

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

NEWSLETTER
SUMMER, 2021

Award Recipient- Silas Young

**Dr. David Richards Community Spirit Award
BDO Accounting and Community Service Award
Lakehead University Entrance Scholarship**

Choosing Lakehead was more than being excited about a Business program that was AACSB accredited. It was more than the clubs and other experiences that he knew he would partake in. When it came time to pick a post-secondary institution, Silas Young knew that Lakehead could provide the small-school experience he was looking for.

While Silas was born in Fort Frances, ON, a small town just outside of Thunder Bay, ON, he spent eight years in Newfoundland. One of his first ventures back to Northwestern Ontario was during the summer between grade 11 and 12, when he participated in the Shad program. Shad Canada is a STEAM and entrepreneurship program for students in grades 10 and 11. Shad Canada's program attracts students with high aptitudes for risk-taking, curiosity, excellence, and resilience and prepares them to take on social and economic challenges. Lakehead University is one of the Shad campuses, and during that particular summer, Silas connected with Dr. Michael Dohan and his take on Information Technology. "This put Lakehead at the top of my list," says Silas.

Silas has made the most out of his years at Lakehead! He joined Enactus Lakehead, a project management club connected to a global network of other Enactus clubs emphasizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Silas started his project to tackle the gaps in



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financial literacy with Indigenous youth and newly homeschooled children. His team placed second at the regional and national expositions in 2019.

His volunteer commitments are extensive, serving as a Director and Committee Member with the Lakehead University Student Union (LUSU), developing a not-for-profit called Assisting International Students Together that has the mission of helping international students thrive in Thunder Bay. He also serves on a few boards in the community, such as Ingenuity, a business incubator at Lakehead that helps support aspiring student entrepreneurs with financial support, professional space to work, mentorship, and competitions such as Pitch It! He is also currently on SHIFT, which is a not-for-profit organization that promotes networking and collaboration amongst young professionals.

It is clear why he was awarded the Dr. David Richards Community Spirit Award and the BDO Accounting and Community Service Award. The former is a newly established award recognizes one student per year who contributes to the Faculty of Business Administration through their involvement in extracurricular activities that improve student experiences on campus and in the community.

Silas Young recognizes the former volunteer swim coach during his high school years and as a Lakehead University student, he understands the benefits of this well. "When we moved back to Thunder Bay, I did some volunteering for the Boys and Girls Club. The Executive Director had been my hockey coach in kindergarten, and he still had a homemade mug I had given him on his desk. These types of connections might seem odd for those looking for a larger school and city experience, but it helped solidify for me that I was in the right spot."

The Faculty of Business Administration wishes Silas continued success in his future endeavours.

NEVER UNDERESTIMATE YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Anyone with assets should have a Will to:

- protect your family and your estate
- minimize taxes
- establish a legacy and safeguard future generations

A gift in your Will to Lakehead University can:

- **CHANGE LIVES**
- remove barriers to a post-secondary education
- sustain important programs and initiatives

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL. SOMETHING YOUR FUTURE SELF WILL BE PROUD OF.

For more information contact **Lee-Anne Camlin**
T: (807) 343-8010 Ext. 7792 | E: rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca



*"Because of the **Coughlin-Courtland Family Bursary**, I was able to continue to pursue my educational goals – dreams, really – without financial hardship."*

KERI-LYN DURANT,
2019-20 award recipient Coughlin-
Courtland Family Bursary

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Lakehead University's Faculty of Business Administration Granted Extension of AACSB Accreditation



Lakehead University's Faculty of Business Administration has had its AACSB accreditation extended for five years and it now includes both the Orillia and Thunder Bay campuses.

The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business peer review team met with faculty, staff, students, and alumni in mid-March to conduct this intense peer-review process. Several aspects of the Faculty of Business Administration's degree programs were assessed, including pedagogic strategies, program quality, learning outcomes, and student success.

"I would like to thank all faculty members, staff, students and others who supported these efforts," said Dr. David Richards, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration.

Accreditation with AACSB International (AACSB) indicates that students receive a high-quality business education from an institution that values excellence, innovation and continuous improvement.

"AACSB accreditation is an incredible achievement by our Faculty and a recognition of the exceptional experience that students can expect when pursuing a business degree at Lakehead University," said Dr. David Barnett, Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

For more than a century, AACSB accreditation has been synonymous with the highest standards in business education. Today, a total of 901 institutions across 58 countries and territories have earned AACSB accreditation in business.

"AACSB congratulates each institution on their achievement," said Stephanie M. Bryant, executive vice-president and chief accreditation officer of AACSB.

"Every AACSB-accredited school has demonstrated a focus on excellence in all areas, including teaching, research, curricula development, and student learning. The intense peer-review process exemplifies their commitment to quality business education."

**Work-Integrated
Learning at
Lakehead**



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Empowering the Youth of Today for the Jobs of Tomorrow

Work Integrated Learning (WIL) at Lakehead

With the ongoing and generous support of RBC Future Launch, the Faculty of Business Administration (FOBA) and Work Integrated Learning (WIL) at Lakehead have developed new options to ensure that our students continue to be as "workplace ready" as possible.

