

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

NEWSLETTER
WINTER, 2018

Greetings from the Dean

Welcome to the winter 2018 edition of the Faculty of Business Administration's alumni newsletter. We hope that the newsletter will help you stay connected with the Faculty. I believe that through the contribution of community, alumni, and faculty members, we can create an unparalleled opportunity to elevate the idea of business as a force for good with the development of academic enrichment in social values, accountability and ethical behavior. With the cooperation and generosity of our friends, alumni, and business partners, we can fulfill our goals and objectives.

The success of our school depends on the engagement of our stakeholders in the advancement of our Faculty. We must create spaces that can make this happen. We strive to offer a learning environment that fosters more project-based and team-based learning. This academic year with the generous contribution of the RBC Foundation, we were able to develop a program that provides more interaction between students, alumni, and the business community. This kind of activity creates opportunities for communing with the business community to discuss the challenges facing us.

This year, one of our Faculty research teams produced an applied research report for the business community on different aspects of the economy and business environment of the region. The report prepared by this group on the impact of Lakehead University on the Economy of Northwestern Ontario, the Province of Ontario, and Canada showed that we are an important force in the development of the region, province, and Canada. According to the report, the University contributes \$ 1.4 billion annually to the economy of Canada and about \$ 900 million to the economy the Northwestern Ontario.

In this issue, we present stories behind our successes and opportunities with the hope that you will be inspired to contribute in ways you can to our Faculty. With your contribution we can transfer students' experience and significantly strengthen our future.

Dr. Bahram Dadgostar, Dean



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Faculty of
Business
Administration



From left, Deb Comuzzi, Lakehead's Vice-President, External Relations, presented Carolyn Leroux, General Manager, Bombardier Transportation Thunder Bay, with a thank you plaque. Also in the photo are Dr. Moira McPherson, Provost and Vice-President, Academic, and Christian Leisander, a current business graduate student and an Ontario Graduate Scholar.

New Scholarship Announcement!

On July 19, 2017, the J. Armand Bombardier Foundation presented Lakehead University with a \$50,000 gift to help establish the J. Armand Bombardier Ontario Graduate Scholarship in Business. This scholarship, which will be available to eligible students in business graduate programs, including the Master of Science in Management and Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs, will alleviate financial pressures and allow the award recipients to focus on their academics.

The gift from the J. Armand Bombardier Foundation, which will be matched 2:1 through the provincial government's Ontario Graduate Scholarship Program, will generate \$150,000 in student support to create two annual scholarships of \$15,000 for the next five years.

"Scholarships, such as this, impact not only our current students but our ability to recruit top students from diverse background into our programs" Dr. Bahram Dadgostar, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration

DID YOU KNOW?

That, as of 2015, the Thunder Bay campus is Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accredited? Less than five per cent of the world's business programs hold AACSB accreditation. Today, there are only 745 business schools in 50 countries and territories that maintain AACSB accreditation. In Canada, only 22 schools (including Lakehead) have earned AACSB accreditation.

Our Thunder Bay campus was also accredited by the newly formed Chartered Professional Accountants (CPA) of Ontario, in June of 2016. CPA Ontario was formed as part of a unification of the three Canadian legacy accounting bodies – Chartered Accounts (CA), Certified Managerial Accountants (CMA), and Certified General Accountants (CGA).

O N L Y
5%
of Business
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CURRENT STUDENT PROFILES



Kyle Yates

**Third Year- Finance Major
Lakehead Thunder Bay**

Kyle Yates, a native of British Columbia, grew up skiing on the West Coast and moved to Thunder Bay three years ago to attend Lakehead University and join the Alpine Skiing Club team. "I was in Lutsen for a race and decided to come to Thunder Bay to take a tour and I fell in love with Lakehead. It reminded me a lot of home, only a little colder". However, as an active ski racer since eighth grade, the cold doesn't bother him that much.

