



**President's Report
to Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council**

**February
2024**





Office of the President

Updates on Presidential Initiatives and Activities

Lakehead Orillia Expansion

Throughout January, the Office of Institutional Planning and Analysis continued to work with the Provost, specific Deans, and the Orillia Academic Committee to inform multi-year enrollment planning in Simcoe County. The month saw work focused on Education, Science and Environmental Science, and Engineering to support ongoing conversations with the Ministry, Georgian College, and municipal partners. This process is iterative and ongoing.

Collaborative DVM

Joint working groups consisting of representatives from the University of Guelph and Lakehead University continued to meet throughout January. Members from both institutions also met with government officials to review planned timelines, issues, and risk management, all the while emphasizing our collective commitment to enhancing veterinary education in Northern Ontario. This ongoing government engagement is key to supporting the program's progress, emphasizing our collective commitment to enhancing veterinary education in Northern Ontario. I look forward to sharing further developments as we move forward with the initiative.

Gichi Kendaasiwin

While a strategic plan to advance Gichi Kendaasiwin's realization is being developed, a planning circle of Indigenous faculty, staff and key community members is also being established. Meetings have been set, or are in progress, for me to meet with Brian Davey, CEO of the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Economic Development organization, as well as with Grand Chief Alvin Fiddler, local chiefs, and education directors.

Giving Tuesday initiative rallies Lakehead community to new heights

A whopping \$367,900 was donated to Lakehead University on Giving Tuesday on November 28 – the eighth time Lakehead participated in the annual day of giving. Lakehead's goal was to raise \$147,000, which is why Mark Tilbury, Lakehead's Director of Alumni and Annual Giving, is very excited after raising more than double that amount.

This set a new high-water mark for the amount of single-day donations that Lakehead University has ever received. A record-breaking number of alumni and friends gave from both Canada and elsewhere, including the United States, Finland, and Mexico.

Since Lakehead began participating in Giving Tuesday in 2016, the fundraiser has soared to increasing heights, raising more than \$1.17 million in support of student financial aid at Lakehead University.

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



International Student Winners

At the Fall 2023 International Student Welcome Day event in the Hangar, a group of new international students were lucky winners of the "Coffee with the President" prize draw.

On January 26, Dr. Siddall met with 4 international students to hear about their experiences and impressions of Lakehead and their programs. Over coffee and butter tarts, the students shared their backgrounds, their remarkable journeys to Thunder Bay, and their impressions of the university and the community.



From left to Right: Jo Krisko, Director, International Student Services, James Aldridge, Vice-Provost (International), Alamin Hossain, Bangladesh - MSc Computer Science In Artificial Intelligence, Dr. Gillian Siddall, President and Vice Chancellor, Thi Thuy Tien Tran, Vietnam - MSc Computer Science (Course), Samira Zarei, Iran - MSc (Electrical & Computer Engineering) - Course and Jasleen Kaur - India - MA (Economics) - Course



Lakehead Women's Soccer

On Friday, January 26, 2024, the Lakehead Women's Soccer team participated in the 2024 OCAA Indoor Soccer Invitational Exhibition Tournament hosted by George Brown College. The Thunderwolves had an excellent tournament (even beating the host team) but lost in the semifinals in a penalty shootout.

Thrive Week

Our 5th annual [Thrive](#) week was a great success with over 1,200 students, staff and faculty attending events across both campuses. Thrive is an initiative that began at UBC as a conversation between colleagues about the importance of reducing the stigma associated with mental health. It has since grown into a movement celebrated at campuses across Canada, providing opportunities for important conversations about mental health to take place. The event brought our whole campus community together to build connections, learn, and have fun!

Deputation to Orillia City Council

On January 29, Dr. Linda Rodenburg and Dr. Rebecca Heffernan presented a deputation to Orillia City Council on the Orillia campus and its impact on the communities it serves, as well as its plans for the region moving forward.

[Click here to view to deputation, including questions from members of Orillia City Council.](#)

Celebrating this year's WellU Mental Health Champions

Professors, Teaching Assistants, and staff play vital roles in supporting and advancing student mental health. The WellU Champions for Mental Health recognizes and celebrates those in our Lakehead community who create supportive learning environments where student mental health is valued and supported. Champions are nominated by those whom their work matters most: Lakehead students.