The challenges presented to students and employers by the new reality of the COVID-19 pandemic have made it even more important that our students can meet the expectations of the changing

economy around the world. WIL at Lakehead is pleased to offer new and completely customizable options to the business community that can range from short-term projects to long-term internships.

If you would like to submit a project or placement proposal, or would like further information please contact: Maryann Kleynendorst, MSc(Mgmt) Experiential Learning Navigator mkleynen@lakeheadu.ca

Students Place First

Lakehead University Business students have won First Place in the Northern Ontario Business Case Competition. Congratulations to Sasha Wilson, Vishwa Shah, Francesco Sacchetti and Isabelle Michels.

Thank you to the Algoma University School of Business and Economics in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, for hosting the event.



**FIRST PLACE
TEAM**



Sasha Wilson



Vishwa Shrenik Shah



Francesco Sacchetti



Isabelle Michels

**TEAM # 8
LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY**



ANNUAL General Meeting

Tuesday, September 28, 2021

6:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Shandor Alphonso, HBComm '09, MBA '10 (NHL Linesman and NHL Ambassador for Diversity)

Meeting will take place virtually. Watch for an email this summer to register and check alumni.lakeheadu.ca for more details.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Jason Rasevych

At the age of 8, Jason Rasevych visited the OKA rallies and participated in the blockades in solidarity with the Mohawks of Kahnawake. Also, as a child, he would accompany his father at work, CN's downtown headquarters, where his father was influential in developing the GO Transit and Lakeshore route and other special projects for CN. As a teenager, he spent many years out on the family trap line, learning traditional activities from his father and relatives. Witnessing the leadership of others, the power behind strengthening your own beliefs, and standing up for what you believe in is what continues to drive him personally, spiritually, and professionally.

Jason is an Anishnawbe from Ginoogaming First Nation, a Treaty #9 signatory in Northwestern Ontario. Jason was born in Ajax, Ontario and raised in Montreal, QC; Longlac, ON and Thunder Bay, ON, and is a Partner at Deloitte Canada within the Financial Advisory Practice and National Leader Indigenous Client Services. With over 20 years of marketing, finance, strategy, governance, economic development, and management experience with various First Nations across Canada. He is recognized as one of Canada's top economic developers and has secured more than \$250 million for capital projects, legacy infrastructure, and business expansion with Indigenous groups.

Jason graduated from the Faculty of Business Administration at Lakehead University in 2011 after completing the advanced Business Administration Marketing Diploma at Confederation College. He also attended Durham College in Oshawa, majoring in Economics. Jason has fond memories of his time at Lakehead and recognizes the challenges that he faced as one of a few First Nation students in the program at that time. "The smaller, more intimate classroom styles and the professors who constantly pushed our development to challenge conventional thinking were truly inspirational." Ten years later, Jason believes that First Nation students have more support, both in and outside of post-secondary and hopes that his struggles have made it easier for students now.

Post-graduation, Jason pursued a career in economic development. He started his consulting firm to develop energy projects, completing feasibility studies for remote First Nations looking to displace diesel with alternate solutions in clean energy. For nearly a decade, Jason was responsible for the economic development portfolio for the nine Matawa First Nations negotiating the Ring of Fire mining development with Ontario. In 2019 he co-founded the Anishnawbe Business Professional Association to

advocate for the inclusion of Indigenous business in pursuit of economic reconciliation of Indigenous peoples in Canada. He joined Deloitte in the Fall of 2020.

Jason's passion for learning, pushing himself, and looking at how he can better serve his clients and community, has led him to earn several other certifications, such as:

- Economic Development Certificate from the University of Waterloo;
- Local Government – Community Economic Development Certificate from the Dalhousie University;
- Technical and Professional Economic Developer at CANDO certification;
- Certified Economic Developer at the Economic Developers Association of Canada;
- PMP (Project Management Professional) at the PMI (Project Management Institute); and
- Chartered Professional Marketer (CPM) at the Chartered Marketers Institution of Ontario.

He unwinds and spends his downtime traveling to new places and experiencing nature. He is an avid runner, participating in the Thunder Bay marathon and competing in hockey, baseball, and basketball.

The Faculty of Business Administration looks forward to following Jason's continued success.





International Student Alumni Profile-Srishti Sood

Born and raised at the foothills of the Himalayas in India, Srishti Sood is not daunted by much. Srishti moved to New Delhi, India, after high school, where she earned her degree in Commerce from Delhi University. Shortly after graduating, Srishti joined the Sales Department of a Highway Toll Management firm and then transitioned to a marketing position at a US-based Event Software firm. During her time with these organizations, she gained valuable experience, which led her to want to pursue her passion of going back to school and traveling to Canada.

She joined the MBA program at Lakehead University and graduated in the Fall of 2017. Srishti remembers that "the on-campus vibe was amazing. I loved being involved in the in-campus weekly activities. I made life-long friends at Lakehead." Srishti believes that Lakehead provided her with a strong foundation related to how business operations are performed in Canada. Her courses, including in-class conversations, lessons, and assignments, all helped her think out of the box, accelerating her analytical and problem-solving capabilities.

