



# President's Report to Senate

November  
2020











## Teaching and Learning Week 2020

Lakehead University's Teaching Commons, in collaboration with Lakehead University International, hosted its annual Teaching & Learning Week from October 26-30. This year's theme was *Anti-Racism and Pedagogies of Inclusion* and featured guest speakers on topics including Indigegogy, Cultural Intelligence, Queering your Classroom, Inclusive Language, and Anti-racist pedagogies.

This year's Teaching and Learning Week keynote address was delivered by Lakehead University Distinguished Instructor Award winner, **Dr. Alice Den Otter**.

[Click here to view media release...](#)



## Academic Excellence

### Lakehead Ranked #1 in Ontario and among Canada's Top 10 in *Maclean's University Rankings*

*Maclean's* has once again included Lakehead University among Canada's top 10 primarily undergraduate universities in the magazine's 2021 University Rankings.

Lakehead tied for first overall among Ontario universities in its category, and ranked eighth out of 19 primarily undergraduate universities from across Canada.

While over 90 per cent of Lakehead's domestic undergraduate student population faces at least one barrier to postsecondary education, Lakehead University has the highest graduation rate among all universities in *Maclean's* primarily undergraduate category.

This year, *Maclean's* University Rankings place Lakehead first in Ontario in student awards (tied), faculty awards, and total library expenses; second in student/faculty ratio, social sciences and humanities grants, total research dollars, scholarships and bursaries, and library acquisitions; and third in medical/science grants, operating budget, and in reputation.

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## Maclean's includes Lakehead's Computer Science program among Top 20 in Canada

The Department of Computer Science at Lakehead University has been recognized as one of the top Computer Science programs in Canada in the Maclean's 2021 post-secondary evaluation rankings.

Notably, in this ranking Lakehead University is the only small, undergraduate-focused institution on the list amidst many larger schools.

Lakehead's courses are updated regularly with cutting edge, relevant and high demand content including pattern recognition, big data analytics, image processing, natural language processing, deep learning, machine learning, neural networks, cyber security and optimization algorithms.

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## TALL/CELL/Ontario Master Naturalist

November 12 was the last day of TALL: "A 'Better Normal'?: Engaging in a Post-pandemic future, in which approximately 100 seniors joined from across Ontario and as far away as Whistler, BC to discuss potential societal shifts related to experiences with Covid-19. Registration for the January program, Aging Successfully: Putting yourself in the Driver's Seat", will open very soon!

November 15 was the "In Conversation with Anne Dagg: The Woman Who Loves Giraffes". This event enabled over 60\* households to watch the compelling documentary about the world's first giraffologist, before meeting her and the film's director, Alison Reid, for an interactive Q and A. This event raised funds for the Faye Peterson House in Thunder Bay and for Greenhaven in Orillia.

Another full cohort of 30 lifelong learners are taking the Ontario Master Naturalist Program's certificate program this October through December, and many others participated in the three fall workshops we offered on ferns, as well as early and late mushroom species.

We received a \$5,000 grant from TD: Ready Commitment to enable us to pivot to a hybrid model for our Ontario Master Naturalist Program, which now draws on interactive PowerPoints, video, Flipgrid technologies, synchronous webinars, and a virtual Trailhead Zoomspace.



## Anthropology professor honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award

Congratulations to **Dr. Scott Hamilton** who was recently honoured conferred the *J.V. Wright Lifetime Achievement Award* from the Ontario Archaeological Society at a virtual ceremony on Friday, Nov. 6.

Dr. Hamilton, who has worked as an archaeologist in Northern Ontario since the early 1980s, was hired by Lakehead University in 1988. Now a full professor and Chair of the Department of Anthropology, he's since contributed to the addition of two new Master's degree programs and supervised many graduate students.

