

Orillia Campus Report – February, 2014

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMMING

The Aboriginal Speakers Series Part II has commenced with two speakers coming in to talk about current Aboriginal issues from across Canada, ...we were able to secure the expertise of noted national activist/advisor Russell Diabo to speak on Aboriginal Rights and the Constitution's Sec 35 & Councillor Jeff Monague, Beausoleil First Nation to speak on the Idle No More Movement.

A Mid-Winter Storytelling/Short Films Night event is scheduled for February 19th with Elder Mark Douglas & his son Keesic presenting an old meets new traditions format. As well, other guest lecturers have been lined up to present topics such as presentations on the meaning and purpose of wampum belts, powwows & powwow etiquette for the beginner and of course more Elders Workshops.

Work Shops with the Elder-in-Residence have taken place with more scheduled beginning February 12th. We have planned a Pizza Nite/Meet the Elder event pre-workshop for those that can make it.

Some students have requested different Elders be brought in as scheduling conflicts has meant cancellation of some dates hence a date has been set for March 5th as a Cultural Enrichment night. To date we have contacted and are trying to secure program staff associated with the local Biidaaban Healing/Talking Circles to come in & do some workshops with our students & professors.

As usual, students, staff, faculty & the community stakeholders have been informed and invited to attend these upcoming Lakehead University Orillia events.

Networking with the local Aboriginal organizations has produced extra events that students can access off campus such as the Orillia Native Women's Group hosting Moon Ceremonies for women and Teaching Circles for both men & women, in addition to feasting. This organization puts out a monthly schedule of events that is sent to our students on a frequent basis. For instance, ONWG have a Snowshoe & Storytelling event coming up on the Saturday afternoon of Feb 29th.

Their program is great for our Social Work students as they get to see an actual Aboriginal organization in action by attending these functions. The same holds true and applies for the programming offered by the Ehnaatig Healing Lodge as their schedule is forwarded to our students as well.

The Web Site for the Friends of the Indigenous Club is being utilized to stay in contact with one another, for campus news & events, scholarships, culture and links to

Aboriginal Web Sites of note. Further learning Basic Ojibwe utilizing YouTube has also been added as a source of curiosity & learning.

Note one student is using the club for a Community Service Learning grade in Political Science. The goal of this learning initiative is to get a handle on LUSU policy & complete a Club Handbook for future students to use as a guideline for elections, banking, official appointments and their roles, minutes, and planning.

The Annual Trent University Elders Gathering held on Feb 1st in Peterborough was an exciting get away with a full agenda of topics to choose from with 17 Elders & guests speakers on hand. Nine students and staff made the early morning trek to this event.

Dr. Chantelle Richmond, from Western University was contacted and we have received the free DVD, **Gifts From The Elders** which can be shown as part of a Native Film Night/Friends of the Indigenous Club event.

Aboriginal Liaison has researched and found that the **ImagineNative Film Festival** has and will offer to do a promotional visit to campus as part of their tour packages ... students are still haggling over dates & times, especially since they now have a budget to work with via LUSU.

The club having a budget means they can bring in more guest speakers & start the process of planning year round for on/off campus events. Currently we have planned joint efforts to shore up any financial shortcomings.

RECRUITMENT AND OUTREACH

Contact with Aboriginal organizations, First Nations and High School Guidance Departments has been re-established with the latest information dispensed along with updates on planned events for campus ...most notably the upcoming Open House slated for March 11, 12 & 13th.

The three local High Schools were also contacted once again and sent information related to Lakehead University Orillia upcoming events and recruitment plans ... PowerPoint presentations.

This information was also relayed to the Parry Sound High School and their Aboriginal Youth Development Worker who thereafter reported that they have over **150 Aboriginal students**, as they service 5 Aboriginal communities plus off reserve students from around the area.

For future reference both the Orillia High Schools and the Parry Sound High School have to become priorities as far as any recruitment plans are concerned. Coupled together these numbers run to over **300 Aboriginal students**.

Lisa Ewanchuk, Principal of First Nations, Metis & Inuit Education has been contacted about securing High School numbers for Aboriginal Students within the Simcoe County District School Board.

A big event is planned for February 26th with the Native Studies Day taking place on the Rama First Nation. Wab Kinew is the guest speaker and it is expected that over **300 Aboriginal & Native Studies High School students** from throughout the Simcoe County District School Board will attend.

Aboriginal Liaison Advisor has secured a recruitment booth for this SCDSB High School event.

Finally, Twin Lakes Secondary School has requested Aboriginal Liaison's help with setting up for their Aboriginal Days slated for March 31 – April 4th 2014. They have offered to let our recruitment booth be present for the event.