



# President's Report to Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council

April  
2022





## Office of the President

### Student Appreciation Day

On February 14, our Lakehead University community came together for Student Appreciation Day to show our students how much we value them. Students at both campuses participated in virtual and in-person activities, including sharing kind messages on the Heart Wall, making candy grams, watching movies, and eating some tasty treats. The Student Success Centre team coordinated the day's events with many departments offering thanks throughout the day. President McPherson shared a special message of appreciation with all of students, and had the opportunity to hand out some persians on our Thunder Bay campus.



### Alumni

The Alumni Relations Office in Orillia has been hosting virtual events throughout February and March. These included an LGBTQ2+ event on February 17, with a drag queen performance, trivia quiz, followed by a panel discussion with both current and alumni on the topic of differences in the Lakehead University experience for LGBTQ2+ individuals, past and present. The event was well attended and the panel discussion informative. On February 28, an event was held on planting an Indigenous Medicine Garden hosted by Elder Gerry Martin. Participants were provided with a package of items, including tobacco seeds from the Thunder Bay Community Garden, followed by an informative session on how to plant and care for them. More than 100 people were in attendance.

### New “Research Integrity Matters” (RIM) Online Course

Lakehead University's Office of Research Services (ORS), in collaboration with the Faculty of Graduate Studies, has announced the offering of a new “Research Integrity Matters” (RIM) Online [Course](#). The new Lakehead University Research Integrity Matters (RIM) course is geared towards Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) and was created by the ORS to help research supervisors comply with the new requirement to provide appropriate supervision and training in the conduct of research.





## Chancellor Deverell to Receive 2022 Governor General's Performing Arts Award for Lifetime Achievement

*Originally published in Orillia Matters*

An Oro-Medonte woman with a long track record in broadcasting, theatre and activism has received Canada's top honour for the performing arts.

**Rita Shelton Deverell** is one of seven people to receive a 2022 Governor General's Performing Arts Award. Hers is for lifetime artistic achievement.

Deverell has left her mark on the broadcasting and arts scenes for 55 years. She worked for CBC, where she produced Gemini Award-winning series, and was news director with the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN).

One of her longest-lasting legacies has been Vision TV, the world's first multifaith, multicultural network, which she co-founded. She is also one of the first Black women in the country to hold the positions of TV host and network executive.

Deverell, who currently serves as Lakehead University's chancellor, has had to clear a number of hurdles throughout her career.

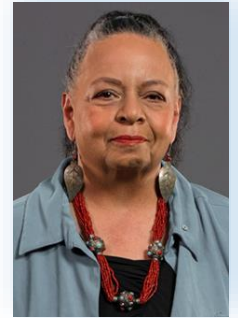
Deverell was hired by the Globe Theatre in Regina in 1971. It was before many theatres had even thought about "non-traditional casting," she said, referring to people of different colours, genders and backgrounds.

She wanted to change that.

Deverell is often referred to as a social activist, and much of that work has been accomplished through her various jobs and her efforts to promote equity, diversity and inclusion.

Governor General Mary Simon will hand out the awards during a ceremony at Rideau Hall on May 28.

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





## Prospective students can learn more at Lakehead's Future Forward March Break open house

Lakehead invited prospective students to be future forward this March Break by attending an open house where they explored everything about the University – virtually or in person.

From March 14 to 18, Lakehead featured its seven exceptional faculties and two beautiful campuses.

Students had an opportunity to hear from Lakehead University staff about financial supports and bursaries, residence, co-op experiences, and more. Future Thunderwolves had an additional opportunity to accept their offer on the spot.

Future Forward to Lakehead offered a long awaited on-campus experience for applicants and prospective students. Each day featured a specific faculty, which included immersive and interactive experiences.

For more information, please visit [www.lakeheadu.ca/marchbreak](http://www.lakeheadu.ca/marchbreak).



## Ministry of Colleges and Universities Providing Lakehead University with \$1 Million for Upgrades

Ontario's Ministry of Colleges and Universities is providing \$1 million to Lakehead University for upgrades to its Wi-Fi, audiovisual and technology equipment in Orillia and Thunder Bay, resulting in a \$2 million benefit to students in Engineering and the Sciences.

