President's Report to
Ogimaawin Indigenous Education Council

May
2021

Office of the President

Orillia Residence Students Celebrate the Year that was

On Thursday April 15th, Orillia Residence Students enjoyed a Covid-friendly "End-of-the-Year BBQ". Thirty-two residence students celebrated their academic and social achievements of this past year. These students formed a tight bond with each other during highly unusual times where social interactions were often only possible through virtual events. Despite the frequent and ever-changing challenges throughout the past eight months, the Orillia Residence Life Team held many activities this past year such as Virtual Bingo & Escape Rooms, DIY Stuffed Animals, Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt and Virtual Pizza Parties and Board Games. The End-of-Year BBQ was generously sponsored by the Office of the Principal as a small gesture to reward and thank our residence students for their perseverance during the pandemic. Congratulations to our Residence Students!
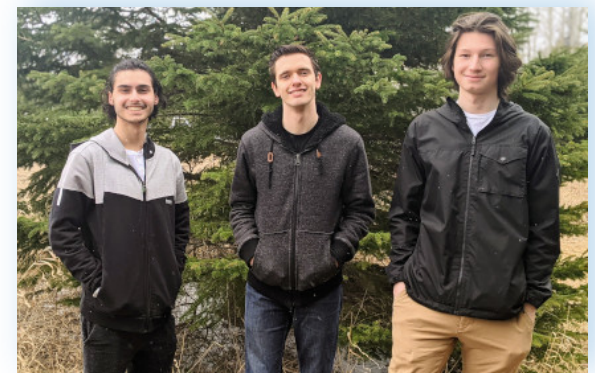
Academic Excellence

Software Engineering is Recognizing the Work of Second-year Technical Project Students

The Department of Software Engineering is proud to present the work of its second-year Technical Project students from this semester.

In particular, the department is recognizing the talent of three students: **Pearce Curle, Paul Stoppel, and Mason Tommasini**, who shared their unique engineering design solution to a real-world problem facing society.

A *Vision-Based Occupancy Tracker System for Public Safety* has been designed and prototyped, that uses computer vision to detect and record events triggered by motion of objects. This enables public places to control the number of people in an area, aiming to reduce the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus.

The student team aims to advance the prototype with additional features, such as facial recognition, and implement the system in a resource-limited hardware platform.

Local and Global Partnerships

Lakehead University Juried Art Exhibition

The Lakehead University Student Juried show is one of the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's most anticipated exhibitions of the year. This year featured over 50 works from students across Northern Ontario, Southern Ontario, and China.

Individual works spanned a variety of media including painting, drawings, textile, collage, sculpture, and ceramics. The representations of landscape, everyday objects, loved ones, the body, identity, and nature that each reflect back to us our experiences and the stories we tell about who we are and the world we live in.

Click here to view all the submissions...

Chris Rantala
Carpio Diem, 2020
This is a kinetic sculpture - click on link here to see a video of it in action
President of Lakehead University Award
Definitely Superior Artist Run Centre Award

Alyssa Angus
Water Warrior Autumn Peletier, 2021
Year 1, Major
David Bruzzese Award

CELL, Humanities 101, and Ontario Youth Naturalist Program Updates

The next Third Age Learning Lakehead (TALL) series begins on May 12 with *Moving On: Migration and Immigration through the Ages.* This series features Dr. Barrington Walker, the U.N.'s Rema Jamous Imseis, Kelly Toughill, Dr. Chandran Kukathas, and Dr. Augie Fleras. Dr. Kukathas, former head of the Department of Government at the London School of Economics, will be Zooming in from Singapore to discuss his brand-new book, Immigration and Freedom (Princeton UP, 2021).

The Humanities 101 program graduation will take place on May 17th. As a result of a partnership with Anishnabek Employment and Training Services, this year's class will include seven students from Simcoe County and ten students from indigenous communities in Northwestern Ontario. They have taken classes together online in a variety of disciplines with professors from both campuses, including Geology, Nursing, Art, and Education.

The Ontario Youth Naturalist Program has expanded its pilot program with our partners at Parks Canada and the Simcoe County District School Board, with 40 students at Elmvale Secondary School completing their four modules in May (Turtle Conservation stream). CELL secured grants with the Invasive Species Centre ($1000) and TD Friends of the Environment Foundation ($8300) to support this programming.

CELL is currently working on expanding programming with the Catholic board this September.

Lakehead Orillia Student Alumni Activities

Over this past academic year in spite of restrictions placed on us as a result of the pandemic, the alumni chapters based out of the Orillia campus have done a magnificent job connecting with both students and alumni in the area.

The Lakehead University Student Alumni Association (LUSAA), a group of 9 student volunteers, hosted 12 virtual events this year reaching students at both campuses. The events were fun and engaging and included creative ideas such as a hot chocolate bomb making workshop and a zombie apocalypse event.

The Simcoe County Chapter, a group of 8 alumni volunteers, hosted 10 events that included a virtual tour of two areas of the Toronto Zoo and a coffee roasting workshop. In addition to those 10 events, they also developed and implemented 4 virtual events for our homecoming that included a beer and cheese tasting and an 80's Music Bingo event. The chapter opened up their events to all alumni and was able to meet alumni from across the country.

First Cohort of *Ingenuity*'s Ascend Accelerator Program

Ingenuity held open applications to all current Lakehead students and alumni (3 years) for their accelerator program, Ascend. The program is 12 weeks long and provides participants with up to $7,500 per team to help develop their business idea. The program also provides mentorship and learning-based activities. Ingenuity had 10 people apply and eight participated in an interview. The interview panel selected four business ideas to move forward and begin the 12-week program which started on May 3, 2021.

The following is the first cohort of Ascend:

Mary Wokomah, Sunkissed Universe - Custom hand bags, loungewear. Mary is receiving $3,700. Mary is a student in the Faculty of Business.

Marko Javorac, Titan - Marko and his team of 2 other Engineering students have an idea for data mining and providing business solutions to smaller local businesses. The Titan team will receive $7,500.

Patrick Igbinijesu, Manilla - Money exchange app using blockchain and cryptocurrency. Manilla will receive $7500.

Ajey Meekis, Tristan St. Aubin, Business Name TBD - The team presented an idea for creating an Esports/Gaming platform to host competitions. Total of 3 Faculty of Business students on this team. They will receive $3,700.

Promoting Internationalization with the Brazilian Association for International Education

Lakehead University's Research & Innovation team continues to virtually tour the world. Following the recent symposium with Colombia Challenge Your Knowledge (CCYK), the Research & Innovation team participated in the FAUBAI (Brazilian Association for International Education) virtual conference with Brazilian funding agencies and universities. Lakehead University and our partners in the Canada and Latin America Research Exchange Opportunities (CALAREO) consortium presented to FAUBAI on our research priorities and participated in three days of B2B events with potential partner universities.

FAUBAI
2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE
EXPANDING OUR MINDS

APRIL
20 - 22
27 - 29
MAY
04 - 06

Lakehead University Receives Record Number of Mitacs Globalink Interns

Lakehead University is receiving a record number of Mitacs Globalink Interns this summer. Fourteen interns will be working with 11 Lakehead faculty members on both campuses, with all internships being conducted virtually. The first two interns started their positions on May 3. Internships last 12 weeks, and students are directly funded by Mitacs. Interns receive a CAD $6,000 award from Mitacs.

Two Lakehead Engineering undergraduate students have been offered a DAAD RISE internship in Germany. These internships are offered as in-person experiences in the summer or fall semester.