



LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY PARENTS' NEWSLETTER

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Winter 1998



CARGILL representatives Don Smirl (far left) and Gary Speer (far right) congratulate Co-op students Steve Wier and Kathy Gosse for participating in the annual I/T (Information Technology) CARGILL Challenge at its head office in Minneapolis.

Lakehead's Co-op Program A Popular Choice

Business student Steve Wier did his Co-op placement with CARGILL in Winnipeg and has since been offered a managerial position with the company upon completion of his final year. Steve is one of 150 Lakehead students enrolled in the popular Co-op Education Program (story on page 4). With him (above) is CARGILL representative Gary Speer, who also happens to be a Lakehead University graduate (BAdmin '89).

Job Search Assistance

Lakehead University offers a variety of job search assistance programs for all students through its Student Placement & Co-op Centre. Postings of jobs can be found on the bulletin boards both inside and outside the Centre. Other services include on-campus recruitment program, employment counseling, and cover letter/resume/application/interview/job search strategy preparation.

For more information call (807) 343-8264.

Stressed Out?

Is your child stressed out over exams? Now there's a way you can show your support and encouragement. Twice yearly before the exam periods (in December and April), you can purchase an exam care package for your son or daughter for a mere \$20 plus tax.

The Exam Crisis Kit contains a healthy assortment of fruit (apples, oranges, bananas), power snacks (chocolate bars, chips, candies and gum) and beverages (pop, coffee, hot chocolate) to provide energy for those late nights of studying.

The kits will be delivered on and off-campus during the weekend of April 4, 1998. To place your order, complete the form that has been sent to you along with this Newsletter on or before March 27, 1998.

Proceeds from the sale of the kits will be matched by the provincial government's Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund and will provide much needed bursaries for Lakehead students.

For more information contact the Office of Alumni Services (807) 343-8155.



Students: Mark Your Calendars

Final date for course withdrawal without academic penalty:

fall/winter full courses.....	February 9
winter half courses.....	March 2

Mid-year study week (except for Education):

February 16-20

Winter term exams:

April 8-24

Final date for registration in Spring Session courses beginning May 4:

May 7

Final date for registration in Summer Session courses beginning July 6:

July 9

The Library's Challenge

In an increasingly electronic era, The Chancellor Norman M. Paterson Library faces the challenges of an expanded role: providing access to information beyond its walls while recognizing that a core collection of books and journals is required

Did you ever imagine that your son or daughter would be able to search the Library catalogue from his or her computer in Thunder Bay? Scan a written document and send it to a friend in Melbourne? Access the table of contents of a journal before the print version arrives in the Library? Search simultaneously through many journals for one specific subject? These are just a few of the amazing advancements to communication and library research the Internet has provided. The capabilities of the Internet and the rapid change in computer technology have greatly impacted how the Library provides access to its resources and services.

"Our challenge now is to continue to provide access to information in light of these rapid technological developments," says Anne Deighton, Lakehead's newly-appointed Chief Librarian. "The Library has made considerable progress towards automation in the past decade, but it can only do so much in today's financially-challenged climate."

Lakehead University Library is no stranger to technology. In the last few years the Library has made considerable progress in the creation of a technologically proficient environment.

In 1987 an automated Library system (MultiLIS) was installed, successfully automating most major library functions. In 1992, under the direction of the Chief Librarian Fred McIntosh, the Library implemented an interlibrary loan system which has since been adopted by most academic libraries across Canada. This Internet-based system enhanced significantly the existing service, allowing for the scanning of periodical articles and speedy delivery between libraries. In 1993, the Library's CD-ROM index collection was networked, allowing for more students to simultaneously use these crucial resources for their research. In 1997 the Library provided organized access to Internet resources through the Library's Web Page.

The next millennium promises even more exciting access capabilities for libraries with the development of standards for access between libraries, multimedia applications and increased interactivity of programs.

As exciting as they are, these capabilities for access have become available during a time of cutbacks to funding of postsecondary education in Ontario, a diminished Canadian dollar and phenomenal increases to academic journal subscription prices. Since a large percentage of the library's budget goes towards coping with these budget stresses, there are few remaining funds for the purchase of much-needed computer hardware to facilitate access to resources.

This situation will be addressed in the coming year.

Starting in March, some 3500 parents of students will be contacted by the University and given an opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution to Lakehead University Library. The funds will be directed towards an initiative, launched in 1996, to enable the Library to continue to serve the information needs of the Lakehead University community into the 21st century. This initiative was started with the help of a \$100,000 contribution from the Royal Bank of Canada allowing the Library to purchase and wire 80 new study carrels for the third and fourth floors. With these "wired" study carrels, students are

able to plug in their laptop computers and access the University's computer system including the Internet. Since not all students own a laptop computer, access to the University's computer system and the Internet must also be provided through other means.

"Students expect a technologically proficient library; one that takes full advantage of the access to information provided by new technology," says Deighton.



"Wired" study carrels enable students like Sabrina Tassone to access the University's computer system and the Internet. Standing behind her is Chief Librarian Anne Deighton.