Lakehead and the University's Student Tech Fee Committee contributed \$500,000 each, and Crestron, an audiovisual automation and controls manufacturer, added a \$60,000 rebate for further enhancements.

This funding will allow Lakehead Thunder Bay to upgrade aging instructional technology in approximately 35 rooms, within the Advanced Technology Academic Centre (ATAC), the Ryan building, and the CJ Sanders Fieldhouse – and add Wi-Fi to the Centennial building.

At Lakehead Orillia, the University will update audiovisual and conferencing equipment across roughly 15 instructional spaces – including 11 classrooms in Simcoe Hall and four in Heritage Place, benefiting students in all of Lakehead Orillia's programs.

Lakehead began this project in September 2021, with an estimated completion date of later this year.

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



## Lakehead Orillia Recreation

As part of Lakehead's commitment to provide more on-campus athletics and recreation programming for students, on Monday, Jan. 31, Lakehead Orillia opened its first outdoor rink on campus. Dr. Dean Jobin-Bevans, Chris Glover, and Mike den Haan were joined by Orillia Mayor Steve Clarke for the first official skate.

[Click here for more information...](#)



REASONS NOT TO START MY MBA

- My family needs me around in the evening
- I'm too tired to leave the house at end of day
- Too much rush to eat dinner and get to class
- Work is stressful, I need the comfort of home
- It's only for people who already know business

Online. Part-Time. **MBA** While you work. While you live.

Applications Still Open for Fall 2022

## Part-time MBA now available online

The Faculty of Business Administration is making the online classroom a dedicated option for new, incoming part-time MBA students. While the shift to virtual learning over the past couple of years has been a challenge for some, it has been unanimously supported by all current part-time MBA students. The students have embraced the ability to attend class from home, as it has allowed them to better balance their work and family lives. In addition, the change allows alumni and staff located in the Orillia area and throughout Canada the opportunity to pursue their MBA with Lakehead.

For more information about Lakehead's MBA program, please visit [mba.lakeheadu.ca](https://mba.lakeheadu.ca) or email [colin.kutchyera@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:colin.kutchyera@lakeheadu.ca).



## Academic Excellence

### Lakehead Researchers Receive \$202,751 from Canada Foundation for Innovation

Two new Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) John R. Evans Leaders Fund (JELF) research infrastructure grants to two Lakehead University faculty members were recently announced. These grants provide funding for researchers to acquire research equipment to undertake innovative research that benefits Canadians.

**Dr. Maryam Ebrahimi**, Department of Chemistry: "Rational Design of Molecular-based Low-dimensional Quantum Materials" - \$100,080.

**Dr. Wilson Wang**, Department of Mechanical Engineering - "A New Research Infrastructure for Intelligent Diagnostics and Prognostics of Electric Machines" - \$102,671.

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



### Music Student Wins Vocal Competition at Carnegie Hall

Lakehead music student **Jessica Hayes** spent the last two years mastering Si, mi chiamano Mimi, which earned her first place in the opera category at the Crescendo International Music Competition held at Carnegie Hall on Monday, Feb. 14.

She chose the song for Crescendo in 2019 – and then the pandemic hit, giving her more time to perfect it.

Follow this [link](#) for a video of Hayes performing Si, mi chiamano Mimi.

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



## ONCAT awards Lakehead \$60,267 for Health and Science Diploma to Degree Pathways Development

Lakehead University has been awarded \$60,267 from the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) to develop new and remodel existing health and science diploma to degree pathways.

**Dr. Carlos Zerpa**, an Associate Professor in the School of Kinesiology, and PhD student **Kaylin Kainulainen** have been awarded \$47,971 to remodel and strengthen diploma to degree pathways into the Honours Bachelor of Kinesiology (HBK) degree program.

Participating partners include Cambrian College of Applied Arts and Technology, Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology, Collège Boréal, Confederation College of Applied Arts and Technology, Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology, and Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology.

**Dr. Craig MacKinnon**, Professor of Chemistry, and **Dr. Heidi Schraft**, Associate Professor of Biology, have received \$12,296 to work with Fanshawe College to develop a set of transfer pathways to and from Lakehead University in the Chemical Laboratory Technology - Science Laboratory Advanced Diploma and the Honours Bachelor of Science in Chemistry/Honours Bachelor of Science in Applied Life Science.

