

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

President's Report to the Board



submitted by: Dr. Brian Stevenson

September 2012

Within Our Walls

DONOR WALL (ORILLIA)

In May I travelled to our Orillia campus to attend the unveiling of our beautiful Donor Wall. During the event, attendees—which included not only corporate representatives, but local individuals and small

business owners—learned how their contributions have made a direct impact on the growth of our campus; proving, once again, how Lakehead University Orillia is, according to one donor, “A community-driven project.”



NEW FACES, NEW STRATEGIES

VICE-PRESIDENT (EXTERNAL RELATIONS), *DEB COMUZZI*

A master strategist and passionate advocate for young people, we were very fortunate to bring into our team Deb Comuzzi, President and CEO of London, Ontario's Children's Health Foundation. As our new Vice-President, External Relations, Deb's new role focuses on five areas: alumni relations, community relations and government relations, as well as philanthropy marketing and communications. She officially began her role in August.



VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE), *KATHY POZIHUN*

Also starting in August was Lakehead's newest VP, Kathy Pozihun, as she moved from Superintendent of Business for the Lakehead Public School Board to providing leadership for University services, including Human Resources, Finance Services, Information Technology and Physical Plant.





FIRST 'LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL' DIRECTOR, LEIGH-ELLEN KEATING

Leigh-Elle hit the ground running, developing and launching, this past week, Lakehead's new English Language Program (see below for more information). International initiatives will now report directly to the Office of the Provost to ensure full integration of domestic and international recruitment and admission services.

LAKEHEAD'S NEW DEAN OF ENGINEERING, DR. DAVID BARNETT

Lakehead was pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. David Barnett as its new Dean, Faculty of Engineering. David's belief in providing engineering students the tools they need to reach their goals brought him from St. Louis, Missouri to Thunder Bay. David's focus will be on promoting educational excellence through teaching, research and scholarship, while building partnerships with industry and government. His decision to cross the border was prompted by Lakehead University's emphasis on collaborative, multidisciplinary learning.



NEW DEAN OF LAW FOR NEW FACULTY OF LAW, LEE STUESSER



We were very proud to announce, this summer, Harvard educated and Canadian born Lee Stuesser as Lakehead's Founding Dean of Law. Heading the first new law school in Ontario in 42 years, Lee believes the opportunity to build a Faculty of Law from the ground up is a truly unique and exciting prospect. An expert in Evidence, Canadian Constitutional Law, Trial Advocacy, and Canadian Criminal Law, he brings a breadth of knowledge that he will create an innovative teaching and learning model, combined with a consultative approach that will engage faculty, students and Northern Ontario's law community.

CHANGING VICE-PROVOST (ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES)

Yolanda Wanakamik has been appointed Acting Vice-Provost Aboriginal Initiatives until our Search Committee (presently being appointed) fulfills the recruitment requirements for the permanent replacement of Beverly Sabourin, who retired this summer.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed their time and energy to the research, selection and hiring processes involved in assembling our stellar team.



ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER

In recognition of distinguished achievements in their respective professions, we bestowed upon the following Lakehead alumni various Alumni Honour Awards at the May event:

- *Jamie Sokalsky*, HBComm, CFO, Barrick Gold
- *Philip Walford*, BSc, President, Marathon Gold
- *Michael Friscolanti*, BAS, HBA, Senior Writer, Maclean's Magazine
- *Mathew Tocheri*, HBA, Physical Anthropologist, Smithsonian Institute



PRELIMINARY ENROLMENT FIGURES (NEW & RETURNING STUDENTS)

Lakehead led Ontario in its year-over-year high-school application rate with an increase of just over 12% (based on Ontario Undergraduate Application Centre's numbers as of August 1). New and returning student registrations—as of September 11—reflect 7,111 full time students (of whom 715 are graduate students) and 1,507 part time students (of whom 18 are graduate students). While this appears comparable to the same period, last year, these numbers will continue to change. Final figures will be available after November.

CONVOCATIONS

In June, I had the privilege of presiding over Lakehead University's two convocation ceremonies where our theme was Achievement.



Among the convocation week's events was our Chancellor's Dinner, where we honoured four distinct contributors to education: Canada's Chief Justice, The Right Honourable Beverly McLachlin; global health issues crusader, Dr. James Orbinski; rehabilitation counseling leader, Dr. Irmo Marini; Andrew Charters, Orillia community and Lakehead contributor and friend of the late educational innovator, Lloyd Dennis, who

was posthumously awarded an HD.