A Parent's Guide to Recent OSAP Changes

by Phyllis Bosnick, Financial Aid Administrator

Changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) beginning in August 1997 had some major effects on students' funding. If you have a son or daughter presently receiving financial assistance through OSAP or if you are considering this avenue as an option in the future, the following information may be helpful.

-- The purpose of OSAP, even though it is loan assistance, is to provide funding to students of lower income families in order to afford the cost of education.

-- The expectation of the Ministry of Education & Training is that students and parents have a responsibility to provide financial support from their resources. Students are expected to work during the summer and save their earnings for school.

-- Parents and students must report their financial information as accurately as possible. The Ministry verifies income information that students and parents provide to OSAP with taxpayer information from Revenue Canada. When income is under-reported, students are reassessed and any overpayments are deducted from future loans.

-- Students are expected to contribute to their educational costs from any income earned or received during their study period. The contribution is based on 80% of the students study period income less an exemption of \$600. For example, if a student has income of \$2,000, the contribution would be \$1,120.

Institutional bursary funding can be considered exempt from the assessment depending on the specific need for the bursary, e.g. high cost of books and supplies.

-- Students must report assets registered in their name. This includes any investments, retirement plans, cash in bank accounts and vehicles. Parents need to be conscious of the fact that any vehicle registered or leased in their son's or daughter's name will be considered an asset based on the gross market value less a \$5,000 deduction. In cases where parents put money into investments registered in the student's name, and even when the student claims not to have access to that money, the Ministry will consider this to be a student asset and therefore must be included on the application. All assets are reported on the application as of May 1st.

-- Canada and Ontario Student Loans are interest-free while students are enrolled in full-time post-secondary studies. Interest will begin to accrue as soon as they end their studies. Loan repayments start six months after the student leaves their post-secondary studies. It is always important that the student contact the bank where they negotiated their loan to keep their address current.

-- Loan forgiveness is available to students after loans are consolidated for repayment to help reduce their debt load. The loan forgiveness level is calculated on the cumulative value of Canada and Ontario Student loans borrowed. The amount of loan forgiveness is based on the total number of terms in your study period that you borrowed funds from OSAP. For example, the loan forgiveness level for two terms of study (September to April) is \$7,000. Therefore, the maximum loan amount the student will have to repay is \$7,000 and any amount borrowed above this will be forgiven.

-- Students with low income upon completion of their post-secondary studies can apply for interest relief on loan repayments for a period of up to 18 months on Ontario Student Loans and up to 30 months on Canada Student Loans.

Anyone wanting more information about the Ontario Student Assistance Program may contact Lakehead's Financial Aid Office at (807) 343-8206 or access the Ministry's website at <http://osap.gov.on.ca>.



Be Informed

The *Nor'Wester* is a magazine published by Lakehead University three times a year and mailed to about 20,000 alumni and friends across Canada and around the world.

Its purpose is to provide information about Lakehead University -- its mission, goals, direction, achievements and challenges. This is done through the magazine's profiles, news reports, interviews, photographs and feature articles.

If you would like to subscribe to the *Nor'Wester*, simply clip and send this form, along with a cheque made payable to "Lakehead University" to:

Nor'Wester Subscription
c/o Office of Alumni Services
Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Rd.
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5E1

NOR'WESTER

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Co-op Education at Lakehead

Co-operative Education is a process of learning often referred to as "experiential learning." As a formal part of the curriculum, it integrates the student's academic study with work experience in co-operating employer organizations. In each of Lakehead's Co-op programs (listed below), students alternate periods of experience in appropriate work terms in accordance with the participating academic unit and with the criteria established by the Canadian Association of Co-operative Education. Lakehead offers Co-op Education in the following academic programs:

Computer Science (HBSc, BSc, MSc)

Economics (MA)

Forestry (MSc)

Human Resources (HBComm)

Management Systems (HBComm)

Marketing (HBComm)

Mathematics (HBSc, BSc, MSc)

Physics (HBSc, MSc)

How does the program work?

At Lakehead, Co-op experience involves instruction before, during and after each work term. Upon admission into the Co-op stream, students automatically commit to being mobile, since work terms will vary in location. Co-op work term placements are arranged with a Co-op employer partner in every province of the country.

Almost all of the Co-op students have been successful in being matched with a Co-op employer. Once matched for a Co-op work term, students do productive work suitable to their level of experience, and for which they are paid at standard rates. A student's work term performance is monitored by the University; supervised and evaluated by the participating co-operative employers.

At the end of the work term, the employer usually completes a performance appraisal with the student. Each student is required to do a work term report or assignment for their academic unit, and as part of this process the employer is asked to review all documentation prior to being released to the University. After a Co-op student successfully completes the "pre", "during" and "post" work term activities, an experiential credit is noted on the Co-op student's transcript.

How can my son or daughter apply?

Students registered in traditional degree programs in which a Co-op option exists should contact:

John DeGiacomo
(807) 343-8264
fax: (807) 343-8918

E-Mail:
John.DeGiacomo@lakeheadu.ca

Planning a trip to Thunder Bay? Call your Travel Agent and ask about the Special Package with A World of Vacations (formerly Canadian Holidays).

See the advertisement on this page.