Kyle was drawn to Lakehead because of skiing, but it is his love of his program that keeps him engaged and excelling as one of the highest-ranking Business students. "Classes are small and you really get to know your professors and classmates. Without this connection and access, I wouldn't be able to balance my skiing and academics. I cannot imagine doing both if I was in a school with 3000 students in a class"

Kyle was awarded with the William Buset Scholarship Award this winter, which is given to one high ranking student registered full-time in Business, Music and Visual Arts. "I really want to thank those that made this Scholarship possible. I work hard to maintain my average and it is an honour to be recognized in this manner for my achievements"

Kyle plans to explore entrepreneurship, post-graduation, as he is inspired by his Mom who owns and operates a restaurant in Richmond, BC. "She is an extremely hard worker and is very successful. I look up to her a lot"



Daniel Kersnik

**Second Year- Global Entrepreneurship Program
Lakehead Orillia**

Daniel attended Cardinal Ambrozic High School, in Brampton, ON. "My high school had double the number of students as Lakehead". It was Daniel's attraction to the smaller, more personalized campus that brought him to Lakehead University in 2016. "I wanted to be a big fish in a small pond. I knew that this would help be personally and academically"

Daniel was first introduced to Lakehead University when he attended a VIP Tour, over March Break, which is offered to only a few students. "I was so excited to get the chance to visit the campus on my own, stay in residence and really see what my first year was going to be like. That trip sold me on Lakehead."

Daniel, an entrance scholarship recipient, is fully engaged in campus life. He is a member of the Men's Hockey team in Orillia and has also worked as a campus tour guide, assisted with Orientation, and helped out at subsequent VIP Tours helping others realize that Lakehead University is an amazing place to be.

Daniel is looking forward to focusing his studies and endeavors in the world of marketing. "I've always loved the idea of marketing and my Professor and classes have really solidified this as what I see myself doing in the future"



IN MEMORIAM Professor Jerry Phillips

It is with sadness that we announce that Jerry Phillips passed away on February 28, 2018. Jerry retired from Lakehead University in 2017 after 49 years as a professor in the Faculty of Business Administration. Jerry's contribution to the Faculty was significant and his involvement will have a lasting impression on students and faculty members for years to come.

Jerry always strived to make university a better place to work and learn. Jerry was a good friend to many faculty and staff members and his absence from the Faculty and our community will surely be felt. We in the Faculty of Business Administration are saddened by his loss, but forever grateful for all he has done for the University and our Faculty.

Lakehead Business Student Wins Annual Pitch It Event

Lakehead's Thunder Bay campus is once again celebrating the innovation and talent of its Faculty of Business students. The annual Pitch It event, which is a Dragon's Den style competition, saw ten teams (many including current FOBA students or recent graduates) pitch their business idea to a panel of judges and audience members.

Presented by Partners in Innovation and Entrepreneurship (PIE) and The Northwestern Ontario Innovation Centre, teams pitched ideas ranging from creative signage, to film development, to an app that can help with notetaking and translation.

This year's winner was KAE Guys INC's SnagMe app, pitched by Andrew Austin, a second-year Business student at Lakehead. SnagMe is a mobile application designed to match carpoolers together and make carpooling easier to people can save time, money and help the environment." Congratulations!



(l to r) Matthew Etreni, Ryan Ferguson, Sabeera Azhar and Dylan Paxton

Lakehead University Business Administration Students Earn 1st place in ACHIEVE Competition

ACHIEVE is an undergraduate accounting conference that's hosted by the Ted Rogers School of Management, at Ryerson University. Lakehead's Faculty of Business students Dylan Paxton, Matthew Etreni, Ryan Ferguson and Sabeera Azhar not only participated in the two-day conference but earned first place in the two-day accounting-based case competition.

This year's case competition dealt with persevering in the face of pressure from superiors to bend the rules. The four students got to take home a trophy and \$3000 in prize money to share between the team members. Congratulations on your well-deserved win!



(l to r) Ryan Moore (CEDC), Ben Tranter, Sweta Patel, Marc DeGagne, Thomas Veneruz, Madison Shyiak, Josh Tinkler-Josephi

Lakehead Students Part Of The Winning Team For Disrupt It Weekend 2018

The 2nd annual Disrupt It Weekend was held February 2nd - 4th, 2018. Disrupt It Weekend brings together bright, passionate, entrepreneurial enthusiasts to provide solutions to sustainability challenges in Northwestern Ontario over a 54 hour period. Participants are from various backgrounds, including returning participants from the inaugural year and both students and alumni from Confederation College and Lakehead University.

The theme of environmental sustainability created an opportunity for the organizing committee to partner with local organizations, EcoSuperior and EarthCare Thunder Bay who sponsored 2 sector prizes of \$1000 each. Overall grand prize of \$5000 was sponsored by the Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC) and for the first time Disrupt It Weekend had a people's choice award of \$1000 sponsored by Ungalli Clothing.

