

Social Sciences & Humanities NEWSLETTER

Lakehead is fortunate to have had the leadership of Professor Pam Wakewich throughout her 28-year career in academe. She retired from teaching duties in December 2017, although she is continuing to work on two externally funded research projects until April 2018.

Professor Pam Wakewich, Sociology & Women's Studies



Before retiring, Dr. Wakewich held a joint appointment in the Department of Sociology and the Department of Women's Studies, and was serving as the director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR). In 2011, she received Lakehead University's most prestigious teaching award – the Distinguished Instructor Award.

As a faculty member in the Department of Sociology, Pam led the development of highly subscribed undergraduate and graduate courses on gender and health, sociology of the body, and feminist classical and contemporary social theory. Her diverse and

interdisciplinary research has been published in several edited book collections, as well as academic journals such as *BMJ Open*, *Gender & History*, *Critical Public Health*, *Medical Anthropology*, *Women's Health*, *International Journal of Health Promotion and Education*, *Rural and Remote Health*, and *Women's Studies International Forum*. Not bad for a Thunder Bay woman who began university as a mature student and was the first person in her family to earn a university degree!

Pam Wakewich studied anthropology at the University of Alberta and McGill University. She went on to complete a PhD in Sociology at the University of Warwick, England, while teaching courses in sociology and women's studies at Lakehead University and serving as the Women's Studies program coordinator.

The Bachelor's Program in Women's Studies was established thanks to the efforts of Pam and many other colleagues, both on-campus and off. The Collaborative Master's Program in Women's Studies came later and is continuing to flourish.

Pam's work with the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research has had a significant impact on Northwestern Ontario. Under her leadership, it has become an autonomous and independently funded research centre, providing high-level quantitative and qualitative research into determinants of rural and northern health.

Overall, Pam is proud of her accomplishments and enjoying the change of pace that retirement offers. No doubt she and her husband Dr. Stu Holby are planning a few more trips to Iceland to enjoy that country's awe-inspiring landscape.

Greetings and Best Wishes for the New Year!

As the Acting Dean of Social Sciences and Humanities appointed for the 2017-18 academic year, it is my pleasure to be leading an amazing group of people and to celebrate their achievements in our Faculty Newsletter.

In this issue, we feature our new Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media, and Social Justice and five new faculty members (all women!) who are bringing new ideas about pedagogy into the classroom. As well, we showcase five successful alumni: four visual artists who are changing the visual landscape of our city, and one indefatigable manager in the field of tourism who gives back to his *alma mater* regularly by sharing his knowledge with current students.

As these and other stories will attest, Lakehead University really does provide exceptional and unconventional opportunities for learning and discovery through its campuses in Thunder Bay and Orillia.

Like my predecessor Interim Dean Dr. Jobin-Bevans, I wish to thank everyone for their varied contributions to the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. Whether you are an alumni, a donor, a student, or a past or present member of faculty or staff, I am grateful that you are part of our unique story.

Please do stay in touch and keep me updated on exciting news and events that we might include in future issues.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Rhonda Koster
Acting Dean
Faculty of Social Sciences
and Humanities
Email: rkoster@lakeheadu.ca



ALUMNI PROFILES

Paul Pepe

Manager, Tourism
City of Thunder Bay



Paul and his wife Bambi Gibb (BA'03, BEd'04)

Executive recruiters have tried to lure Paul Pepe (BA'94) away from Thunder Bay but to no avail. He is too excited about the potential he sees all around him.

Paul has been working for the City of Thunder Bay as manager of its Tourism Division for more than 10 years. He loves the diversity of his job and never seems to tire of its non-stop demands. "We know there is value in tourism and that's what keeps me excited," he says.

Paul is encouraged by two trends: the increasing number of entrepreneurs investing in the region, and the leadership and progressive social policies supporting the region's economic and community development. "Tourism is big business," he says. "It supports more than 1,300 businesses and brings in about \$170 million to the City of Thunder Bay every year."

As a guest lecturer each year in the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Tourism, Paul Pepe gives

Lakehead students an overview of the way the city's Tourism Division is organized in terms of its structure, operation, and strategy.

Last year he worked with fourth-year students on three major projects for Tourism Northern Ontario. The first project focused on the Visiting Friends and Relatives market, which is an undervalued segment for many places, yet often forms the largest visitor segment. The second project provided an evaluation of e-commerce solutions for the tourism industry, and the third project examined the potential of public transit routes and the development of tourism itineraries within the city.