[Click here to view media release...](#)

## Professor publishes graphic novella about the opioid crisis

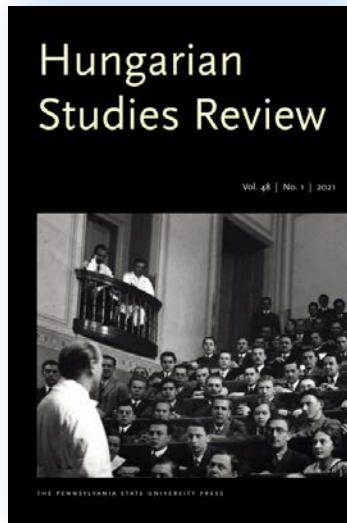
*Empires of Pain: A Story of Racism, Opioids and Revenge* is a new, short web-based comic co-authored by Lakehead Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media and Social Justice Dr. Max Haiven.

The novella, based on a chapter of Haiven's recently published book *Revenge Capitalism: The Ghosts of Empire, the Demons of Capital, and the Settling of Unpayable Debts* (Pluto 2020), focuses on the longer history of drugs, empires and racism, tracing the roots of today's crisis to the 19th century Opium Wars.

It explores the links between the drug crisis and the tide of far-right political revenge that has recently swept the United States and other countries.

The comic can be read for free at [empiresofpain.com](http://empiresofpain.com) where visitors can also find essays and audio.





## Dr. Steven Jobbitt publishes in Hungarian Studies Review 2020

Congratulations to Dr. Steve Jobbitt on the publication of the most recent issue of Hungarian Studies Review.

In addition to serving as co-editor, Dr. Jobbitt has a co-authored editorial essay, a short article, and a book review in this issue.

Starting in January 2021, Hungarian Studies Review will be publishing with Penn State University Press, and Dr. Jobbitt will be assuming the position of managing editor.

# Entrepreneurship and Innovation

## Ingenuity hosts Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur Program

*Ingenuity* was recently approved as a business incubator that is eligible to host participants in the Mitacs Accelerate Entrepreneur Program. This program provides funding to further develop the research or technology at the core of their business. The program offers funding for the participant to draw a salary while undertaking research and building their business. *Ingenuity* will support the participant by providing physical space in the Ingenuity District, along with business development support and mentorship

**ACCELERATE ENTREPRENEUR TAKE YOUR START-UP TO THE NEXT LEVEL**

A new offering from Mitacs provides early-stage support to student entrepreneurs.

**FUNDING TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS**

Accelerate Entrepreneur funds student entrepreneurs to further develop the research or technology at the core of their business when hosted by an incubator facility.

Mitacs funding helps you to take full, meaningful advantage of the supports provided by the incubator, with the goal of commercializing your technology, product, or service rapidly. In a nutshell, you get paid to grow your company and get to market faster.

**HOW IT WORKS**

- ▶ Starting at 10% funding, both Mitacs and the start-up receive a 4-month, research-based stipend, with the company for college, independent, graduate or postdoc stipend.
- ▶ You spend the stipend undertaking research that leads to a new product, service, or technology.
- ▶ You receive a maximum of \$10,000 for a 4-month project.

**WE SUPPORT GROWTH WHERE YOU NEED IT**

Accelerate Entrepreneur can help your early-stage business where it makes the most sense:

- ▶ Pitching and testing a new product, service, or technology
- ▶ Building and improving on an existing product, service, or technology

**A FLEXIBLE AND SCALABLE OPTION**

- ▶ Make your company's limited budget go further
- ▶ Applications are accepted anytime
- ▶ Evaluation is completed in 6-8 weeks
- ▶ Projects start at 4-months and can be scaled up depending on your start-up's needs

**GROW YOUR COMPANY WITH MITACS**

Get started at [mitacs.ca](http://mitacs.ca) or email [William.Lee@mitacs.ca](mailto:William.Lee@mitacs.ca) at [mitacs.ca](http://mitacs.ca) for more information on the Mitacs program requirements and eligibility.

We would like to thank the following governments for their support:

Canada

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## Local and Global Partnerships

### Lakehead University a founding partner of new UArctic's Laera Institute for Circumpolar Education

Lakehead University has joined Trent University, the University of Northern British Columbia, Yukon University, the Arctic State Agrotechnological University in Russia, and Nord University in Norway as a founding partner of the Læra Institute for Circumpolar Education (Læra Institute), a new institute within the international University of the Arctic (UArctic).

Funded by UiT: The Arctic University of Norway and the Norwegian Ministry for Education and Research, over the next two years it will develop curriculum specifications, exemplar courses and pedagogical resources to support circumpolar studies, whether in-person or online.

