

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

President's Report to the Board

February 2013



submitted by: Dr. Brian Stevenson

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & VICE-CHANCELLOR

This is a time that marks many great changes for Lakehead University.

Beginning with our new Academic Plan which went into effect, last spring, 2013 promises many important strides into our future as an institution.

A fresh Strategic Plan is about to guide us through to 2018. A University-wide re-branding effort, like never before, will embody everything that makes us great, and will include a new website to share with the world what Lakehead is made of.

Lakehead is busy preparing for its future while working with and for our students, the University community, and the communities around us.

But before all those wonderful things come to pass, we began our year with a banner announcement.

• *Dr. Brian J.R. Stevenson, President & Vice-Chancellor, Lakehead University*

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

LAKEHEAD NAMES FORMER AMBASSADOR AS ITS EIGHTH CHANCELLOR

Lakehead University is proud to announce distinguished former career diplomat, entrepreneur and political strategist, [Dr. Derek Hudson Burney](#), as its eighth Chancellor.

As Dr. Burney is an accomplished individual with a national and international reputation and deep roots in Thunder Bay, Lakehead is honoured that this former ambassador to the United States and Officer of the Order of Canada will now represent our great university at home and abroad.

As Chancellor, Dr. Burney will use his experience, contacts and wisdom to fulfill various duties, including the promotion of Lakehead University's diverse local, national and global interests.

"I am personally honoured to accept this appointment and look forward to representing Lakehead University as a beacon of academic excellence in my home town," said Dr. Burney at the official announcement from Senate Chambers, January 24th.



Dr. Derek Hudson Burney, O.C.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' ORIENTATION

Around 50 new international students—from countries as diverse as Saudia Arabia, Brazil, South Sudan, Korea and China—participated in [Lakehead Univeristy International's](#) (LUI) orientation, held January 4th. In addition to LUI representatives, several of our domestic and international student volunteers assisted with the day's events.

Orientation's objective was to introduce our new international students to life at Lakehead Univeristy, while familiarizing them with the various departments and services ready to interact and support them on a daily basis. These occasions create a welcoming atmosphere designed to address students' immediate and long term issues and lessen the cultural shock that often occurs place when starting out in a new country.



UNIVERSITY OF DUBAI, TORONTO

On January 25th, I had the pleasure of meeting with the president of the University of Dubai, Toronto and its Board of Governors to reiterate the importance of our MOU with them. By emphasizing what Lakehead has to offer U of D, I encouraged them to send their students to Thunder Bay and Orillia and continue this mutually prosperous arrangement and relationship.

EDUCATION JOB FAIR HOSTS EMPLOYERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Lakehead University's 2013 Education Fair was bustling with school boards and teacher recruitment agencies from across Canada and around the world. The annual event, which took place in the Agora on January 18, provided an ideal venue for Lakehead BEd students and alumni to learn about local, national and global teaching opportunities.

This year's Fair hosted School Boards from Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, the Northwest Territories and First Nation Education Authorities. Also in attendance were teacher recruitment agencies from Mexico, the United Kingdom, China and Korea, as well as organizations such as the Ontario Provincial Police and Camp Kodiak. Our annual Fair offers prospective employers the chance to share information about themselves to interested prospective students.

[Click here for the original media release](#), or email mediarelations@lakeheadu.ca to request a PDF copy (please indicate the date and headline of the release you're requesting).

LAKEHEAD ORILLIA WELCOMES INTERIM DEAN



I am pleased to announce that [Dr. Herman van den Berg](#), a member of our Faculty of Business Administration at Lakehead Orillia, has assumed the role of Acting Dean for a one-year period (January 1 to December 31, 2013). Dr. van den Berg was appointed Acting Dean to coincide with the one-year administrative leave of Orillia Campus Dean, Dr. Kim Fedderson, who has led the development of the Orillia campus since 2007. Dr. Fedderson will return to his duties as dean on January 2, 2014.

Herman joined our Lakehead Orillia faculty in 2009 and has taught courses in all business programs offered at the campus, including the Honours Bachelor of Commerce, Bachelor of Administration and Master of Business Administration (MBA). He holds a PhD from the University of Toronto and is a graduate with distinction of York University's Schulich School of Business MBA program.

[Click here for the original media release](#), or email mediarelations@lakeheadu.ca to request a PDF copy (please indicate the date and headline of the release you're requesting).

LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY'S PREVIEW DAY

Prospective students of all ages toured our Thunder Bay campus, December 4, to discover the University's programs through specialized presentations, to explore all that they can do at the Student Life Expo, and have a chance to win the first-year tuition prize.

Our annual Fall Preview Day is not only for prospective students – families and friends also explore their students' future university and participate in specialized programs and information sessions.

[Click here for the original media release](#), or email mediarelations@lakeheadu.ca to request a PDF copy (please indicate the date and headline of the release you're requesting).