The cultural life of Thunder Bay is changing and people are noticing a new vibe, says Paul. With the rise of social enterprises such as Roots to Harvest, an increase in Indigenous cultural tourism, and innovative businesses such as Outdoor Skills and Thrills (founded by Lakehead U grad Aric Fishman), there are lots of new stories to tell.

EMERGING ARTISTS

Lora Northway

Lora Northway (HBFA'07) is an independent multidisciplinary visual artist and educator who, for the past 10 years, has been at the heart of the collective art movement in Thunder Bay. In addition to her studio practice, Lora is the youth outreach coordinator for Definitely Superior Art Gallery, founder of the Die Active art collective, and co-creator of Neechee Studio, an art collective for Indigenous youth. "Collective art is all about building a relationship," she says. "It allows you go beyond yourself and have a greater impact on the community: you can forge new ways of doing things instead of relying on systems that already exist."

In a recent TEDx Thunder Bay Talk, Lora Northway speaks about her experience helping young people discover pride and self-worth through art. She notes that making art collectively can teach us a lot about accepting others and breaking through our own limitations.



Photo by Dave Janzen

EMERGING ARTISTS

David Hotson

David Hotson (HBFA'10) has been making a living exclusively as a freelance artist for the past two-and-a-half years. At first he was wary of leaving his part-time job as a restaurant server, but not anymore. "Now it's like having homework that's fun," he says.

David works in a variety of media under the moniker of boy Roland. After graduating from Lakehead he spent a year at OCAD in Toronto learning to produce zines, graphic novels, and comics. Now he is making a living in Thunder Bay designing corporate logos, creating advertising posters for local bars and bands, carving signs for local businesses, and providing animation services for local filmmakers.

Murals have always been big part of his David's life. As a senior mentor with the Die Active art collective he has worked on scores of colourful projects that have enlivened the cityscape. "I'm so impressed with the way attitudes to public art have changed in Thunder Bay," he adds.



Photo by David Andrew Photography



Lucille Atlookan

Lucille Atlookan (Native Access Program'14) has set herself some ambitious goals. Having completed the Native Access Program at Lakehead, she is now halfway toward completing a double degree: an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Bachelor of Education. Her plan is to become a professional practicing artist, arts educator, and Indigenous language instructor.

Originally from Eabametoong First Nation, Lucille is a co-founder and now a youth coordinator of Neechee Studio, which operates out of Definitely Superior Art Gallery in Thunder Bay. Neechee Studio offers free contemporary Indigenous art workshops, led by Indigenous artists, for all youth aged 14 to 30, and it currently has about 600 members.

Last summer, during a three-month project in partnership with Fort William First Nation and funded by the Ontario Arts Council, Neechee Studio artists were tasked with reflecting on their connection to the land. The result is a colourful graffiti mural on a storage building at the Mt McKay lookout (also known as Anemki Waajiw).

Ray Atwood

Ray Atwood (BA'10, BEd'11) is passionate about his work as a tattoo artist and thrilled to be working at Underground Ink where he can make art all day. You have to work collaboratively with clients, he says, and be able to say "no" to design ideas that you know won't stand up over the long term.

Ray studied visual arts at Lakehead after working as a tradesman for six years to pay for his education. He is effusive in his praise for the faculty and can recall what impact each instructor had on his development as an artist.

Ray and his wife Barb Benwell (HBFA'07, BEd'10) spent three years teaching in Geraldton, Ontario, before moving back to Thunder Bay with their two young children Esper and Elkin.



Lakehead University's new Canada Research Chair in Culture, Media, and Social Justice doesn't mince words. In the introduction to his 2014 book entitled *Crises of Imagination, Crises of Power: Capitalism, Creativity and the Commons* he writes:

"You, dear reader, are on the front lines of a war. It is a war between money and the earth, between capital and people, between the blunt stupidity of greed and the resilient creativity of humanity."

Professor Max Haiven believes capitalism is in crisis. He says it is "a fundamentally amoral system" that has created "a global crisis of value" and "unless you are extremely fortunate, or extremely avaricious, what and whom you love and value has been or will be undermined by capitalism at some point and in some way."

These days, Dr. Haiven is challenging himself to think through the connections between the transformation of society by finance and the histories of racism and settler colonialism. (Settler colonialism is the type of colonialism that occurred and is still occurring in countries such as Canada and Australia, where European settlers, some of whom were themselves poor and displaced, supplanted Indigenous populations.)

The work is being coordinated from the Reimagining Value Action Lab (RiVAL) on the second floor of the PACI building in Thunder Bay. It is a modular studio-classroom that has already become a vibrant meeting place for creative thinkers.