The Læra Institute will also hold regular workshops for faculty, as well as educational symposia for students. Special attention will be paid to the varied perspectives on "circumpolarity" that exist across the Circumpolar North, particularly Indigenous perspectives.

*[Click here to view media release...](#)*



### International Education Week

Lakehead University hosted a series of virtual interactive workshops and events from November 16 to 20 as part of the University's first ever International Education Week (IEW).

Lakehead International was excited to be joining forces with organizations in over 100 countries around the globe to strengthen the understanding of international education and celebrate its importance within our local and global communities.

The events organized as part of IEW will recognize and celebrate international talent, explore opportunities for working and studying abroad, showcase how the University prepares students for our global environment, and allowed participants to sample ways in which we are embracing cultural diversity at Lakehead. These interactive sessions hosted via the online platform Zoom was available to members of our campuses and communities in Thunder Bay and Simcoe County.

For more event information, visit the [International Education Week website](#).



## Researchers Receive Funding for Partnership Development through the NSERC Alliance Program

Lakehead University has received \$1,709,159 from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and partners since March 2020 to support multiple projects through the Alliance program and the Collaborative Research & Development program.

### Alliance Grants:

- Dr. Amanda Diochon - Optimizing the ratio of paper mill biosolids and wood ash for a soil amendment to maximize yield and soil quality (\$40,500 cash, \$2,400 in-kind)
- Dr. Amanda Diochon - Which approach makes the most cents? Evaluating the effect of land conversion practices on soil health and yields of barley and oats (\$258,759 cash, \$26,000 in-kind)
- Dr. Pete Hollings - Petrogenesis and geochemistry of mineralized Midcontinent Rift intrusions (\$450,000 cash, \$145,800 in-kind)
- Dr. Pete Hollings - Petrogenesis of Archean and Mesoproterozoic Ni-Cu-PGE mineralization in NW Ontario (\$750,000 cash, \$175,000 in-kind)
- Dr. Ashley Thomson - Development and validation of genomic-assisted breeding models for increased productivity and wood quality of black spruce in Ontario (\$119,900 cash, \$26,513 in-kind)

### Collaborative Research & Development Grant:

- Dr. Abdul Yassine - A data analytics system for adaptive demand response in smart grids (\$90,000)

NSERC Alliance grants encourage university researchers to collaborate with partner organizations, which can be from the private, public or not-for-profit sectors. Lakehead researchers have partnered with Clear Air Metals, Resolute, Superior-Woods Tree Improvement Association, Grain Farmers of Ontario, Synergy North, and North American Palladium to generate new knowledge and accelerate the application of research results to create benefits for Canada. In addition to their financial contributions to these research projects, these partners have also provided \$469,100 worth of in-kind support.

In addition, Lakehead University received six COVID-19 Alliance Grants, totalling \$300,000 in cash funding, and \$245,160 worth of in-kind support from industry partners.

Dr. Alla Rezik has also received an NSERC Idea to Innovation grant of \$125,000 to advance x-ray medical imaging detector technology while reducing the radiation associated with medical imaging.



## CONACYT-CITNOVA Congress

The State of Hidalgo's Council on Science and Technology, CITNOVA, hosted a congress entitled *The Integration of Indigenous Women in Social Entrepreneurial Projects for Regional Development and Social Innovation* around the CONACYT-CITNOVA scholarship program that gives access to Indigenous women to graduate studies in Mexico.

The purpose of the event was to underline the importance of the role of indigenous women and education, social innovation, and the development of indigenous communities.

The opening day also served to announce the launch of BÄSDÄNXU, a network for community engagement based in Hidalgo, Mexico.

The CONACYT-CITNOVA scholarship program has supported over 60 indigenous women since 2017 to come to Lakehead University, enrol in a 1-month intensive English program on our Thunder Bay campus, and participate in enriching leadership activities around the theme of indigenous education.

Lakehead University has an MOU with both CITNOVA and with CONACYT, as well as a letter of intent with CONACYT to strengthen the presence of Indigenous people in higher education and research and for co-funding graduate students from Mexico and Canada.