Congrats to our [2024 WellU Champions!](#)



Thunder Bay Campus

- Patricia Johnson from Student Accessibility Services
- Krista McAllister from Student Success Centre
- Joel Symonds from Student Affairs
- Mx. Mohit Dudeja from the Faculty of Education
- Lori Kapush from the Faculty of ORPT
- Dr. Leigh Potvin from the Faculty of ORPT
- Dr. Keira Loukes from the Faculty of ORPT
- Dr. Hao Bai from Mechanical Engineering
- Dr. Taryn Klarner from the School of Kinesiology
- Dr. Mike Campbell from Chemistry
- Dr. Erin Pearson from the School of Kinesiology
- Bonnie McDonald from Gender and Women's Studies
- Alexandra Hudyma from Mathematical Sciences
- Isi Medina from Residence Life
- Aaliyah Stewart from Residence Life

Orillia Campus

- Tess Casole Buchanan from the School of Social Work
- Professor Charles Manners from the Criminology Program
- Lori Anne Beneteau from Dana Hospitality
- Professor Hilton Bertalan from the Criminology Program
- Elizabeth Adams from Residence Life
- Dr. Michelle McKee from Student Health and Wellness
- Dr. Florin Pendea from the Departments of Sustainability Sciences and Geography & the Environment
- Alisia Johnston from Student Accessibility Services
- Ashley McLetchie from Residence Life

[Click here to see what students said about the champions and what the champions had to say about their role in well-being on campus.](#)



Health and Wellness for Lakehead Orillia Students

Students on the Orillia campus are now able to access a number of resources for health and wellness. They can access primary health care through a nurse practitioner on site (in partnership with Soldiers Memorial Hospital and the Couchiching Ontario Health Team Care Clinic). Students can also access the Central Clinic in Orillia that is open to the community, as well as counselling services provided through Catholic Family Services (CFS). CFS provides counselling services for students both in-person on campus and virtually. Students can also access the CFS location in Orillia outside of the services arranged through Lakehead. However, if students go through Lakehead they are prioritized. There are also clinics for flu shots, COVID shots, and other health screening services available.

Our new wellness programming is an important part of Lakehead's Health Promotion Strategy that positively encourages the uptake of healthy behaviours among our student population, including health education and strengthening life skills. Frazer Philips, Lakehead Orillia's new Indigenous Cultural Wellness Facilitator, is assisting in incorporating Indigenous wellness into this programming.

Office of Indigenous Initiatives Updates

Indigenous Initiatives (Orillia) provided a professional development opportunity to the Student Affairs Team by supporting and advising their new Indigenous Learning Book Club. The book club members will be reading two books: *Indigenous Writes* by Chelsea Vowel and *True Reconciliation* by Jody Wilson-Raybould. This is part two of a professional development opportunity on Building Relationships with the Land & Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Initiatives hosted a Winter Feast on January 24, 2024, as part of Thrive Week. The day included a beading workshop, lunch, and a sweetgrass basket making workshop. Winter Feast allowed students to learn about Indigenous student services, meet other Indigenous students and the Indigenous Lakehead community, and connect with Career & Co-op Services if they had any questions about Lakehead's OpenText Indigenous Internship opportunities.

Governments Strengthening Agriculture and Food Sector in Northern Ontario

The governments of Canada and Ontario are investing up to \$1.65 million over five years to support research programming, knowledge transfer and the operations and management of the Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (LUARS).

This multi-year funding through the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (Sustainable CAP) will help improve the viability and yield of crops in Northern Ontario, develop and diversify the agricultural industry, and position it for continued growth.

The research will focus on areas such as best management practices for Northern agriculture, soil health, environmental sustainability, and climate change, as well as research and knowledge co-developed with Indigenous researchers and communities.

Sustainable CAP is a five-year (2023-2028), \$3.5 billion investment by federal-provincial and territorial governments to strengthen competitiveness, innovation, and resiliency of the agriculture, food, and agri-based products sector. This includes \$1 billion in federal programs and activities and a \$2.5 billion commitment that is cost-shared 60 per cent federally and 40 per cent provincially/territorially for programs designed and delivered by the provinces and territories.

