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT***

### **Meeting with Ministers Gravelle and Duguid about Teacher Education Changes**

On February 26, I met with the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Michael Gravelle, and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Brad Duguid, to discuss Lakehead's unique situation regarding the teacher education changes. During our meeting, I shared with them how profoundly the impact of these changes would be at our University.

### **Lakehead University Orillia Wins Award**

Lakehead University won the Orillia & District Chamber of Commerce award for "Strengthening Our Communities" at the Chamber's annual Business Achievement Awards event, held on February 27 in Orillia. The award recognizes our University's partnership with the Couchiching Institute on Public Affairs, which was officially signed at the Institute's 2013 Summer Conference at Geneva Park in Orillia. Lakehead Orillia also participated in the awards event by presenting the "Green Award" to Thor Motors of Orillia.

### **Strategic Mandate Agreement's 2<sup>nd</sup> Draft**

Following the release of Ontario's Differentiation Policy Framework for Postsecondary Education (November 2013), the second draft of the Lakehead University's Strategic Management Agreement (SMA) was submitted December 20, 2013. Senators were invited to review the SMA and provide feedback earlier this term. We are in the final stages of preparing the revised draft and plan to post the document on MyInfo for your review.

### **Food Services Contracts Awarded**

On February 28, the Committee announced that the contract for food services in Thunder Bay was awarded to Aramark Canada Ltd., and the contract for food services for our Orillia campus was awarded to the Madison Food & Beverage Company. Our cross-functional Food Services Committee hosted a Town Hall allowing for consultation, questions, ideas and input from the entire University community. The RFP was built on the need to reflect the varying palates of numerous countries and cultures that are representative of our student population. It demanded high quality and good value and provided for considerations of sustainability, sustainable foods and other food security initiatives, effective merchandising, and promotional programs.



## Student Juried Exhibitions at Thunder Bay Art Gallery

I had the pleasure of attending this year's annual Juried Student Art Exhibition Opening Reception and Gala Awards Presentation, March 14, where projects from 90 Lakehead Visual Arts students are being showcased until April 6 at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. With hundreds attending, the event celebrates the department and the strong ties between our University and the community. Among evening's awards recipients was **Alexander Borghesan**, who was selected for the President's Award for his sound sculpture titled *The Music Maker*.



*Cree Stevens and her painting, Tonto.*

*Alexander Borghesan and his sound sculpture, The Music Maker.*



## Ontario Premier's Summit

On March 18, I attended Premier Wynne's Summit in Toronto that she had invited all Ontario universities' presidents. With keynotes by MTCU's Brad Duguid; the Minister of Economic Development, Trade and Employment, Eric Hoskins; and the honourable Kathleen Wynne, the Summit served to discuss various education issues, including the skills gap, graduate employment, and leveraging opportunities between research, commercialization and economic development.



# ***NURTURING SCHOLARSHIP***

## **Mexican Roundtable Yields Agreements with Three Indigenous Intercultural Universities**

During a visit to Mexico, February 17-21, our Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives), Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux, and I signed three memoranda of understanding (MOU) with three Indigenous Intercultural Universities.

The agreements between Lakehead and the Intercultural University of the State of Mexico, the Mayan Intercultural University of Quintana Roo, and the Intercultural University of Chiapas outline plans to develop mutually beneficial education opportunities for each of the universities' students while promoting internationalization at their respective institutions. Dr. Wesley-Esquimaux is delighted to be our point person for all three MOUs.

### **MOU's Areas of Understanding:**

- 1. Intercultural University in Estado de Mexico**
  - Student exchange
  - Short term research opportunities for students and faculty
  - Short term cultural programming for students
  - Joint programming with an aboriginal focus
  
- 2. Intercultural University in Maya de Quintana Roo**
  - Student exchange
  - Short term cultural programming for students
  - Graduate education for Quintana Roo faculty at Lakehead University
  - Short term research opportunities for students and faculty
  - Joint programming with an aboriginal focus
  
- 3. Intercultural University in Chiapas**
  - Lecture series delivered by distance on academic and cultural themes
  - Student exchange
  - Short term research opportunities for students and faculty i
  - Short term cultural programming for students
  - Joint programming with an aboriginal focus



*Intercultural University of the State of Mexico*



## ***LEARNER-CENTRED STUDENT EXPERIENCE***

### **Student Success Centre Launches Co-Curricular Record**

Lakehead University students now have a new tool to tell their whole university story.