In addition, the project team will assess the viability of developing additional pathways into Lakehead University's medical concentration programs and related Engineering credentials.

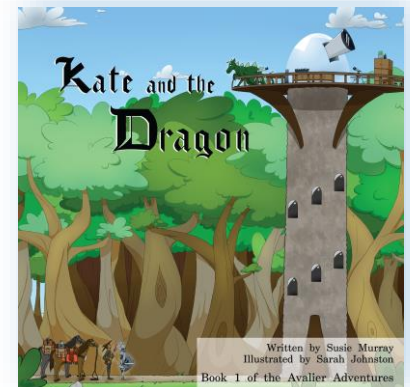
[Click here to view media release...](#)

## Fourth-year English Student Releases her First Book

Fourth-year English student **Susie Murray** is releasing her first book, *Kate and the Dragon*, for ages three and up. The picture book follows a knight named Kate and a wizard named Sebastian as they use their creative puzzle-solving skills to rescue a dragon.

Susie wrote the fantasy/adventure story and her friend Sarah Johnston created the illustrations. It's Book 1 of a series called *The Avalier Adventures*; Book 2 is already in the works, and should be out within a year.

The book will be released on Monday, Feb. 21 (Family Day), in paperback, eBook, and hardcover. It will be available to purchase online through [Susie's website](#), in local bookstores, or directly from her by emailing [smmurray@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:smmurray@lakeheadu.ca).





## TBDHU receives funding boost for the HOME Program in Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) is pleased to announce the receipt of \$1,158,677 over 3 years from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to implement the Healthy Kids Health on the Move for Equity (HOME) Program in Thunder Bay.

This initiative supports the delivery of health and community services for an estimated 1,500 children and their families in four priority neighbourhoods in Thunder Bay. These areas were identified through a comprehensive community needs assessment and include the neighbourhoods around Windsor Street, Academy Heights, Westfort and McKellar Park. The program brings together residents and community partners to provide evidence-informed programming around physical activity, nutrition, smoking prevention and cessation, mental health, and other topics identified by participants. The HOME program is supported by partners on the Healthy Kids Steering Committee.

The Healthy Kids HOME program has two main components: (1) Expanding Healthy Kids sites in priority neighbourhoods, which provide a safe space for accessing health promotion programming and social services; and (2), a four-week Healthy Kids Family Program to equip parents/caregivers with health-related knowledge, self-efficacy, coping skills, and information on local services and resources.

The program will be evaluated by principal investigator, **Dr. Erin Pearson**, Associate Professor in Kinesiology at Lakehead University, who will measure health outcomes and impact on the community.

**Healthy Kids Steering Committee partners:** Anishnawbe Mushkiki Aboriginal Health Access Centre, Boys and Girls Clubs of Thunder Bay, Children's Centre Thunder Bay, City of Thunder Bay, Communities Together for Children, Dilico Anishinabek Family Care, EcoSuperior, Indigenous Sport and Wellness Ontario, Lakehead Public School Board, Lakehead Social Planning Council, Lakehead University – School of Kinesiology and Department of Psychology, Little Lions Waldorf Child and Family Centre, Our Kids Count, P.R.O. Kids Thunder Bay, St. Joseph's Care Group, Thunder Bay Chill Soccer Club, Thunder Bay District Catholic School Board, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board, Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre, Thunder Bay Police Service, Thunder Bay Public Library, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, United Way Thunder Bay.

For information about Healthy Kids Thunder Bay events and program updates, follow @healthykidstbay on Facebook and Twitter.

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



## CIHR providing Lakehead University professors with more than \$2.1 million for important research

Lakehead University researchers are receiving more than \$2.1 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for several important projects.

**Dr. Vicki Kristman**, Associate Professor in Health Sciences and Director of Lakehead's Enhancing the Prevention of Injury and Disability (EPID) at Work Research Institute, is receiving \$367,200 to evaluate the Wiji app's effectiveness in improving the mental health of Indigenous people in the workplace.