Overall grand prize went to Divyland, a subscription-based garden installation and maintenance service. The team behind Divyland was Thomas Veneruz, Marc DeGagne, Madison Shyiak students from the Faculty of Business Administration, Sweta Patel a Computer Programmer student at Confederation College, and Lakehead Alumni Josh Tinkler-Josephi, and Ben Tranter.

Well done to all those involved in this meaningful enterprise!

ALUMNI PROFILE ORILLIA

Ryan Provost

Barrie, ON

Investors Group Bursary Recipient

Half-Way Motors (1989) Limited Award

The French and Niederer Families Award

The President's Award

Faculty of Business and Administration

Alumni, 2014

Lakehead Orillia

Ryan Provost knew that he wanted to stay close to home and attend University, but it wasn't until his first day of classes that he realized the gem that was in his back yard. "I didn't visit the campus until I started classes and once I did, I could not picture myself anywhere else".

During his time at Lakehead, Ryan was actively involved with creating the Business Orillia Student Society (BOSS) club. Ryan helped create an organization that would create connections between Lakehead students and local businesses, as well as providing the opportunity to network and take classroom learning outside the lecture halls. Ryan was also involved with Big Brothers & Big Sisters, during his time at Lakehead, volunteering and encouraging others through BOSS to get involved with this worthwhile organization.

Ryan was a strong student academically, which he attributes both to his hard work, dedication and the learning environment that Lakehead provided him with. "Lakehead professors stand out. Classes are small and the relationships that you form with your Professors leave a lasting impression. You build relationships with them and were able to go to them for advice. They never made me feel like I was overwhelming them or that they weren't there for me. I am still in contact with most of them today".

"I am passionate about what Lakehead has done for me and the ways in which the generosity of others helped me to pursue my passion. I hope to do the same one day."



Upon graduation Ryan worked as a Financial Service Manager with the Bank of Montreal and while he thoroughly enjoyed his position, he has now found his true calling with the Town of Midland, as their Financial Officer. "One of my favourite classes involved accounting, analysis and reconciliation and I remember our professor Ms. Joanne Ryan, really pushing me to be the best I could be."

When Ryan isn't helping to balance budgets, he can be found outdoors, kayaking and enjoying his hometown. He enjoys being an active Alumni for Lakehead University and hopes to give back more in the future. "I am passionate about what Lakehead has done for me and the ways in which the generosity of others helped me to pursue my passion. I hope to do the same one day."

What's New With You?

- We would like to begin including news updates from our alumni in future issues of this newsletter.
- Do you have some news you'd like to share with our community (an award, a new position, a new addition to your family)?
- Send your updates to David Richards david.richards@lakeheadu.ca and we'll include them in a future issue.



(l to r) Madison Sameshima, Cheryl Ogima, Brooklyn Del Pino, MK Hill, Destiny Perry, Robert Kopytek, Ryan Ferguson, Prakhhar Mehrotra, Marc DeGagne, Thomas Veneruz, Martina Su.

RBC Work Integrated Learning Program

Through a \$250,000 donation from the RBC Foundation, the Faculty of Business Administration launched the RBC Work Integrated Learning Program (RBC WIL) in the fall of 2017 at both Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. The objectives of the RBC WIL program are aligned with the RBC Future Launch's commitment of \$500 million over 10 years to help young Canadians prepare for the future.

RBC WIL at Lakehead is designed to help students to successfully transition from post-secondary education to the workplace. Twenty students (16 in Thunder Bay and four in Orillia) engaged in real-life learning that connects to what they are studying at school. Students this year have been placed in public and private sector organizations, ranging from small start-up companies to large non-profit organizations. Students are also benefitting from mentoring relationships within their site placements and

"I have learned a lot on what it is like to work for a small start-up business, and the struggles that come along with it. As well, it has better guided me to figure out my interests and what I want to do in the long run."

Madison Shyiak,
Student Lakehead Thunder Bay

"I learned how to research more effectively by having many different research tasks assigned to me, and having guidance from my supervisor on what to look for. I also learned how to set goals, and achieve them in a timely manner"

Danielle Muehlegge,
Student Lakehead Orillia

from the RBC WIL Workshop Series designed to help them acquire the soft skills necessary for a successful transition from theory to practical application.

