

Provost's Report to Senate

January 2015

Aboriginal Initiatives

Administration

A Work Study position has begun in the Vice Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives) office to work with the Northwestern Coordinated Learning Access Network (CLAN) and the development of a Canadian Roots Exchange office and program at Lakehead. Two Confederation College practicum students will also be working with the Work Study. These students will be responsible for building a strong foundation and preparing guidelines for the Lakehead Canadian Roots Exchange Program and assisting with the coordination of the Lakehead Pow Wow.

Faculty of Natural Resources Management

NRM hosted an evening Town Hall meeting in November with the launch of Borealforum.com (a platform to have an open and constructive conversation on sustainable forest management in Ontario's boreal forest). The event (and forum) led by the Resolute Forest Products' Montreal-based Richard Garneau (President and CEO) was well attended (300+) and included many controversial topics connected to forest management in the boreal forest – such as caribou strategies, First Nations consultation, regional economic sustainability, certification, eNGOs, etc. The event was covered by both CBC and the local newspaper and led to a healthy debate both on campus and in the local media.

In November 2014, Dr. U. Runesson, Dr. C. Shahi, Dr. M. Leitch and Mr. A. Bilyk travelled to India with the goal of strengthening collaborations with a number of universities and research organizations for student and faculty exchanges, joint research and opportunities for student internships. Specifically, NRM took part in Chitkara University's Global Engineering Week celebration where one-week courses were offered on *Remote Sensing*, *Drones* and *Research Initiatives on Sustainable Development* to engineering and agriculture students – over 300 students participated. As part of these activities a number of actual field drone demonstrations were conducted. The NRM team also acted as judges for an engineering student competition for quad copter design and flight management.

At Lovely Professional University (LPU) Dr. Runesson delivered a keynote address dealing with institutional remote sensing challenges at an International Conference on "Exploring Basic and Applied Sciences". The NRM team also performed various ceremonial tasks at the conference, which was inaugurated by the Governor of South Carolina State and closed by the Governor of Punjab State. The LPU visit also included a number of actual field drone demonstrations to engineering and biology/agricultural students.

During the Chitkara and LPU visits (both in the Punjab Region) the NRM team also had individual meetings with the academic leaderships related to the establishment of near-future 3+1 and 2+2 student mobility arrangements as well as the establishment of internship projects.

The NRM team also visited Amity University in Dehli with the intent of setting up an internship program and a renewal of our past MOU for student exchange.

The India visit concluded with a visit to the Institute of Wood Science and Technology further south in Bangalore where Dr. Leitch gave a keynote address on how Lakehead is advancing with various “India-relevant” wood technologies. This visit also included focussed discussions towards a near future MOU with the Indian Institute of Science.

Student Affairs Enrolment Services

Undergrad Recruitment

Preview Day at the Thunder Bay Campus took place on Tuesday December 2, 2014. Overly 550 prospective students, family and friends joined us for the opportunity to explore the campus, discover more about our academic programs and experience a day in the life of a Lakehead student.

Meanwhile, in December at the Orillia Campus, a “Campus Tour Day” drew 120 students from high schools throughout Simcoe County to explore all that the Orillia Campus has to offer. Thank you to all faculty and staff that participated in these and all other recruitment initiatives throughout the fall. Your ongoing support and participation in recruitment is appreciated and makes a difference in our recruitment efforts.

Undergrad Admissions

The preliminary deadline for Ontario High School students (101) to apply for admission consideration was January 14, 2015. Applications continue to remain open. Preliminary application numbers will be available for a future Provost Report.

Academic Advising, Records and Registration

Winter registration closed on Friday January 16, 2015. Spring registration is now open.

Student Awards & Financial Aid

The Natural Sciences & Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Undergraduate Student Research Awards Program is seeking applications. The deadline for department recommendations is January 20, 2015. Further details can be found online:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/scholarships-awards-loans/undergraduate-students/nserc-application>.

Nominate a student who has made a difference! Nominations for the President’s Award, the Poulin Award and the Lloyd Dennis Award are open. Applications are due March 31, 2015. Further details and nomination forms can be found online:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/scholarships-awards-loans/undergraduate-students/student-participation-awards->

Student Success Centre

The Student Success Centre held a series of events and workshops for students with wonderful turnout and engagements:

- **Winter Re-Orientation 2015** – hosted an Open House to welcome new and returning students and provide a personal Orientation to campus; in the process of delivering a series of Skills for Success Seminars focused on the start of a new semester and helping all students get back on track while enhancing their academic skills
- **Student Support Services Fair** – to coincide with Winter Re-Orientation, was held in the Chancellor Paterson Library on January 13. Over 200 students took part in the fair, which featured interactive displays, including a comprehensive exhibit of student accessibility supports, and prize draws

The Student Success Centre has asked all faculty and staff to promote the upcoming Career Fairs to their students, which will feature regional, national and international companies on campus recruiting Lakehead students:

- **Education Fair 2015** – Friday, January 23 (The Agora)
 - targeting Education graduates and those students who are interested in career opportunities in the field of education
- **Spring Career Fair 2015** – Thursday, February 26 (The Agora)
 - targeting all Lakehead students and featuring a wide array of employment sectors actively recruiting students

Respectively submitted,

Moira McPherson
Provost and Vice-President (Academic)