Once Srishti graduated, she moved to Toronto, where she accepted a junior role in Client Services at Rogers Communications. Srishti didn't stay in that role long and, like summing a mountain, has increasingly moved up within the company and is now the National Sales Coordinator at Roger's Sports & Media. While at Rogers, Srishti also volunteers and was involved with the Rogers Step Up to the Plate Initiative, which involves a Food Bank Program held at the Rogers Centre in 2020 where the volunteers packed food hampers for families in need across Canada.

When she is not at work or volunteering, Srishti enjoys traveling and cooking traditional vegetarian Indian meals. The Faculty of Business Administration wishes Srishti well in her future.

FACULTY PROFILE

Dr. Michael Dohan

Lakehead University often touts to potential students the ability to turn a diploma into a degree. This focuses on students who choose the college route first and looking to expand, either right after earning their diploma or years later. Dr. Michael Dohan chose this route. He worked for many years as a Programmer Analyst, or as he likes to describe it, “somebody that can identify and solve business problems with information technology, as well as develop the software to do it,” one could say that he gave his education a software upgrade.

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, Dohan was inspired to choose an information technology-related career path after elementary and high school classes. Upon graduating from Confederation College in 2000, he worked as the aforementioned Programmer Analyst. In 2005 went back to school, part-time at Lakehead, obtaining his Honours Bachelor of Commerce (HBComm) degree. Dohan was more than a part-time student looking to upgrade though, he had found his footing and in 2006 won the Dean Braun Medal for being the highest-ranked student.

Dohan then moved into the Masters of Science in Management (MScMgt) program at Lakehead University, and as he describes it was “challenging in a way that had never challenged before.” Graduating in 2008, he continued with postgraduate studies, encouraged to do so by many faculty members within the Business Administration program. He enrolled in the Ph.D. (Business Administration) program at McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario and completed his degree in 2018.

During his Ph.D., he was also teaching in the Faculty of Business Administration, within the Information Systems and Operations Management area. “Information Systems confuses many. It includes topics related to designing, developing, and implementing Information Technology such as databases and applications. However, Information Systems also includes uniquely human topics, such as user experience, digital innovation, organizational processes, and even the impact that technology has on our emotions.” Dohan uses a problem-focused approach in everything he teaches and feels that this approach helps his students become more proficient at identifying problems and proposing solutions for these problems. “What distinguishes information systems from other areas that focus on technology such as computer science and engineering is the focus on using technology to solve problems for people and the organizations they interact with.”

Dohan’s research interests center around Digital Transformation in Healthcare. As he explains it, “Healthcare is generally an area that has been slow to adopt technology



for many reasons largely due to the sheer complexity of the healthcare system. It is considered an interesting area because it focuses on how healthcare organizations can leverage technology to provide more valuable services to their patients.” Currently, he is investigating the organizational capabilities needed for healthcare organizations to leverage their technologies in the best way possible.

Recently achieving tenure and a promotion to Associate Professor, Dohan is the Director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Research (CIER). CIER’s primary purpose is to promote and support research on innovation and entrepreneurship at Lakehead University. One of the main objectives is to seek opportunities to augment the curriculum and programming for students related to innovation and entrepreneurship.

When Dr. Michael Dohan isn’t connecting with students, he can be found enjoying his hometown of Thunder Bay with his family outdoors, playing music, and learning martial arts. The Faculty of Business Administration looks forward to his future with the Faculty.

Greetings from the Faculty of Business Administration

I am very pleased to report that the Faculty of Business Administration received a five-year re-accreditation from AACSB following a Continuous Improvement Review in March 2021. We are particularly pleased that the accreditation now includes the Orillia campus. The Review focused on continuous improvement efforts taken since the initial accreditation and the extent to which the Faculty meets the accreditation standards. This accreditation is further evidence of the high quality business education that FOBA provides. I would like to thank the faculty, staff, students, and other partners who participated in this review.

One of the positive pieces of feedback we received from the AACSB Peer Review Team was a recognition of the high calibre research by faculty members. In this vein, we would like to congratulate faculty members who recently received external research funding. Dr. Kathy Sanderson, along with Dr. Claudio Pousa, received a large grant to study the employment experiences of immigrant women from the *Future Skills Centre*. Dr. Kunle Akingbola received funding from the *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council* to study COVID-19 and remote work in non-profit organizations.

We are also pleased to welcome two new faculty members. Mirit Grabarski has joined the Human Resources and Organizational Discipline Group and Errol Osecki has joined the Accounting Discipline Group. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience and we are very excited to be working with them.

We are also optimistic about the future as we look ahead to our transition back to campus after a year of remote work and online learning. This year different courses will be delivered in-person, online, and in a hybrid mode (both in-person and online). Students, faculty and staff are looking forward to returning to campus, as there are positive signs high vaccination rates and lower incidence of COVID-19.



The University continues to follow government and public health guidelines regarding a safe return to the classroom.

Stay safe and be well.

David.

Dr. David Richards, Dean
Faculty of Business Administration
Lakehead University

Contributors

Emily Shandruk

Brandon Walker

Dr. David Richards