The success of the program and the scope and variety of student learning is evident in the reflective essays submitted by students. Students talk about how the RBC WIL Program is helping them to understand the challenges faced by organizations and staff; how their experiences are helping them to shape their career interests and, for some of them, causing them to further reflect on the focus of their academic studies based on what they have learned in the workplace. For some, it has cemented their decision to continue in their current major, while for others, it has opened their eyes to new possibilities - not only to different types of work but also to recognize the importance and potential opportunities offered by public and non-profit sector organizations.

The program strives to align with the RBC Future Launch vision of being a "catalyst for change-bringing people together to co-create solutions so young people are better prepared for the future of work."



FACULTY PROFILE THUNDER BAY

Dr. Camillo Lento

Dr. Camillo Lento is an Associate Professor of Accounting in the Faculty of Business Administration. Dr. Lento received his PhD from the University of Southern Queensland (Australia) and received both his Masters (MSc. Management) degree and undergraduate degree (HBComm) from Lakehead University.

Born and raised in Thunder Bay, ON, Dr. Lento was drawn to the world of accounting early in his academic career. While studying in his undergraduate degree, he worked in the accounting department of Thunder Bay Hydro. Upon completing his MSc in 2005, he immediately sought his Chartered Accountant (CA) designation (now part of the Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation) while working with Grant Thornton LLP and then began teaching at Lakehead University in 2007.

Early in his career, his talent was recognized and rewarded. In 2013 he was acknowledged with the ICAO Award of Distinction for Chartered Professional Accountants. This award was given to those who have made an early impact and brought distinction to themselves and their profession through leadership and achievement in their professional, community and/or personal lives.

Throughout his career, Dr. Lento has valued community engagement. He has helped organize a volunteer tax clinic for International students in partnership with the Lakehead University Accounting Club, the Canadian Revenue Association, and Lakehead University's International Office. "I feel strongly about the value of these tax clinics. These clinics allow professional accountants work with those who need our help the most". In his role as President of the Thunder Bay-Northwest CPA Ontario Association, Dr. Lento also helps to coordinate tax clinics for various groups

in the Thunder Bay community who may be disadvantaged by a lack of understanding or experience with the process.

His peers and students respect Dr. Lento for his commitment and effort to provide an extraordinary classroom experience. His involvement in student development also extends beyond the classroom. For example, he has mentored several successful accounting student teams in national case competitions. "It is really exciting to see students from our smaller university compete against the larger schools. It's even more thrilling when our students win!"

One area of Camillo's current research is also focused on the student learning experience. In 2017, he published a paper "Incorporating Whiteboard Voice-Over Video Technology into the Accounting Curriculum" in the American Accounting Association's *Issues in Accounting Education* journal. His article and research explore the benefits of accounting instructors adopting more interactive online teaching styles, over the traditional lecture-based approach. "Accounting is process based and it's hard for students to just look at a PDF solution to a problem and understand how a professor worked through all the steps in the process. That is why I started creating online videos and incorporating them into my teaching methodology. I am now delving into the 'why' behind it all and it is fascinating."

Overall, Dr. Lento believes in giving back. He volunteers as a contributing editor for *Canadian Money Saver* magazine and regularly provides editorials to *Financial Planning Magazine*. Many articles, submissions and features have been highlighted in the *Globe and Mail* and *Canadian Business*. Topics include every day discussions on RRSP's, TFSA's and Dr. Lento works hard at breaking down these seemingly mammoth ideas into easy to absorb concepts. "My goal with these articles is to help increase the overall financial literacy throughout Canada."

Lakehead University and the Faculty of Business and Administration are fortunate to have such a down-to-earth, student-centered, community-minded professor as part of the faculty.



Melissa Millar

Dryden, ON
First Year Faculty of Business and
Administration student,
Thunder Bay campus

Approximately 50% of students attending Lakehead University are a first-generation student, which is a key area of economic growth in Lakehead's 2018-2023 Strategic Plan. Melissa Millar, a first-generation student from Dryden, ON, wants to make her parents proud. Melissa looks up to her Dad, who recently attended and excelled in a college program. "He has really inspired me and makes me want to work my hardest"

As the recipient of the Free-Tuition Entrance Scholarship, which is open to direct from High School students achieving a minimum of 95% as a final average, Melissa is off to a great start. Melissa has also recently received the Annie Werbicka Childs Undergraduate Business Scholarship, which is awarded annually to an undergraduate student registered in the Faculty of Business Administration based on academic excellence.