At each of our convocations I focused on our graduates' commitment to excellence, both in and out of our classrooms, and to their fellow citizens and communities. From Orillia's 25 graduates at its first convocation, to the 350 we celebrated that day in June, I explained how our graduates and their alma mater were poised for growth. Having recently completed Phase I of Orillia's development with state-of-the-art, LEED-approved facilities, and a brand new cafeteria and 271-bed residence, Orillia stands ready to grow, further still, with the aid of the communities that helped us break ground and sow the seed of success in those golden fields, not so long ago.

NORTHERN POLICY INSTITUTE (NPI)

At the end of August, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines launched NPI, an independent, not-for-profit organization to monitor the implementation of the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario and make provincial policy recommendations for the region. It will work with northern municipalities, post-secondary institutions, research groups, Aboriginal organizations, francophone groups and industry to set priorities and directions for northern development.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Hosted by our own Lakehead University International, the English Language Program consists of university preparatory courses, community and specialty courses, as well as summer intensive courses that have an academic and cultural focus. This program makes it possible for international students to follow their dreams of pursuing a post-secondary education.



The core Academic English course helps students prepare to enter Canadian secondary and post-secondary schools by focusing on reading, writing, listening, speaking and university study skills. Many of the students in this course will go on to be full time students in academic courses at Lakehead. In addition to Academic English courses there are a number of specialty courses.

ORIENTATION 2012 — *MY LAKEHEAD, MY LEGACY*



Our Student Success Centre's Orientation 2012 saw a 12% increase in participation over last year, with a noticeable growth in the number of off campus students participating. There was also an increase in faculty involvement, with more academic themed events included as part of the Orientation schedule. Activities were extended through the first week of classes, this year, culminating with the President's

Dinner. Other notable events throughout the week included a packed house for Midnight Madness, as well as our twist on the academic game show "Reach for the Top (Giant)", hosted by Dr. Berg.

MEDIA RELATIONS + MARKETING SUPPORT

Earlier this year, I split Lakehead University Thunder Bay's Communications Department into two separate units: Marketing Support and Media Relations.

The Marketing Support unit has been transferred from the President's office to External Relations and is responsible for articulating Lakehead University's brand, working with campus units to develop integrated communications and marketing strategies that enhance our reputation and profile, and raising awareness among its target audiences while supporting the University's strategic objectives. The Marketing Support team is responsible for producing publications, including the Lakehead University Magazine and the annual Report to the Community.

The new Media Relations unit is responsible for helping facilitate requests from the media to speak with members of our Lakehead community, organizing media at specified events, as well as managing various internal and external communications needs and tools. The Media Relations team craft and distribute Lakehead's Communications Bulletin (posted online every Tuesday and Friday), and work with other University units to prepare media releases and advisories.

NEW MEDIA RELATIONS DIRECTOR, *TOBY GOODFELLOW*

At the end of June, Toby Goodfellow was hired as our University's Director, Media Relations. Reporting directly to me, his role is to oversee a variety of internal and external relations initiatives, including the development of a communications strategy to work in tandem with our 2013-2018 Strategic Plan.



LAKEHEAD'S NEW (AND OLD) WEBSITE



Beginning September 5, Lakehead's new, student- and function-focused website was made available for beta testing.

The new website is only accessible from computers connected to the University's network (via WIFI and wired computers). The purpose of the beta testing is to allow students, faculty and staff to become familiar with the new site before it eventually becomes our new website.

Feedback is being collected (spelling errors, broken links, etc.) via a FEEDBACK link provided in the right hand margin on every web page. Users are prompted with the option to switch to the new site, or continue using the original site, during the beta-testing period.

Our Region

GEORGIAN COLLEGE — MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Georgian and Lakehead publicly announced their new relationship, signing a Memorandum of Understanding. Effective immediately, Lakehead University and Georgian College will work to develop seamless and effective pathways for students at both institutions. These pathways include credit transfer agreements, joint delivery of programs in which a student could obtain both a Georgian diploma and a Lakehead degree, course-to-course credits, block transfer agreements, and fast-track diplomas.

LAKEHEAD OPENS RESIDENCES TO THUNDER BAY FLOOD VICTIMS

To help the City of Thunder Bay's efforts during the state of emergency following the Flood of 2012, Lakehead—together with the Red Cross, the City of Thunder Bay, Thunder Bay Police Service and Thunder Bay Fire Rescue Service—opened its residences to those in the community whose homes were flooded, or damaged.

LAKEHEAD U LAUNCHES 'ACTIVE U'



As part of our successful Achievement program, we launched Active U, a day camp program wherein grade 4-6 children learn and play through a student-centered approach to cooperative physical activity and education. The initiative uses many of Lakehead's facilities, such as the pool, gymnasium, outdoor fields and courts, classrooms and laboratories, with the special support of the Faculty of Engineering. This August, Active U issued its first series of certificates to its first 13 children participants, where they were informed of the credits they'd earned to use at Lakehead, one day.