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



From left to right, Dr. Tarlok Sahota, LUARS Director; Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Lakehead's Vice-President, Research and Innovation; Dr. Gillian Siddall, Lakehead's President and Vice-Chancellor; and Kevin Holland, MPP for Thunder Bay - Atikokan participated in the announcement on Friday, Nov. 24 in the CASES building at Lakehead University.

Research Infosource ranks Lakehead University third in Canada

Research Infosource has named Lakehead the number three university in Canada in the undergraduate category of its annual Research University of the Year assessment.

Lakehead was ranked in the top spot from 2015 to 2019 — the first time an institution in *Research Infosource's* undergraduate category was ever ranked Research University of the Year five years in a row.

Lakehead President and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Gillian Siddall said she is proud that the university has returned to the podium.

Lakehead's placement with the top of the country's undergraduate universities category is based on the university standing out on a balanced scorecard of research inputs and outputs, according to the annual ranking of Canada's Top 50 Research Universities by *Research Infosource*, Canada's source of research and development intelligence.

Dr. Andrew P. Dean, Lakehead's Vice-President, Research and Innovation, said he was very pleased to rank in the top three universities in Canada in the undergraduate category.

One of the research outputs being measured is Not-for-Profit Research Income. Within this category, Lakehead University is number one in Canada for three years in a row

Research Infosource's calculation of its Research Universities of the Year involves examining several factors, including the total amount of sponsored research funding received by each university, research intensity per faculty (total research income per faculty member), research intensity per graduate student (total research income per graduate student), total number of publications, publication intensity, and publication impact.

Click [here to visit the Research Infosource website](#) for more information.

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



Academic Excellence

Lakehead graduate earns McCall MacBain Regional Award

Lakehead University graduate **Chris Armiento** (HBSc'22) has earned a \$5,000 [McCall MacBain Regional Award](#). This scholarship recognizes engaged student leaders who have demonstrated exceptional character, community engagement, leadership potential, entrepreneurial spirit, academic strength, and intellectual curiosity. It provides funding for a full-time master's or professional program at any public university in Canada.

Chris is an intern at Confederation College, assisting the school in implementing sustainable development goals. They recently earned a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from Lakehead, where they served on the board of the student union and mentored international students. Chris has also organized climate action projects and events, developed a workshop to teach high school students about climate activism, and contributed to research on adolescent exposure to cannabis marketing. They are applying to medical school and medical research master's programs.

Chris placed among the top 95 of more than 700 Canadian applicants this year.

The McCall MacBain Scholarships are the result of a landmark \$200 million gift in 2019, then the largest single donation in Canadian history, by John and Marcy McCall MacBain.

Applications will open in June 2024 for September 2025 admission. In addition to 30 fully funded scholarships, up to 100 awards of \$5,000 to \$20,000 will be offered. More information about the McCall MacBain Scholarships can be found at mccallmacbainscholars.org.

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



Big Ideas: Farhan Ghaffar on improving banked blood storage systems

While we go about our daily lives, researchers at Lakehead University's Orillia campus are busy exploring ways to improve our communities. Big Ideas with Lakehead University Orillia gives you a glimpse inside their innovative work.

Meet **Farhan Ghaffar**, an assistant professor in Lakehead University's Department of Electrical Engineering in the faculty of engineering. Ghaffar joined the electrical engineering department in August 2019 as a member of the [Lakehead-Georgian Partnership \(LUGC\) program](#) working out of the Barrie campus of Georgian College. His area of research is radio frequency (RF) circuits, antennas and system design with wide-ranging applications: biomedical systems, autonomous vehicles, smart wireless technologies, space and satellite communications.

Big Ideas with Lakehead University Orillia is a partnership with Metroland Media. This article was originally published on [Simcoe.com](#) on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024.