With direction from the communities, members of the Nookiiwin Tribal Council and Dr. Kristman's team developed an e-mental health app for Indigenous workplaces called 'Wiji,' to improve Indigenous workplace mental health through a CIHR Catalyst Grant: Work Stress and Wellbeing Hackathon.

Wiji provides information on work-related mental health and mental-health resources that Indigenous workers can access, and provides a mechanism to connect with a peer-support who can assist the worker in times of stress.



**Dr. Christopher Mushquash**, Professor in Psychology and Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Mental Health and Addiction, and his team are receiving \$344,250 to examine the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and various aspects of well-being.

Conducted for up to five years, this research will allow the team to create a knowledge base that Indigenous community-based organizations can use to better support members who are facing difficulties with mental health and addictions.

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



*From left, Lillian Calder, Councillor, Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek; Robyn O'Loughlin, Postdoctoral Fellow, EPID@Work Research Institute, Lakehead University; Conway Lesperance, former Health and Safety Advisor, Nookiiwin Tribal Council; Audrey Gilbeau, Executive Director, Nookiiwin Tribal Council; Vicki Kristman, Director, EPID@Work Research Institute & Associate and Professor, Dept. of Health Sciences, Lakehead University; Tiffany Rogowski, Health, Safety and Wellness Advisor, Nookiiwin Tribal Council; Jeff Robert, Health and Safety Advisor, Nookiiwin Tribal Council received the Indigenous Research Partnership Award, presented by Denise Baxter, Vice-Provost, Indigenous Initiatives, Lakehead University, far right, at the 2020 Research Awards of Excellence ceremony hosted by Lakehead University.*



## Exploring the YWCA's work in Indigenous Hospitals, Sanatoria and Residential Schools

A Lakehead University professor is receiving \$10,000 from Associated Medical Services (AMS) Healthcare to explore the work of the Hamilton YWCA in Indigenous hospitals, sanatoria, and residential schools in Canada during the 20th century.

**Dr. Kristin Burnett**, Professor in Indigenous Learning, said records from the Department of Indian Affairs and churches described donations of clothing, bedding, medicine, and toys from women's organizations.

For larger organizations like the YWCA, these contributions went further to include running educational programming, camps, and voluntary labour, Dr. Burnett said.

Dr. Burnett will perform this research project, titled "The Hamilton Young Women's Christian Association's (YWCA) Work with Indian Hospitals, Sanatoria, and Residential Schools" – over one year.

The AMS History of Medicine and Healthcare Awards Program promotes scholarship, teaching, and public interest in the history of health care, disease, and medicine.

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



## Lakehead music student overcomes health challenges to place first in Crescendo piano competition

A Lakehead University music student overcame great odds to place first in the Crescendo piano competition held in December 2021, allowing her to participate in an online winners' recital on Monday, Feb. 14.

From September 2020 to June 2021, **Evelyn Davenport** dealt with a serious overuse injury in her back and left shoulder, requiring months of physical therapy. This injury prevented her from practicing long hours at the piano and learning physically demanding pieces.

[Follow this link for a video of Davenport performing Brahms Ballade op. 118 no. 3.](#)

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





## Faculty Members Receive SSHRC Funding for the Youth Sustainability Summit: Enabling Youth-led Dialogue and Action

**Dr. Ellen Field**, Faculty of Education, and **Dr. Linda Rodenberg**, Interdisciplinary Studies, Orillia, has received a SSHRC Connections Grant worth \$24,354 in support of the Youth Sustainability Summit: Enabling Youth-led Dialogue and Action. This is a day-long event that will be youth-organized, and will be inviting student-led environmental groups from across Simcoe county to learn about the realities of climate change and how to engage in change-making processes.