During his five-year appointment as a Tier II Canada Research Chair (which began in January 2017) Max Haiven will be engaged in teaching, researching, writing, and collaborating with other artists, educators, and social justice activists in Canada and around the world. This past June he received

MAX HAIVEN



CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR in Culture, Media, and Social Justice

\$42,705 in research infrastructure funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation. He is using the funds to create a space to explore ways in which his and others' research on social justice topics can be broadcast using social media, online audio and video, teleconferencing, and on-demand and hybrid publishing.

Last September Professor Haiven began teaching a graduate course on *The Radical Imagination*. It is an English and Social Justice course that explores the relationship between ideas and social movements as they intersect around visions of collective liberation.

The radical imagination, he says, is a force for social transformation and creative insight that emerges from the experience of struggle, difference, and educated hope. "It is not something you have in your brain – is something you do together." A radical imagination means striving to get at the systemic root of social issues. The word "radical" actually comes from the Latin *radix*, meaning "root".

Max obtained a BA in Sociology at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, N.S. He went on to earn an MA in Globalization Studies and a PhD in English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University in Hamilton, ON, with a thesis on the cultural dimensions of the financial crisis, which would later lead to his 2014 book *Cultures of Financialization*.

Max's academic interest in social justice dates to his childhood. "I grew up with the perspective that, if you fight together with others, you can win. You can actually change things." Max spent his early years in Saskatoon where his parents were actively involved with issues around civil liberties and economic justice. He came of age in the late 1990s during the rise of the Global Justice or Alter-Globalization Movement and, coincidentally, was working as a post-doctoral fellow at New York

University in 2011 during the rise and fall of Occupy Wall Street.

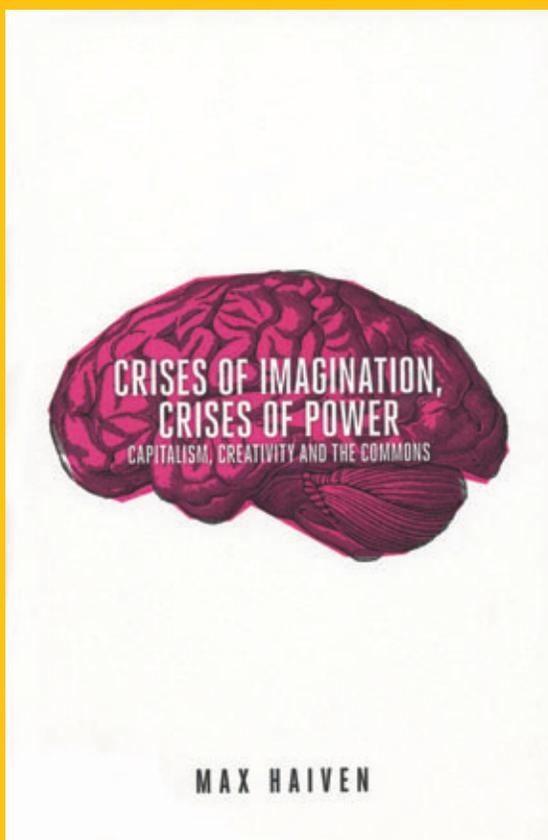
Before coming to Lakehead, Dr. Max Haiven spent five years teaching political economy and cultural studies at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in Halifax. There, he and his friend and colleague, Dr. Alex Khasnabish, co-founded the Radical Imagination Project. This project was an ethnographic solidarity research initiative dedicated to understanding and enlivening radicalism and activism for social justice. In 2014, the two men co-authored a book entitled *The Radical Imagination: Social Movement Research in the Age of Austerity*. In October they published a follow-up edited collection of essays titled *What Moves Us: The Lives and Times of the Radical Imagination*.

Max's current research interests lie within the cultural side of a new interdisciplinary field of study called Critical Finance Studies. In particular, he is interested in exploring the social dimensions of financialization, which he defines in *Crisis of Imagination, Crises of Power* as "all of those ways we imagine collective or public responsibility gets privatized, and the way we are all increasingly imagined to be lonely, isolated risk-takers, competing tooth and nail against one another in an austere and uncaring economy."

The working title of his current book project, to be published by Pluto Books of London, is *Art after Money. Money after Art: Radical Creative Strategies Against Financialization*.

Professor Haiven believes the negative effects of settler colonialism are ongoing and at the root of many problems we see in Northwestern Ontario today. He is keenly interested in exploring how the structures of capitalism – especially those within Canada's mining industry – are tied up with

The radical imagination is a force for social transformation and creative insight that emerges from the experience of struggle, difference, and educated hope.



the structures of settler colonialism.