[Click here to read media release](#)



Lack of climate education 'a missed opportunity'

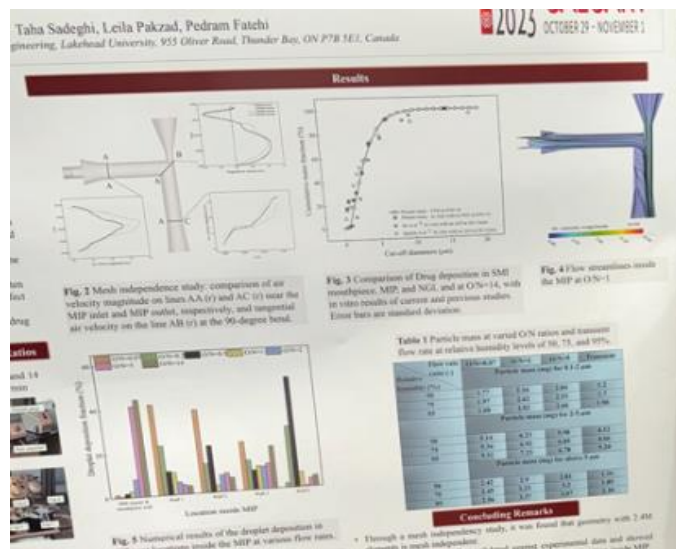
Education researcher and professor **Ellen Field** was featured in a December 9 CBC report on climate change education. The article, which includes a video as well, offers a quick portrait on how climate change education fares across Canadian jurisdictions, how prepared teachers feel in teaching it and whether a climate strategy is a priority for school boards.

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

Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering student wins Best Poster Award

Taha Sadeghi, PhD candidate in the Faculty of Engineering, was awarded the Best Poster Award during the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering Conference in Calgary.

Sadeghi's research is focused on "Experimental and Numerical Study of Aerosol Drug Delivery in the Human Respiratory Tract using Soft Mist Inhaler (SMI) Devices." In the Multiphase Flow Research (MFR) Laboratory, founded and directed by Dr. Leila Pakzad, he has published two journal papers and two more manuscripts are in progress.



He received his master's degree from Iran Polymer and Petrochemical Institute (IPPI). He is doing his PhD in the biotechnology program under the supervision of Dr. Pakzad and Dr. Pedram Fatehi from the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) funded this research. The faculties of engineering and graduate studies have also supported his project. The supercomputer and the technical assistance provided by Lakehead University have endorsed the numerical section of his research project.

Congratulations to award-winning faculty and staff

The Contribution to Teaching Award (CTA) is a student-nominated award that recognizes instructors who have demonstrated high levels of teaching performance at Lakehead University. Up to six awards are granted each year.

- **Dr. Apparao Dekka**, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Dr. George Hutchinson**, Mathematical Science
- **Dr. Katherine Kortés-Miller**, Social Work
- **Mrs. Ainsley Miller**, Nursing
- **Dr. Jessica Metcalfe**, Anthropology
- **Dr. Gerald Walton**, Education

• **The Distinguished Instructor Award (DIA)** is Lakehead University's most prestigious teaching award and recognizes an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to teaching excellence and educational innovation and leadership at the University over a number of years. Only one award per year is bestowed.

- **Dr. Mohammad Uddin**, Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Teaching Support Award recognizes the support provided for teaching by employees of the university. One award will be given annually.

- **Ms. Debra Gold**, Library

The Teaching Innovation Award recognizes the development and/or implementation of innovative pedagogical practices and technologies. The award is given for the development and/or implementation of a specific pedagogical innovation, and may be awarded to an individual or a team. Up to three awards may be given annually. Recipients will also be invited to lead a workshop on their innovation.

- **Dr. John Gotwals**, Kinesiology
- **Mr. Daniel Vasiliu**, Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Mrs. Wendy St. Laurent-Coutts**, Nursing, and from Seven Generations Education Institute Team: **Taylor Stromness** (SGEI-Fort Frances), **Nicole Robertson** (SGEI-Sioux Lookout), and **Wendy Tseng** (SGEI-Kenora)

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Barrie professor earns top teaching award from Lakehead University



A professor of Computer and Electrical Engineering and coordinator of the Electrical Engineering program offered by the Lakehead-Georgian Partnership has received the most prestigious teaching award bestowed by Lakehead University.

Dr. Mohammad Nasir Uddin, who is at the Georgian College campus in Barrie, is this year's recipient of the Distinguished Instructor Award.

This award recognizes an outstanding individual who has made a significant contribution to teaching excellence, educational innovation, and leadership at the University over a number of years.

Upon conferring the award to Dr. Uddin, Lakehead University's Senate Teaching and Learning Committee noted his impressive and distinguished list of accomplishments, and his reputation among students and colleagues as a gifted and compassionate educator.