The Co-Curricular Record (CCR) was launched, February 5<sup>th</sup>, as a new and exciting initiative for all students at Lakehead's Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses. The CCR is an official document that chronicles a student's involvement in not-for-credit activities at Lakehead University. Combined with their Academic Transcript, students will now have the perfect tool to be recognized and celebrated for their achievements inside and outside the classroom.

***[Click here for media release...](#)***



*Third-year Kinesiology student, Alexis Sharp, talked about the benefits of the Co-Curricular Record during its Lakehead Thunder Bay launch.*

### **Success Through Giving Donor-Recipient Luncheon**

Lakehead hosted its annual *Success Through Giving* Luncheon, March 27. The event provides the unique opportunity for donors who give to academic scholarships to meet with the student recipients of the financial awards the donor contributed to. The luncheon, hosted by Board of Governors Vice-Chair Murray Walberg, was also a chance for students to share their learning experiences with donors, so they can see, first-hand, how much of a difference their generosity means.

## ***GROWTH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT***

### **Letter from Georgian College and Lakehead University sent to Minister Duguid**

On February 26, Georgian College's President & CEO, Dr. MaryLynn West-Moynes, and I sent the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, Brad Duguid, a letter and documents expressing our joint interest in Major Capacity Expansion.

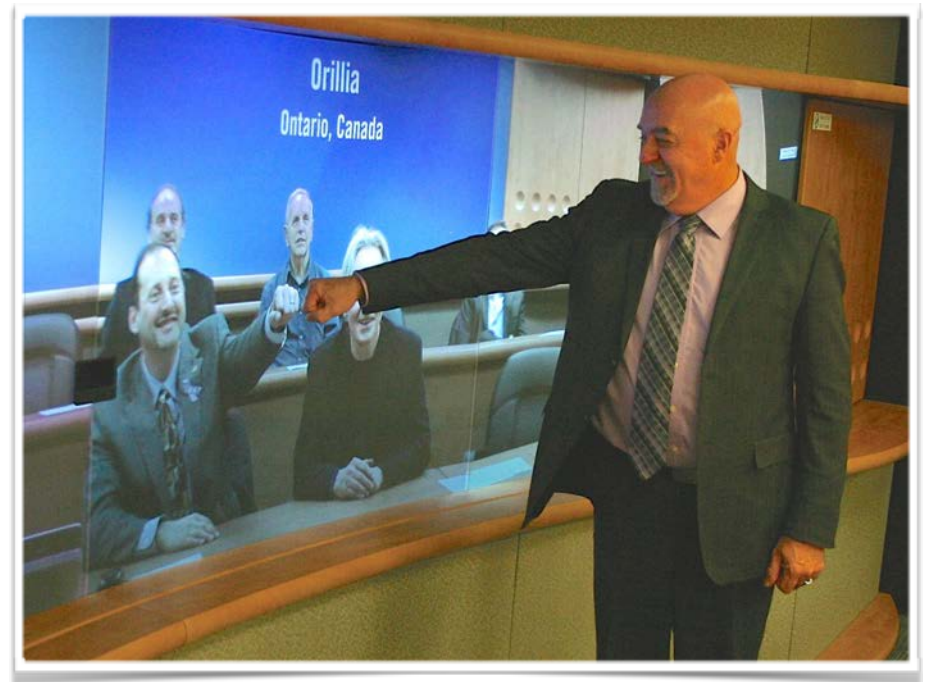
The letter explains how our institutions have collaborated to develop a realistic, sustainable, fiscally responsible plan to increase undergraduate degree enrolment in central Ontario. Building on our individual and shared strengths, we will utilize existing capacity in the short-term to establish Lakehead at Georgian, in Barrie. Further, through a combination of integrated Lakehead-Georgian University Partnership Centre baccalaureate degrees and Georgian College applied degrees, we will expand access to degrees across all seven Georgian College locations.