ACCESS COPYRIGHT

After careful assessment, Lakehead University joined the majority of Canadian universities, this July, by signing the Licence Agreement negotiated between the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada and the copyright collective, Access Copyright. In our view the Agreement, while not ideal, has positive features and, on balance, serves the best interests of the University—especially our students, faculty and staff.

During the course of this Agreement, which concludes in 2015, Lakehead will be carefully evaluating authoritative interpretations of the new Copyright Act and the advantages and disadvantages of alternative arrangements for obtaining copyright permissions and protecting the University and its community from infringement of copyright law.

ALUMNI GOLF TOURNAMENT (Thunder Bay)

For the third sold-out year in a row, our Alumni Association worked with countless businesses and our varsity athletes to help raise \$50,000 for scholarships.

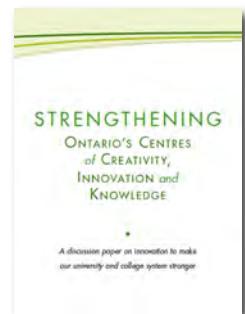
PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT (Orillia)

This year our annual tournament, played at the Barrie Country Club, raised a remarkable \$100,000. Monies will go to a \$5,000 scholarship for one Orillia student, which brings us, now, to two \$5,000 scholarships for Simcoe County's University students. The occasion also offered the chance for me to meet local dignitaries and University contributors, and discuss local issues.

MINISTRY OF TRAINING, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (MTCU)

This past summer (July & August 2012), the MTCU hosted seven roundtable consultations across the province to discuss Minister Glen Murray's discussion paper, *Strengthening Ontario's Centres of Creativity, Innovation and Knowledge*. Minister Murray's paper engages the sector in a discussion of the challenges and opportunities facing PSE.

Seven delegates from Lakehead University participated in various sessions. I'll have more information to share as this process continues.



GICHI KENDAASIWIN BUILDING

In conjunction with The Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council and our Aboriginal Initiatives office, we are moving forward with the rendering project of the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre, a first step towards developing a proposal for a capital project. The building will be a welcoming place that allows the Aboriginal and non Aboriginal communities to connect with each other. The Centre, which will be located on the Thunder Bay campus, and whose design will adhere to the highest environmental standards and its design will reflect Aboriginal design traditions, will celebrate Aboriginal culture and Aboriginal studies. Programs and services to be located in the Centre include an Office of Aboriginal Initiatives, a language institute, research institute and student support and retention services, an art gallery, as well as spaces for Elders.

PRESIDENT'S DONOR RECEPTION



Lakehead senior staff and faculty hosted a warm reception in the third floor lecture hall of our PACI building, September 6th. During the reception, Deb Comuzzi, Lee Stuesser, Rod Hanley and I expressed our sincerest thanks to the large group of donors gathered, while explaining how their gifts have contributed not only to the success of their University, but, in turn, to the economic development of Thunder Bay.

FALL HARVEST

Aboriginal Cultural-Support Services hosted the Annual Fall Harvest, September 8, at our Sweat Lodge site. With our new VP (External Relations) presiding in my stead, approximately 300 students, staff, faculty and community members enjoyed and experienced cultural foods, traditions and storytelling. Traditional teachings came by way of the Ogimaawin-Aboriginal Governance Council's (O-AGC) Elders Council membership and we used the occasion to remind attendees of our development of the Gichi Kendaasiwin Centre.

Our World

LAKEHEAD INTERNATIONAL & OUR DELEGACIÓN MEXICANA

With this year's establishment of Lakehead University International (LUI), its first Director, Leigh- Ellen Keating and I traveled to Mexico to meet with five different universities and government officials to attract English Language students as well as graduate and undergraduate students.

As a follow up to my mission in March, we visited with two of the Indigenous University presidents to talk about future collaboration, including student mobility and research. This November, the Rector of one of those universities (The Intercultural University of Chiapas) will come up and visit us, while Lakehead's Chair/Associate Professor, Aboriginal Education, Dr. John Hodson, will go to Mexico to initiate plans on behalf of the University.



Our Future

CHANCELLOR MAURO



Our Chancellor Arthur Mauro, has recently shared with me his intent not to seek another term as Chancellor of our University. In the coming months, we will begin the process of selecting his successor.

We thank Dr. Mauro for his commitment and dedication to the University.

MICHAEL PAWLOWSKI, OUTGOING VP (ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE)



Following a decade of service to our University, Michael Pawlowski took to his well-deserved retirement, this August. Given his energy, I suspect wishing him and his family the best of luck in his 'post-retirement' years is more appropriate.