The committee also acknowledged Dr. Uddin's outstanding contribution to developing new undergraduate and graduate programs, and establishing the Renewable Energy, Power Systems & Drives Research Lab in Barrie that has cemented his legacy as a remarkable educator and researcher.

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

Infusing climate change education into teacher training curricula

Lakehead University researcher **Dr. Ellen Field** has received \$449,000 from Environment Climate Change Canada (ECCC) to lead a project to support and accelerate the integration of climate change education in teacher education programs across Canada. The two-year project, in partnership with Dr. Hilary Inwood from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, will deliver five components, including a national e-course in climate change education for both pre-service and in-service teachers, a webinar series focused on teacher education and the other on K-12 formal education, a national roundtable on climate change education, and accelerator seed grants for faculties of education to improve climate change education. For more information on this project visit <https://accelerating-cce.ca/>.

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



Professors from Lakehead and Villanova universities are studying fish to create underwater robots

A Lakehead University professor and a professor from Villanova University are studying how fish use navigation and propulsion to help them create underwater robots, thanks to funding from NSERC.

Dr. Muhammad Khalid, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering, received a \$25,000 Alliance International Catalyst Grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for his project to build an international research partnership with Dr. Chengyu Li from Villanova University, and jointly investigate fluid-structure-chemical interactions in marine environments.

Over one year, they will study the “mysterious but very effective techniques adopted by fish in natural aquatic conditions,” Dr. Khalid said.

The researchers will study how different fish, for example carangiform (Jack Fish, Tuna, Salmon), and anguilliform (eels), effectively control fluid dynamics through their kinematics to send and receive chemical cues.

They will investigate how natural aquatic swimmers use chemical odours for their navigation and propulsion.

Fish use these elements as important natural sensing and detection methods, but they are still relatively misunderstood by the scientific community.

Using the basics of natural swimming to design fish-like underwater robotic platforms form the main goals of this project. The researchers will develop mathematical models and perform computational simulations to investigate and understand odour-guided propulsion of fish-like bodies.

The success of this project is expected to bring the Canadian scientific community and marine engineering industry at the forefront of environment-friendly underwater engineering technologies for a variety of purposes.

These include securing the borders, subsea explorations for natural resources, rescue and search operations, and several other opportunities.

In 2022/23, Lakehead University received more than \$2 million in assistance from the Research Support Fund to support the indirect costs of research, which includes costs for supporting the management of intellectual property, research and administration, ethics and regulatory compliance, research resources, research facilities, and research security.

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

Wetlands can provide potential climate change solutions: Lakehead study

Researchers from Lakehead University have found that freshwater wetlands are important nature-based solutions for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions.

In a recent study published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Biogeosciences, **Dr. Florin Pendea** and co-authors **Dr. Nanda Kanavillil** and **Dr. Sree Kuriserry** from Lakehead, and Dr. Gail Chmura of McGill University, found that wetlands within the Lake Simcoe watershed were 50 percent more effective in storing carbon than other wetland ecosystems, second only to salt marshes that form along the shores of temperate seas.



Pendea says that this research comes at an important time as countries around the world are looking at ways to mitigate climate change, including the federal government's commitment to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Pendea's team, which included several undergraduate students from Lakehead, spent three years collecting and examining soil properties and carbon accumulation rates over the last 100 years in swamps and marshes in the Lake Simcoe watershed. These wetland areas – Beaver River Wetlands, Black River-Zephyr Creek Wetlands, and the East Holland River Wetlands – are under increasing pressure from farming and urban development, a trend impacting much of Southern Ontario. For Pendea, it also lends support to the case for wetland restoration through re-wetting as an important nature-based climate solution for mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions in areas where they were already drained for agriculture and other purposes.

While this research already has important policy implications, the work is far from over. This summer, Pendea started a new project in collaboration with Chmura and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, which explores the value of constructed wetlands – wetlands purposefully created in areas not suitable for other uses – as a way to increase the Lake Simcoe region's capacity to mitigate future greenhouse gas emissions for generations to come. In addition to evaluating soil carbon storage capacity, this project will directly document the greenhouse gas balance in these novel ecosystems. This research was funded in part by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority.

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

Social Work Framework Gains Province-Wide Adoption

Dr. David Tranter's framework for supporting both student well-being and achievement from kindergarten to Grade 12 has been officially adopted by the Prince Edward Island government to be used in schools province-wide.