Max has worked with Indigenous activists in Ontario and Nova Scotia. However, as a member of the settler community, he believes his role is to confront and educate other settlers. "This is the kind of work settlers need to take on because Indigenous communities are trying to sustain themselves and heal from generations of intensive systematic assault."

As for what type of economic system might replace capitalism in

the future, Max's vision rests on two pillars. First, he says we need to re-build the commons by taking the basic necessities of life out of the market and managing them democratically. Second, we need to overcome settler colonialism and the way it has poisoned our imaginations and our relationships.

"The habits of exploitation that we think of today as eternal and human nature are relatively recent," he points out, "They can be undone."

NEW PROFESSORS *New Ideas*

The Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities welcomed five new assistant professors this past fall. Meet five dynamic women who are bringing new ideas into the classroom.

Languages

Dr. Sarah C. Jacoba believes it is important to continue to change traditional teaching methods in French language instruction at the university level. “We need to move away from the sage-on-the-stage model of teaching and focus on how best to develop the unique skill set required of language students: the ability to read and synthesize information, to persuade, to refute arguments, to write eloquently, and to edit for precision.”

Sarah is an assistant professor with a tenure track appointment that is teaching focused. This fall she began to use new pedagogical practises in the classroom to make topics accessible and enticing to students. For example in one class, where students were staging a French play, she asked them to use social media (Twitter and Pinterest) as a tool to help them talk about the characters they were portraying.

“Lakehead is an ideal setting to try out new ways of teaching because class sizes are small,” she says.



Women's Studies

Dr. Jennifer Chisholm specializes in developing new courses and curriculum, a skill she developed while working on her PhD in Women's Studies and Feminist Research at the University of Western Ontario. Although she began teaching women's studies courses at



Lakehead as a sessional in 2015, she signed on for a new tenure track position last August, bringing the total number of full-time dedicated faculty in this “small but mighty department” to three.

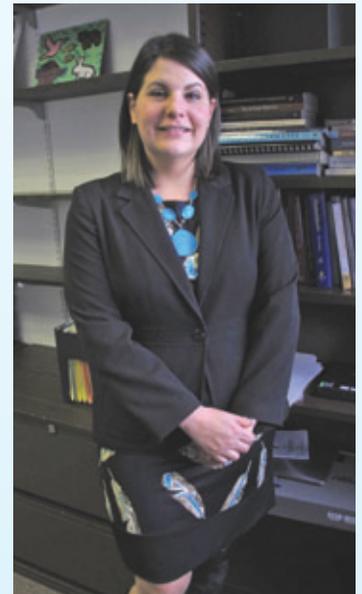
“Since women's studies is still a relatively new discipline there is a lot of new content with new intersections for research,” says Jen. Women's Studies courses continue to attract a wide range of students with diverse backgrounds, which is what keeps her excited about the discipline. This year she'll be bringing research into the classroom by examining the experiences of Women's and Gender Studies professors, who teach in this complex and still often controversial discipline.

Jen Chisholm's doctoral dissertation explored the role technology, specifically prenatal ultrasound imaging, plays in women's reproductive experiences. She is working on ways to extend that research by connecting with colleagues to examine the level of access to reproductive technology in Northwestern Ontario.

Indigenous Learning

Dr. Lana Ray's recent scholarly pursuits have been on the subjects of Anishinaabe women's research methodologies and Indigenization. However, with her wide range of work experience with organizations such as the Ontario Native Women's Association, Confederation College, and the North West Local Health Integration Network, she brings a distinctly interdisciplinary perspective to the Department of Indigenous Learning.

Lana is a member of Red Rock Indian Band and is currently teaching two second-year courses in community development, and a third-year course entitled *Native Narratives, Myths, Legends, and Ceremonies*. In the latter course she incorporates stories and story-telling exercises that emphasize self and self-reflection. “I want my students to have a general awareness of their own abilities to engage with the material,” she says. “What are the key values? The assumptions? What are their own limitations (in terms of world views) that might be barriers to understanding Indigenous knowledges and pedagogies?”



Criminology

Dr. Alana Saulnier, the new coordinator of Lakehead's Criminology program, is hoping the Orillia-based program will grow and develop along the lines of an applied or practical program. She would like to see Lakehead students develop useful skills in order to find career opportunities within community policing organizations such as the Ontario Provincial Police and the Canadian Border Services Agency, as well as other organizations offering security, loss prevention, social services, and mental healthcare.