## Entrepreneurship and Innovation

### *Planetary Stewardship* theme of 2022 Research and Innovation Week

The Lakehead University community and the public were invited to participate in Lakehead University's 17th annual Research and Innovation Week, which was held virtually again this year. The week ran from Monday, March 7 to Friday, March 11 and included a variety of special speakers and events. This included several sessions comprising the Climate Change and Action Research Showcase in support of the Year of Climate Action. The Week commenced on March 7 at 11:20 with opening ceremonies. The keynote speaker was Seth Klein, team lead for the Climate Emergency Unit – a project of the David Suzuki Institute. He spoke on "Mobilizing Canada for the Climate Emergency." As well, the Youth Event hosted during R&I Week this year was a great success! We had over 20 participants (classrooms and individuals) participate. **Dr. Ellen Field** moderated the session with our Keynote Speaker, Seth Klein, joined by three youth panelists - Blythe Wieclawek, Anjelina Pathak and Chloe Nguyen. The youth panelists demonstrated incredible climate leadership, urging climate action at all levels from the local to the global. They shared their motivations for their climate activism and their ideas on what the most important climate issues are for young people today.

For more information about Research and Innovation Week, 2022, please go to the [Research Innovation webpage](#).

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



## Lakehead presents professors, students and partners with Year of Climate Action awards for research projects

Lakehead University has awarded seven research teams with Year of Climate Action awards worth \$5,000 each, which they will use to explore various topics related to climate change.

The research team is comprised of Dan Duckert, Keewatinook Okimakanak Tribal Council/Lakehead University; **Dr. Lindsay Galway**, Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead Thunder Bay; Anjali Mago, Luke Smyk and Josh Taylor, all from Keewatinook Okimakanak Tribal Council; and **Donovan Parenteau**, a Lakehead University student in the Faculty of Natural Resources Management.



**Dr. Francisco Ramos-Pallares** and his research team are looking into developing alternative low-carbon technologies to produce chemicals, which he said is paramount for minimizing the effects of climate change.

**Dr. Ellen Field**, Assistant Professor in Education at Lakehead Orillia, is working with Dr. Muhammad Asaduzzaman, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, on a research project called Benchmarking Climate Change Policies across Canadian School Boards.

**Dr. Ahmed Elshaer**, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at Lakehead Thunder Bay, and his research team will develop tailored solutions to control the influence of climate change – particularly when it comes to the built environment.

**Dr. Liang Cui**, Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at Lakehead Thunder Bay, is leading his research team in a project called Coupled Multiphysics Modeling of Impure CO<sub>2</sub> Geosequestration in Deep Saline Aquifers, which involves capturing carbon dioxide in aquifers as a way of reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

**Dr. Robert Stewart**, Associate Professor in Geography and the Environment at Lakehead Thunder Bay, and his team will use the grant to develop a paleo-climatic record of the conditions in Lake Nipigon to assess climate change impacts in Biinjitiwaabik Zaaging Anishnaabek Traditional Territory.

**Dr. Elaine Wiersma**, Associate Professor in Health Sciences at Lakehead Thunder Bay, and her research team will interview people who are ecological/native species gardeners in Thunder Bay, about their gardening practices, motivations, and understanding of beneficial gardening practices. Photo essays of participants' gardens will also be included.

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



## Lakehead University celebrated exceptional researchers at R and I Awards of Excellence

Lakehead University held its Research and Innovation Awards of Excellence reception virtually on Thursday, March 10 to celebrate the exceptional achievements of professors, partners, and students.

Lakehead named **Dr. Monica Flegel**, **Dr. Pedram Fatehi**, and **Dr. Michel Bédard** as the 2022 Distinguished Researchers for their work in the social sciences and humanities, natural sciences and engineering, and health sciences, respectively.

Dr. Flegel is a researcher from the Faculty of English who is active in a wide variety of fields. She has made significant contributions within three major areas – Victorian studies, child studies, and fan and media studies. She has written three academic books – two of which she is the single author, one which is joint-authored, and one which is a joint-edited collection – which represent her most significant research contributions.

Dr. Fatehi is a professor, Canada Research Chair (Tier II) and Industrial Research Chair in Chemical Engineering who has published over 230 journal articles (more than 25 article publications per year). His contributions to international conferences – as an organizer, plenary speaker, invited speaker, committee member, and regular contributor – have been consistent.

Dr. Bédard is the Director of Lakehead's Centre for Research on Safe Driving and a professor in Health Sciences. He has spent the past 20 years advancing knowledge and developing a research agenda for older drivers by creating new knowledge that other researchers could build on. Dr. Bédard has been involved with knowledge translation and the application of knowledge, by working with the media, such as CBC News. He and his team organized five CIHR-funded Café Scientifique studies and they have collaborated with the government (Transport Canada, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario), local organizations such as hospitals, and patient groups including the Alzheimer's Society of Canada.