While his "Third Path" framework is used by educators all across Canada, PEI is the first province to implement it at a government level. The framework, as outlined in Dr. Tranter's book, "The Third Path: A Relationship-Based Approach to Student Well-Being and Achievement," emphasizes the role that educators play in supporting student mental health, promoting equity, and practicing in a trauma-sensitive manner.

Says Dr. Tranter, "I'm thrilled to be working closely with educators all across PEI and look forward to being an ongoing part of outstanding work already underway". For more information about Dr. Tranter's work, visit www.thirdpath.ca.



From left, Tracy Beaulieu, Acting Director of the Public Schools Branch; with Dr. David Tranter; Jane Hastelow, Manager Professional Learning and Assessment, Department of Education & Early Years Government of Prince Edward Island; and Tammy Hubley-Little, Director of English Education, Programs and Services, Department of Education & Early Years Government of Prince Edward Island.

Big Ideas with Lakehead University Orillia

Lakehead Orillia has partnered with Metroland Media to feature Simcoe County researchers through a regular feature called Big Ideas with Lakehead University Orillia. The first story features **Dr. Leisa Desmoulins**, associate professor in the Faculty of Education's department of Indigenous education.

[Click here to read the press release...](#)



Research Matters: Lac Seul youth get tools to tell their own stories

After nearly a decade working with a remote First Nation on different projects, **Martha Dowsley's** most recent effort was something much simpler put video cameras in the hands of young people and give them the freedom to tell stories close to their hearts.

The result is a series of short videos crafted by three budding videographers from Lac Seul First Nation, exploring issues that are meaningful to them, their family and the greater community.

The initiative, part of a national dialogue on Indigenous research capacity and reconciliation, brings traditional storytelling into the 21st century by giving young people the tools to explore their own stories. With \$50,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the First Nation itself, Dowsley and her team staged workshops on Lac Seul territory during the winter of 2018-19. Along with Dowsley and colleagues Lana Ray and Frederico Oliveira, undergraduate students who had experience in filmmaking offered instruction on operating digital cameras and the use of editing software.

The videos, entitled "When the Snow Blankets the Earth It Is Time to Tell Stories", feature the efforts of Byron Mekanak, D'Arcy Gray and Yzerman Quill. Mekanak's nine-minute segment seeks the origin of a group photo taken in the 1920s; while Quill's theme of Lost Wisdom reflects on the past, personal pain, isolation and the challenges his generation face..

The videos, which belong to Lac Seul and are not yet available to the public, provide a perspective that Dowsley incorporates in her classroom work.

[Click here to read the press release...](#)

Alumni Initiatives – the Resiliency Project

On January 22, 2024, Lakehead's Alumni Office launched The Resiliency Project; an online platform for alumni, current students, staff, and faculty that serves as a dedicated safe space for mental health discussions, fostering connections, and actively participating in health and wellness events. The launch included a series of 5 events done in partnership with Shift Collab, a national virtual therapy practice. Over the week more than 110 participants enjoyed the wide variety of event topics. Participants were taken on a tour of the forum and encouraged to continue to engage within it. The project will continue to grow, and new content will be added frequently to encourage participants to continue to engage and talk about mental health and wellness.



Local and Global Partnerships

Spotlight on Academics Film Festival

The Department of History, with support from the faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities and Education, were pleased to partner in the presenting of the 3rd annual Spotlight on Academics Film Festival, an event to share knowledge through film.

Spotlight on Academics features films from around the world and was live for the first time with 22 documentaries screening in-person at Lakehead University from February 9-11. Special guests included Dr. Michael Brown from the University of South Wales, and filmmakers Áine Clark and Michel Van der Veken from Belgium. In addition to the films selected for a live audience, the festival presented a total of 45 films online via www.researchtv.ca from February 9-12.

The festival was free and open to the public. For more information and the full festival lineup, visit www.spotlightonacademics.ca.

Lakehead and St. Joseph's Care Group - Establishment of a Research Ethics Board of Record Agreement

A new research ethics agreement between Lakehead University and St. Joseph's Care Group (SJCG) has recently been established. The agreement reduces the duplication of work for researchers at Lakehead University and NOSM U looking to use the resources of SJCG and will help to avoid duplicate processes, including duplicate applications and duplicate Research Ethics Board (REB) reviews. Lakehead University's REB will accept the REB approval provided by SJCG. The collaboration illustrates the growing bond between our two institutions, especially pertaining to research.

Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL)

The Winter 2024 certificate session of the Ontario Master Naturalist Program launched on January 11, 2024. 31 learners were welcomed. More information can be found [here](#).

CELL's Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) program is now accepting registrations for its upcoming lecture series. This winter's TALL lecture series on Exploring Ethics in a Complex World will focus on key ethical issues impacting our daily lives, such as bioethics, corporate social responsibility, and environmental ethics. The series opens February 14th.

Connecting with Partners at the 2023 Conference of the Americas for International Education (CAIE)



Lakehead was well-represented at the 2023 Conference of the Americas for International Education (CAIE), held November 6-8 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference, sponsored by Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI-IOHE), is held every two years. The Lakehead delegation included **Dr. Andrew P. Dean**, Vice-President, Research and Innovation; **James Aldridge**, Vice-Provost International; Dr. Batia Stolar, Associate Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies; **Jill Sherman**, International Research Facilitator/CALAREO Secretariat; and Mr. Pierre Sved, Manager International Relations for Latin America. The Canada and Latin America Research & Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium, of which Lakehead is the Secretariat, sponsored a booth at the CAIE Expo, where Lakehead and other CALAREO members gathered to promote the consortium.

Dr. Dean, Jill, and Carolina Cuartas from Universidad Tecnológico de Pereira in Colombia, led a well-received panel with a series of presentations about the GSO-funded CALAREO IRME program, entitled “CALAREO International Research Mobility Experience (IRME) – Perspectives on increasing student mobility to Latin America.” The conference allowed Lakehead to connect with established partners and other stakeholders in the region, as well as engage with potential new partners.

Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Save the Date: 19th Annual Research and Innovation Week



Lakehead University's 19th Annual Research & Innovation Week's planning is well underway, and we're pleased to return to an in-person event. The events (e.g. workshops, student poster/oral presentations, and speaker panels) will run from February 24 to March 1, 2024, on the Thunder Bay campus and from March 5 to March 6, 2024, on the Orillia campus. We invite all to attend the events occurring during these exciting weeks. To learn more about the events, please visit [our website](#) for more information.

Ingenuity Ascend Accelerator Program Sees Largest Number of Applications

Ingenuity received 28 applications to the Ascend Accelerator Program, the largest number of applications to date, including 5 from Orillia. The applicants had the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel of judges, and four ideas were selected to move forward, one from our Orillia campus.

The Ascend Accelerator Program begins January 29 and runs for 10 weeks. During that time, Ingenuity provides \$5000 in start-up funding, mentorship, and delivers knowledge-based workshops. During the 10-week program, the participants are taken through the steps to launch or grow their business idea. In the previous three cohorts, Ingenuity has supported 12 business ideas, nine of which are still either actively pursuing their business idea or have moved to revenue generation.



INGENUITY
ASCEND



Please visit ingenuity.lakeheadu.ca for application and full program requirements.

Email manager.ingenuity@lakeheadu.ca for more information

Deadline to apply December 29th
Start date January 29th

We're looking for:

- Individuals or teams looking to start a new business or are currently operating a business
- Who currently are Lakehead University Students or recent graduates
- And have a willingness to start and grow their business

Selected individuals and teams will receive:

- Up to \$5000 start-up funds
- Business workshops and information sessions
- Experienced mentorship from industry entrepreneurs
- Hands-on support and introductions



Ingenuity Receives Grant to Support Ascend Accelerator Program

Ingenuity is excited to announce they have received a generous grant from the John Dobson Foundation's Dobson Entrepreneurship Excellence Project Award (DEEPA) to train our future entrepreneurs through the Ascend Accelerator Program.

The Ingenuity Ascend Accelerator program is a great opportunity for entrepreneurial minded Lakehead University students and alumni looking to transition an idea into a business opportunity or accelerate the growth and development of their early-stage start-up. Through the support of the DEEPA Funding, the Ingenuity Accelerator program will fund 24 business ideas over the next two years starting in January 2024. To date, the Ascend Accelerator program has run three cohorts during the summer months and supported 12 business ideas, 9 of which are still active.