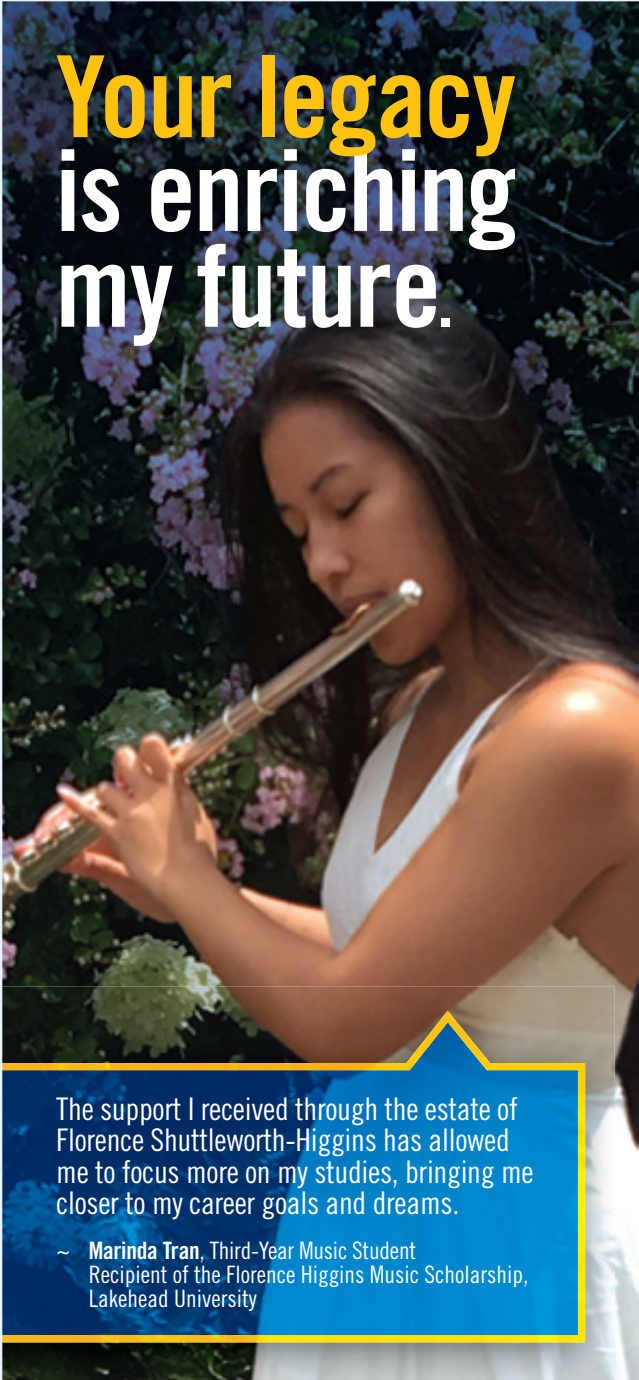
Annie Werbicka Childs, the daughter of Ukrainian immigrants who settled in Thunder Bay's East End, was said to never backed down from anything. While her own formal education ended immediately after Grade 8 when she got a job as a waitress at a Woolworth's coffee shop to support herself and her mother, the value she placed on education and her generosity is now providing Lakehead University students, as well as many Northwestern Ontarians, with opportunities that were beyond Annie's reach.

Melissa is enjoying her first year in the Business program and looks forward to focusing on Human Resources in her third year. "I really like the teaching methods that are used in my classes. Coming from a smaller community, I like that my classes are small and I am able to get to know my Professors."

Melissa is very grateful to Lakehead University and donors, such as Annie Werbicka Childs, who understand the value of post-secondary education and can support those pursuing their dreams.

Contributors

Dr. Bahram Dadgostar, Dean
Maryann Kleynendorst, Experiential Navigator
Alyson MacKay, Entrepreneurship Coordinator
Dr. David Richards, Assistant Dean & Graduate Coordinator
Emily Shandruk, Special Project Consultant
Brandon Walker, Media Relations Officer



Your legacy is enriching my future.

The support I received through the estate of Florence Shuttleworth-Higgins has allowed me to focus more on my studies, bringing me closer to my career goals and dreams.

~ **Marinda Tran**, Third-Year Music Student
Recipient of the Florence Higgins Music Scholarship,
Lakehead University



For information on how to include a charitable gift in your will to Lakehead University contact Lee-Anne Camlin at:

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