[Click here for the full list of winners and to view the media release...](#)





## President's Luncheon for this year's R&I Week Undergraduate Student Research Conference winners

On Friday, March 11, Dr. McPherson celebrated the winners of the 2022 R&I Week Undergraduate Student Research Conference. The winners from the poster and oral competitions were selected by their peers for their engaging, innovative, and exciting research, and invited to lunch with the President and members of the Executive Team and the conference organizing committee members. Everyone gathered virtually with a lunch from UberEats, where students from both campuses shared their work. Dr. McPherson, Dr. Andrew Dean and Dr. David Barnett shared insights about their own research experiences during their undergraduate years.



## Ingenuity Awards Recipients

During the R&I week Awards ceremony two recipients received the *Ingenuity* award. **Silas Young**, a 4th year business student won the student award and **Dr. Pedram Fatehi** took home the award for Faculty.

The Lakehead University Ingenuity Awards are presented to one faculty member and one student of Lakehead University's Community who have exhibited an entrepreneurial spirit by identifying ways in which their ideas can be developed into problem solving solutions. The award is expected to showcase creative thought and contribute to Ingenuity's vision of fostering an entrepreneurial culture on campus.

*Ingenuity* has launched its applications for their Ascend Accelerator program starting in May 2022. The Ascend program is a 12-week bootcamp style program that is designed to take the student-based business from idea to launch. This will be the second time Ingenuity will run this accelerator program and will provide the applicants with up to \$7500 to help support their business development costs.

Along with the funding the teams will receive mentorship, weekly workshops and one on one support with Ingenuity staff. The program will run in a hybrid format to help support our students who leave the area for the summer and also have full time jobs.



## ***Ingenuity's Indigenous Start-Up Fund***

In November 2021, *Ingenuity* put out a call for applicants to a \$5000 Indigenous start up fund. After holding interviews in December, the chosen recipient is **Sabrina Slade** who is currently finishing her Masters of Medical Science.

Sabrina and her business partner have created a web-based application that will work as a tool for recruitment of healthcare professionals in Northern Ontario. Currently they are working with Ingenuity to get their app ready to launch and will be putting a focus on the marketing and promotion to raise awareness and bring attention to their tool. The new logo is still to be developed but the team has settled on naming the app, Scout.

This fund comes from the hard work of our External Relations team securing a donor and Ingenuity hopes it will be an annual gift that allows one student to pursue their entrepreneurial dream.

## ***Ingenuity Helps “Share Your Heart”***

*Ingenuity* participated in Lakehead's Student Appreciation Day with a social media scavenger hunt type contest called "Share Your Heart".

Participants were to find the hidden "heart" in Ingenuity and post a picture with the heart to Ingenuity's social media. Along with it's fun challenges Ingenuity has hosted 3 workshops so far this semester and involved a local certified Google Innovator to host a session based on newsletter creation.

The two biggest events for Ingenuity are Disrupt It Weekend (held virtually this year) and the launch of our Ascend Accelerator applications.





## Local and Global Partnerships

### Indigenous Initiatives

#### Supporting Student Potential

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia) partnered with Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU) offered a Water Ceremony at the Orillia campus to mark World Water Day on March 22, 2022.

#### Engaging with Communities

The Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator (Orillia) continues to co-host weekly virtual Gindaasdaa (Reading Together) Book Club sessions with Elder Trish Monague, Elder in Residence - Lakehead University and Culture and Heritage Coordinator - Beausoleil First Nation (BFN). This initiative allows space for LU students and BFN members to stay connected and build relationships while exploring the book Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. In addition, this is a way for Lakehead University to build relationships with the BFN community and a way to engage in a Year of Climate Action (YOCA). This was open to both Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses. Please note: Elder Trish Monague is on a medical leave until further notice.

### Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning

CELL has launched registration for the next TALL series, "China and the World." The series, ran from March 30th - April 27th, it included not only bestselling author and journalist Jan Wong, but also Dr. Derek Irwin, a former Lakehead professor who is now Head of School at the University of Nottingham in Ningbo.