Alana's research is focused on surveillance technology, especially the public perception of the use of surveillance technology. Her interest in criminology began with a desire to work with youth in conflict with the law, and with restorative justice in the community. By the time she was in her master's program her focus had shifted to procedural justice and how outcomes often are shaped by the way people are treated.

Sociology

Since completing her PhD at Charles Sturt University in Australia, **Dr. Barbara Parker** has been teaching and researching on topics related to food, gender, and health, including food security. Now, having accepted a tenure track appointment in the Department of Sociology that is specifically teaching focused, she is concentrating on developing new ways to engage her students, both in the classroom and in the community. "We need to bring more awareness of the importance of food and the way it connects to identity, place, and social justice," says Barbara.



For example, as part of a class project last fall, her students partnered with Shelter House to learn about the social issues surrounding homelessness and food insecurity in Thunder Bay. In addition to preparing and serving two dinners to clients, students presented to the Board of Directors and organized a special event (Humour for Hope) that raised a total of \$4,500 for the organization.

Student Engaged Learning



Eleven Lakehead students shaped their own grand adventure last summer when they planned and executed a 12-day sailing expedition on Lake Superior.

The experience was all part of an elective fourth-year course for students in Outdoor Recreation, Parks, and Tourism (ORPT) that included the opportunity for each student to acquire the "Competent Crew Sail" training certification by the International Sail and Power Academy.

"The students did everything," says ORPT Professor Tom Potter, "including an overnight sail where we navigated by traditional means, backed up by modern electronics." Along the way, students conducted a variety of research projects for the Lake Superior National Marine Conservation Area and Tourism Thunder Bay, including safe harbour assessments, identifying Arctic-Alpine disjunct plants, invasive species monitoring, shore-line clean ups, and the production of educational and recreational videos.



Intermediate students from Westmount Public School in Thunder Bay visited the studio in the Department of Visual Arts last fall for some hands-on instruction in ceramics and printmaking. For the past year-and-a-half, the pilot program has given youth in Grades 7 and 8 the opportunity to learn all of their subjects (except for Math and French) through the lens of a particular learning academy, either Fine Arts, Global Citizenship, or Sports and Recreation.

Krysta Dowdell (HBA'01, BEd'02), a teacher of the Fine Arts Academy, says that learning academies are a good way of keeping students engaged and learning outside the classroom. Dr. Kristy Holmes, Chair of the Department of Visual Arts, notes that it is also a great opportunity for third- and fourth-year art students, especially those in the Concurrent Education program, to practice their teaching and mentoring skills.

Your legacy
is enriching
my future.

BOOKS



Degrees of Failure: University Education in Decline

By Randle W. Nelsen
Published by Between the Lines

Dr. Randle Nelsen's new book is a hard-hitting critique of the university by a scholar who has spent more than 50 years studying the sociology of education in Canada and the United States. At the same time, it offers practical suggestions on how professors might change the dynamics of their classrooms in order to re-engage with students.

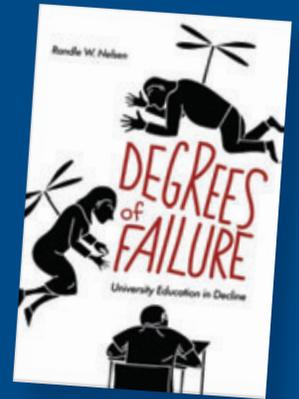
"Let's be seekers of knowledge," says Professor Nelsen. "Let's return scholarship to where it should be and that is investigating areas of interest, reading books, having conversations, and developing serious inquiry into matters."

The book is published by Between the Lines, a Canadian publisher of books that promote equitable social change and present ideas and analysis not readily found in the mainstream. It includes commentary by several academics including Dr. John Yandell, a senior lecturer at University College London Institute of Education, who writes:

"Nelsen's analysis of what is wrong with twenty-first century universities involves a sharp-eyed dissection of much that has become normal, taken for granted, in the routines and priorities of neoliberal higher education – from car parking to curriculum design. There is, though, optimism at the heart of this book – an optimism rooted in the conviction that another university is possible. The alternative entails a fundamentally different approach to knowledge, to learning, and to pedagogy. But this is not some fantasy – as Nelsen's account demonstrates, it is already within our reach."

Dr. Randle Nelsen is a Professor Emeritus of Sociology who retired from Lakehead University in 2011. He is the author of *Fun & Games & Higher Education: The Lonely Crowd Revisited* and *Life of the Party: A Study in Sociability, Community, and Social Inequality*.

On March 27, 2018, Professor Nelsen will be speaking about his new book at the Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge St., Toronto, ON, from 7:00-8:30 pm.



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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