### **Telepresence Demo Brings Cities and Mayors Together for Education**

As we move closer to perfecting our telepresence classrooms for our students, I hosted a virtual meeting, March 26, to demonstrate these facilities' potential for mayors and councillors from Simcoe County and Northwestern Ontario.

The successful meeting included demonstrations from PolyCom staff in telepresence rooms in Washington D.C. and Toronto. It also served as an opportunity to ask questions and discuss how this technology can bring post-secondary education and training opportunities to remote communities, in addition to more immersive meetings between communities like Thunder Bay, Kenora, Pickle Lake, and Orillia.

*Thunder Bay Mayor, Keith Hobbs, fist pumps City of Orillia Mayor, Angelo Orsi, during telepresence classroom demonstration.*



## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **PACED Simcoe Introduced in Orillia**

In the interest of further contributing to the economic growth and development of Orillia and Simcoe County, I announced, on February 13, the establishment of the President's Advisory Council on Economic Development for Simcoe County, or PACED Simcoe. PACED Simcoe's members were selected based on individual skill sets, and include representatives from the City's and region's municipal, business, and the Aboriginal communities.

*[Click here for media release...](#)*



*Some of PACED Simcoe's initial members (see media release for complete list).*

### **Employee & Retiree Donors' Luncheon**

On February 27, I joined our Office of Donor Events' luncheon to thank Lakehead employees and retirees who have given generously to our University over the past year. Plaques given to each donor to acknowledge their 2012-2013 donation feature spaces to add future contributions beneath their name.

### **Enrolment Services Opens University to Prospective Students for March Break**

Lakehead's doors were opened to hundreds of prospective students, applicants and parents during March Break Open House at both campuses. The event included campus and residence tours, the opportunity to sit in on classes and meet with future professors, meetings with student service specialists and more.

A series of recruitment conversion initiatives are also underway aimed at converting our undergraduate applicants to confirmed students for Fall 2014. Upcoming events include Applicant Receptions hosted throughout the province, spring high school visits, and online chats. The University community's ongoing participation and support for these types of events is appreciated.

## Research & Innovation Week 2014

From March 1-7, Lakehead brought its research and researchers out of the labs and classrooms and into the community to offer a glimpse of the important ideas and questions being explored and studied at our University. On March 6, the University's annual Research & Innovation Awards Reception celebrated the dedication and hard work of our researchers and students.

The Faculty of Social Sciences & Humanities was pleased to feature award-winning fiction writer Joseph Boyden as part of Research & Innovation Week. His talk, *The Past and the Future are Present: Race Relations in Canada*, drew an audience of over 500 people. While he was still here in Thunder Bay, his novel, *The Orenda*, was voted the winner in the Canada Reads contest.



*Dr. Krishnamoorthy Natarajan, Acting Dean of Engineering, launches Research & Innovation Week in Thunder Bay.*

**[Click here for Thunder Bay campus media release...](#)**

**[Click here for Orillia campus media release...](#)**

**[Click here for R & I Awards Reception media release...](#)**

## Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies' Outreach Programs

This month, the Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies have been engaged in two significant outreach programs. On Tuesday March 4, the Faculty welcomed 36 First Nation students from high schools in the city and region to the First Aboriginal Mentorship Day. This program is being offered in collaboration with the Office of Aboriginal Initiatives and Cancer Care Ontario. Students met with their science mentors, toured labs, visited NOSM and had some great talks from officers from the Ministry of Natural Resources.

On Thursday March 6, the Faculty hosted over 220 students, grades 9 to 12, from high schools through out Northwestern Ontario for the annual Gairdner Day. Dr. Michael Salter, Senior Scientist from Sick Kids Hospital was the guest speaker who gave a well-received talk "Chasing the Dream in Science". A lunch with the department chairs hosting tables was held in the University cafeteria followed by engaging and interactive talks from faculty in Geography, Geology, Chemistry and Anthropology. This was the fifth year of hosting this event in partnership with partnership with the Office of Admissions and TBRRI.