Mary Cassano of Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate and Vocational Institute won first-year tuition at this year's Lakehead Preview Day in Thunder Bay. In the photo, from left to right, are Robert Perrier, Manager, Undergraduate Recruitment; Deb Comuzzi, Vice-President, External Relations; Mary Cassano; Kathy Pozihun, Vice-President, Administration and Finance; and Andrea Huillerv, Director

EAST ASIA OUTREACH

During our pair of successful trips to the Far East, in late November (China) and early December 2012 (Korea), I, along with members of our Lakehead International team, met with numerous universities and dignitaries to discuss and further cooperation agreements.

While discussing and exploring opportunities to build a network of partners for Lakehead University, our stops included visiting key members of the international trade team at the Canadian Embassy in Korea (including our Ambassador), meeting with potential recruitment agencies, attending a Canadian Chamber of Commerce's Christmas event, and participating in the *8th Annual Maple Leaf University and College Student Recruitment Fair* as the only institution from Canada.

ACADEMICS

FACULTY OF LAW — NEW STUDENTS

I'm very pleased to announce that our Faculty of Law has extended its first round of admission offers to student applicants, in accordance with the faculty's mandate to admit those who are residents of, or have a connection to, Ontario rural communities. Over 1,400 students applied to be one of the 55 members of the law school's charter year.

SEARCHING FOR A NEW VP & RETAINING OUR DEANS

The Office of the Provost & VP (Academic), Rod Hanley, has established a committee to define the interview details for our search for a Vice-Provost (Aboriginal Initiatives). Interviews are expected to get underway in the coming weeks.

Meanwhile, Decanal Reviews within the Faculty of Education and Faculty of Science & Environmental Studies continue and should be completed, shortly.

BRAZIL SENDS RECORD NUMBER OF STUDENTS TO LAKEHEAD

Lakehead University International welcomed 86 students from Brazil, this January, thanks to the Brazilian government's Science Without Borders Scholarship (SWB) program. This group brings the total number of our SWB students to over 100, making it one of the largest groups of SWB students studying at a Canadian university. While most of these students are in Engineering, a few are enrolled in Science & Environmental Studies and Natural Resources Management.

As a result of the influx of Brazilian students, our **English Language Program** has grown considerably since it opened in September 2012. The program now boasts 97 registered students, this semester alone, including our SWB students from Brazil and more students from China, Saudi Arabia and the new nation of South Sudan.

ORILLIA'S CAMPUS PLAN 2013–2018

Having completed our first draft of the [Orillia Campus Plan 2013-2018](#) in December 2012, it has since been posted online and a consultation campaign launched to solicit input from students, staff, faculty members, alumni, and community partners.

The first draft will be revised based on input received. The next version of the Orillia Campus Plan will be organic, allowing for updates as it's used to guide the development of our Orillia campus.

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

LAUNCH OF 2013/2014 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Kathy Pozihun's Office has been sharing information with regards to the plan to develop the University's 2013/14 budget so it aligns with our Strategic and Academic Plans. Financial issues, challenges, parameters and unknowns have been presented to the Finance & Operations Committee and Senate Budget Committee, and will be shared with the Senior Management Team at its next meeting.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

500+ HAVE THEIR SAY USING ONLINE REBRANDING QUESTIONNAIRE

As part of Lakehead's rebranding initiative, Marketing Support created an online questionnaire designed to get input from our various stakeholders. By the time the "Have Your Say" questionnaire was closed in January 15, more than 500 students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community stakeholders in Thunder Bay and Orillia had participated. The purpose of the questionnaire was to give everyone the opportunity to share their views with the consultants (Fifty Strategy + Creative) who are working with Lakehead University to refresh its brand. New brand guidelines are expected to be in place by summer 2013.



RESEARCH, INNOVATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NEW CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR APPOINTED AT LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Pauline Sameshima was appointed as a SSHRC Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in *Arts Integrated Studies in the Faculty of Education*, on November 1, 2012. Dr. Sameshima will be working with partners and faculty—locally, nationally and internationally—to develop artful ways of exploring and expressing their/her research. As a longtime former teacher, her work aims to create learning opportunities for the public and/or specific populations to engage with research

MAJOR NEW RESEARCH FUNDING AWARDED

- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and Agrium Agronomic Services, Collaborative Research grant worth a total of **\$235,256** was awarded to Dr. Gautam Das, Science and Environmental Studies. Title of application: *Detection and quantification of nitrous oxide gas from Agriculture fields.*
- Environment Canada Research grant worth a total of **\$100,000** has been awarded to Dr. Preston McEachern, Adjunct Professor, Faculty of Natural Resources Management. Title of application: *Development of Oil Sands contaminant monitoring in the Athabasca Region and surrounding area.*
- Health Canada First Nations and Inuit Health Branch Research Grant worth a total of **\$185,311** was awarded to Dr. Bruce Minore, Social Sciences and Humanities. Title of application: *Evaluation of Community Approaches to Prescription Drug Abuse.*
- Health Canada Cree Nations Treatment Haven worth a total of **\$50,000** has been awarded to Dr. Christopher Mushquash, Health and Behavioural Sciences. Title of application: *Cree Nations Opioid Replacement Therapy Program Review and Evaluation.*

RESEARCH & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- [Lakehead University Environmental Laboratory](#) (LUEL) received ISO17025 accreditation for a range of environmental tests, including methyl mercury, **one of the first labs in Canada to achieve this**. Methyl, as well as inorganic mercury tests are a very useful diagnostic tool for measuring the impact of natural resource developments such as hydroelectric dams, mines and road construction. These issues have recently been in the news as concerns of First Nations.
- Lakehead University Centre for Analytical Services (LUCAS) has completed service projects for 19 local and international companies and research institutions.