CELL received a \$5000 microgrant from the Invasive Species Centre to expand the Special High Skills major programming and to fund an Invasive Species Eradication event for high school students onsite at Georgian Bay Islands National Park in collaboration with Parks Canada.



## Global Affairs Canada Faculty Mobility for Partnership Building Program

**Dr. Muditha Heenkenda** (Department of Geography and Environment) will be traveling to Costa Rica to teach a course on "Light Detection and Ranging" and its applications" at the Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, and develop a research collaboration between Tecnológico de Costa Rica, the National Groundwater, Irrigation and Drainage Services institute in Costa Rica, and the Department of Geography and the Environment at Lakehead.

**Dr. ShiKui Wu and Dr. Hui Zhang** (Faculty of Business Administration) will be initiating a collaboration with the Mexico City campus of Tec de Monterrey. Dr. Wu will visit the Departments of International Business and Industrial Engineering in Mexico City, while Dr. Zhang will participate virtually from Thunder Bay. They will each be teaching a course, and plan to collaborate with the Center for Innovation in Design and Technology, Advanced Manufacturing Research Group, to develop a research program in Smart Supply Chain and Operations.

## Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning

In collaboration with Lakehead's Chair of Truth and Reconciliation, **Dr. Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux**, the Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning (CELL) is presenting "Truth and Reconciliation: Community Dialogues." Beginning of March 1st, this series -- which will include four indigenous knowledge keepers speaking their truths, followed by a panel of indigenous leaders and non-indigenous allies enacting reconciliation -- will help the Simcoe County community lean into Truth and Reconciliation collectively.

Over 600 households have signed up to participate in these sessions and over 100 youth will participate in youth/elder dialogues in the public and Catholic school boards. In June, we hope to gather on the Orillia campus to enact reconciliation as a community in a meaningful way. This initiative is supported by a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Connection grant.

CELL has also begun Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programming for this semester, working with high school students through the Ontario Youth Naturalist Program. Students from Nantyr Shores Secondary School, Patrick Fogarty Catholic High School, and Elmvale High School will learn about wetlands, invasive species, plants, pollinators, sustainable agriculture, and more, before working in teams on Innovation, Creativity, and Entrepreneurship projects solving real world problems with Parks Canada and Bass Lake Farms. Through a grant from the Invasive Species Centre, CELL will also work with Parks Canada to bring students to Georgian Bay Islands National Park to participate in an eradication project to 'Impede the Reed.'

**[Click here for more information...](#)**



## Black History Month at Lakehead University

Lakehead celebrated Black History Month throughout the month of February.

Lakehead University International (LUI) and the Office of Human Rights and Equity (OHRE), in collaboration with many on-campus and off-campus community groups, invited all to attend Black History Month Celebrations.

This year the national theme is “February and Forever: Celebrating Black History Month today and every day.”

Black History Month began with a dialogue led by the Office of Human Rights and Equity (OHRE) highlighting supports at Lakehead to foster equity, diversity, inclusion, and decolonization, and included a celebration of Black Excellence at Lakehead, check-ins on where we are at, and a strong wrap-up discussion that looks at and acknowledges the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on the Black community.

Throughout February, visitors can visit Lakehead University’s Black History Month Celebration website where key moments in Black History was revealed and visitors could enter daily to win gift cards or prize packs distributed at the end of the month.

More information on the theme is available at [Black History Month - Canada.ca](https://blackhistorymonth-canada.ca) and Canada unveils 2022’s theme for Black History Month.

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



## Successful Trans-Atlantic Platform in the Social Sciences and Humanities Submission

**Dr. Kathy Sanderson** is part of a successful [Trans-Atlantic Platform in the Social Sciences and Humanities](#) application, under the theme of Recovery, Renewal and Resilience. The project, entitled “[En Route to Recovery: Diversity and Vulnerability in Care Work During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).” The research program is led by a team at the University of Helsinki, and includes teams in Finland, Canada (lead by Kathy), Scotland, and South Africa. The Canadian team will receive CAD \$200,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council over three years.