

# Lakehead University Geology Department

## Alumni Newsletter #11

May, 2015

### *Another year comes to an end*

As the academic year draws to a close we decided to resurrect a tradition that has lain dormant for 10 years and take a Geology Department photo, and best of all the snow had melted! You can see a bigger version of this picture and some from years gone by on the [alumni portion](#) of the department web site. As you can see from this newsletter it's been a busy year for the faculty and students marked by some notable successes. As you are hopefully aware Lakehead is in the middle of celebrating it's 50th year - we hope you will be able to participate in the festivities and will drop in to the Geology Department if you are in town.



### *Student success*



Our students continue to excel on the national stage. Douglas Nikkila has been awarded the Gelinas Bronze medal for the best Canadian Honours thesis from the Volcanology and Igneous Petrology Division of the Geological Association of Canada. Doug's thesis, supervised by Dr. Shannon Zurevinski, was on "The mineralogy and petrology of a newly discovered REE occurrence within the Coldwell Complex near Marathon, Ontario". Jordan Baird, who has featured in these newsletters before, received the GAC-PDAC Logan Student Prize for Lakehead University.



### *Faculty success*

The last couple of months have also brought considerable success for our newest faculty. Dr. Amanda Diochon has received funding from the Grain Farmers of Ontario for a project entitled "Assessing soil organic matter quality as an attribute of soil health in long-term tillage and crop rotation experiments". Along with additional funding from the Senate Research Committee this means that Amanda is in the process of recruiting two new MSc students. Dr. Shannon Zurevinski has also been successful, she has been awarded an NSERC Discovery Grant to investigate the "Mineralogy, petrology and isotope systematics of Proterozoic continental rift-related alkaline magmatism, Northwestern Ontario, Canada". Shannon has recruited Doug Nikkila to work on this project for his MSc. Finally, Dr. Pete Hollings received the 2014 NSERC Distinguished Researcher Award from Lakehead University. The award is the highest honour conferred by Lakehead for research and scholarly activity. Pete said "I have spent the last 13 years building a research team at Lakehead that focused on the origin of ore deposits around the world – and to have that work recognized in this way is a huge honour".



Dr. Hollings with Dr. Grazia Viola, Chair of the Senate Research Committee, and Lakehead's President Dr. Brian Stevenson

Please contact [peter.hollings@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:peter.hollings@lakeheadu.ca) if you have a story to share

## Scholarships & Awards

Every year, thanks to the generous support of industry and our alumni we are able to present a number of scholarships to our students. This year the Rubicon Minerals Corp. Geology Award was presented to Amy Cleaver while the New Gold Rainy River Resources Ltd. Geology Award was given to Chanelle Boucher. The Bernie Schnieders Memorial Award went to Mike D'Angelo, who is working on a Masters thesis investigating the petrology and geochemistry of the Guichon batholith that hosts the Highland Valley porphyry system in British Columbia. This fund was set up in 2005 in memory of Bernie and Mike is now the ninth student to benefit from it's support. In addition Simon Dolega who is working on a study of "Deformation of Timiskaming-type conglomerates" received the Barrick Gold Graduate Scholarship and Daniel LaFontaine who is undertaking an MSc on the Borden Gold Project received the Ben Cowan Graduate Scholarship. Finally Sean O'Brien, who has just started a thesis on the Ni-Cu-PGE mineralised Crystal Lake Gabbro received a Graduate Student Fellowship from the Society of Economic Geologists Canada Foundation.



### Visits from Alumni

In March we were happy to welcome Cam McCuaig (*Class of '88*) back to Thunder Bay. Cam is currently the Director of the Centre for Exploration Targeting at the University of Western Australia and Adjunct Professor at Lakehead University. While here Cam presented a one day short course on "New concepts in understanding high-grade ore shoots". The course was well attended by industry and students and it was great to have one of our alumni back in town.

### New Awards

At our annual Alumni and Friends breakfast at PDAC this year we were thrilled to announce two new awards to the Centre or Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME) that will benefit our students in years to come. Generous gifts from Dr. Jim Franklin and alumnus Phil Walford (*Class of '70*) have helped establish the Dr. Melville Bartley CESME Memorial Scholarship that will support students undertaking research into mining, exploration and the environment. We were also excited to announce that Sue Craig (*MSc - Class of 91*) was establishing the John R. Craig Memorial CESME Award to support graduate students undertaking research related to First Nations and Métis issues. This support will have a huge impact on our graduate students and the research we can undertake here at Lakehead and is greatly appreciated. More recently the Lakehead Regional Safety Council have decided to establish two student bursaries to support undergraduate students in Geology. These awards are very much appreciated by our faculty and students and will make a big difference in our ability to train the next generation of geoscientists.

## Lakehead's 50<sup>th</sup>

With Lakehead's 50th Anniversary coming up in 2015 we are still looking for Yearbooks, photos or other memorabilia from your time at Lakehead. You can see what we have so far on our [alumni page](#) - if you have anything you would like to share please get in touch. Our inaugural homecoming is planned for October 2-4, but if you can't make it back to Thunder Bay then, we would be happy to see you anytime!



— Pete Hollings & Phil Walford



Jim Franklin & Bill Bartley



**Lakehead** | **50**  
UNIVERSITY YEARS 1965

Want to know more? Please visit our web site at [www.geology.lakeheadu.ca](http://www.geology.lakeheadu.ca)