ATHLETICS

Lakehead University's Athletics Department continues to implement their strategic plan for program and initiatives for the 2012/2013 academic year. These include *Reach Up!* (our Northern Community Sport and Leadership Program), our [Achievement Program](#), [ActiveU](#) and many other community programs and partnerships.



REACH UP!

Reach Up! is a collaborative initiative between Lakehead University Athletics and Wasaya Airways to provide on-site instruction in sport-specific coaching and general leadership strategies for youth in Northern Ontario First Nations communities serviced by Wasaya Airways. Athletics is currently working with Sandy Lake First Nation and Bearskin Lake First Nation to bring hockey and volleyball programs to their communities.

A scheduled trip to Sandy Lake First Nation (Dec 15-16) was unfortunately cancelled due to weather. More trips are planned for February and March.

ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM – DREAM IT. BELIEVE IT. ACHIEVE IT.

Lakehead University created the Achievement Program to ensure that First Nation, Métis, Inuit and other children facing barriers to higher education have the opportunity to pursue a world-class education.

During the 2012/2013 year, the Achievement Program has made progress in program development and eligibility. Currently there are thirteen students enrolled from Lakehead Public Schools and joining us shortly will be an additional thirty-five students. An ActiveU day on campus session is scheduled for May in which the forty-eight students will participate in activities to earn tuition credits. The beginning phases of a Memorandum of Understanding is underway with the Keewatin Patricia District School Board and the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board.

ACTIVEU

Since its inception and first successful summer in 2012, ActiveU has continued to cater to a wide variety of children with a wide variety of interest and skill level. ActiveU explores fun-based, recreational and educational programming in diverse settings right here at Lakehead University. It encourages youth through inclusive physical activity and interactive educational programs, to improve their self-confidence and social skills.



This year we will offer a March Break Camp and summer camps. Our registration for March Break camp is now open.

On Jan 28th, in collaboration with the [Girl Power](#) program run by the City of Thunder Bay, Lakehead Athletics hosted an ActiveU Girl Power Day. This initiative gave girls the opportunity to meet some of our Thunderwolves athletes and participate in a variety of activities in our facilities.

OTHER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENTS

Athletics is currently working with the [Coaches Association of Ontario](#) to provide a Super Clinic. This Super Clinic will provide individuals and coaches in Thunder Bay and surrounding communities the opportunity to participate in courses and networking opportunities that they would otherwise have to travel to Southern Ontario for.

Another area of focus for this clinic is promoting the program in Northern Communities. The Super Clinic will utilize our entire facility and is scheduled for June 14-16.

Athletics is also working with an after school program in Atikokan that will be travelling to Thunder Bay in March to attend a sport clinic put on by our men's and women's basketball teams. There will be approximately forty students from this program from grades one to six.

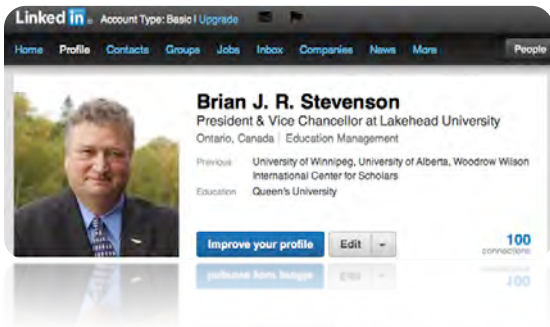
MARKETING: VARSITY EVENTS

The second half of our varsity season has started with crowd participation that continues to grow. Our *Think Pink: Shoot and Spike for the Cure* event continued to gain continual community support with many new fans participating in our event. Over \$5,000 was raised, this year, surpassing previous records. We're gearing up for the possibility of hosting basketball playoff games and planning is underworks for the OUA Nordic Skiing Championship.

MEDIA RELATIONS

LAKEHEAD'S GROWING PRESENCE IN THE SOCIAL MEDIA-SPHERE

With an increasing number of Lakehead community members, groups, associations, faculties, departments and offices dipping their toes into social media, our Media Relations team took to the Twittersverse with [@LakeheadUNews](#) and [@LakeheadOrillia](#). A place where news and information about our University can be disseminated and interacted with, these accounts are places where our Lakehead community can learn about and promote activities and accomplishments with the world.



As we continue to expand into the social media-sphere, the [President is now a proud member of LinkedIn](#). Also of note are our efforts to oversee and update the [Lakehead University Wikipedia page](#) (created by an alumni, some time ago), as well as the development of other wiki pages about Lakehead, including the Office of the President and, eventually, our faculties.