

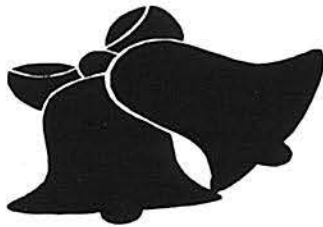


Agora

A NEWSLETTER FOR LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY STAFF & FACULTY

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
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Season's Greetings



A MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR LOIS WILSON

When news of Princess Diana's death hit the news media, I was ensconced in a two-day meeting on human rights and women. At this Montreal meeting were women from around the globe. We listened as women from Rwanda told us of the systematic use of rape as a war strategy, but of how rape is not included in the U. N. definition of "degrading or inhuman punishment." Nor is it considered, internationally, to be "torture." It is viewed as something that has just always happened. I heard how the Rwandan women were marched naked through the streets of their villages and towns and then raped. Some were left to die. I heard of how they fear to tell their stories of horror publicly, for fear of reprisal and vengeance. I wept with them.

I heard also from a few of the South Korean "comfort women" who were forced into sexually servicing the Japanese troops during World War II "to build the morale of the soldiers." Those who survived are now telling their collective story and seeking redress for the 200,000 women! I wept with them.

When I emerged from that meeting, it was to discover the whole world in mourning for Princess Diana. Without commenting or making a judgment on that phenomenon, let me say how confused I was. No one was mourning for the raped women of Rwanda. Of course not, you may say. Who would know about it? Where is Rwanda anyway?

But their murderers walk free.

As for the South Korean women -- that was so long ago that isn't it better to forget it and put it behind us? What has it got to do with us anyway? But their murderers do walk free.

Then a friend sent me a report of his work in Guatemala -- of working with the Mayan survivors of historic massacres to require the truth about the crimes of the past be literally dug up and made public. He works in an exhumation process of mass graves dug in the 1980s that tell a story of great import to a world in pursuit of social justice and reconciliation.

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CAMPUS NOTES

Ho-Ho-Ho

Congratulations to all staff, students and faculty who helped the Lakehead Residence Council build a float that won "best school group" in the annual OPP Christmas Parade held in Thunder Bay in November. Also, a heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed food, winter coats and toys in the various student-run charity drives.

Into Africa

Marcia Lee, a third-year student majoring in Geography and Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism, will be spending six weeks in Botswana this summer taking part in the International Seminar program run by the World University Services of Canada (WUSC). Marcia will be conducting research and preparing a Recreation/Education Resource Package for Botswana. You can meet Marcia and find out more about WUSC during **International Days** in the Agora January 24-February 1, 1998.

Wiz Kid(s)

Another Lakehead business student has made the top 20 in the Toronto Dominion Bank's annual Investment Challenge. His name is Jamie Dennison and he is a third-year finance major who secured 13th place by raising an imaginary \$140,000 in the stock market over a six-week period. Last year, Chris Fernyc, a fourth-year accounting student, placed second overall in Canada and is now articling for his CA with Ernst & Young in Calgary.

"You would not believe the excitement around the Challenge," says Ken Hartviksen, associate professor in the Faculty of Business Administration who uses the TD Challenge to set up an environment for active learning.

The 46 students comprising the Lakehead Team, ranked fourth overall in Canada, ahead of Concordia, Waterloo, Western, and U of T. More than 3,000 students took part in the competition.

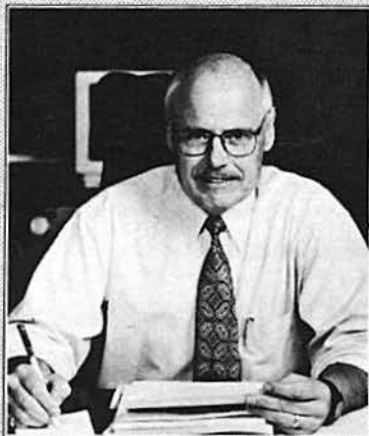
You're
Invited

Faculty
and staff
are invited to attend a
Holiday Reception on
Friday,
December 19
in The Outpost
starting at
3 p.m.

An Update from the President

by Dr. John Whitfield

As we reflect on the past year there are many successes and accomplishments of which the University community can be justifiably proud.



Among these was the successful OSOTF campaign. When matched by the provincial government, the funds raised will provide a \$6.6 million endowment to support bursaries for our students. This was made possible through the generosity of faculty, staff, students and alumni, as well as many individuals and small, medium and large businesses particularly in Thunder Bay and the region. For this wide support, the University is appreciative.

This institutional and community teamwork will be essential in 1998. These will be challenging times but, I for one, remain optimistic. Together the Lakehead team will succeed.

I trust that each of you will enjoy a safe and happy Holiday Season.

Humanities and Social Science Federation Report

by Dr. Livio Di Matteo

Lakehead University Representative to the Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada

The annual meetings of the Humanities and Social Science Federation of Canada (HSSFC) were held at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa during the weekend of November 28-30, 1997. The general tenor and atmosphere of the meetings were not particularly cheerful as the humanities and social sciences are under siege not only within society as a whole but also within a number of universities. For example, these meetings coincided with the proposal at Carleton University to eliminate a number of humanities programs in languages and literature mainly for financial reasons as well as the comments of the Ontario premier on the usefulness of certain disciplines. A highlight of the meetings was a presentation by Dr. Marc Renaud, the new president of SSHRC, during which he outlined a pragmatic approach for dealing with the current funding situation for humanities and social science research.

The meetings opened on the Saturday with an overview and summary of the Federation's activities over the last year. In his opening remarks, HSSFC President Chad Gaffield remarked that the broad thrust of the Federation's activities had diversified. While

there was still the traditional lobbying role, there were now also expanding initiatives and projects designed to illustrate the value of the humanities and social sciences to Canadian life. Gaffield remarked that the importance of the humanities and social sciences is not obvious to many and that collectively we are in a difficult position. If we do not fight "we will be erased" was a point made by Dr. Gaffield.

Among some of the initiatives the HSSFC is now engaged in to demonstrate the importance of humanities and social sciences are the Career Vision Program, Breakfasts on the Hill and the CRIC Proposal. Career Vision is a pilot program in conjunction with Human Resources Development intended to provide humanities and social science graduates with work experience. At the end of this year, 57 young graduates participated in this program and were placed with public and private sector employers in the health and environmental sectors. Since 1994, eight Breakfasts on the Hill have been held in the Parliamentary Restaurant. Leading humanities and social science researchers present findings on public policy topics for an audience of members of parliament and political aides and have been very well attended. A series of six more breakfasts for 1997-98 are planned. The Community Research and Information Cross Roads (CRIC) proposal aims to establish university and community based research centres. At present, the proposal is at the funding stage and an attempt is being made to obtain government funding via community political pressure. There is no unique model for a CRIC and different universities can put forward their own visions of what a community based research centre should be.

Sociologist Marc Renaud, the new president of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), gave an address and then fielded questions from the audience. Renaud said that SSHRC researchers are going to have to justify what they do more than ever before and that humanities and social science researchers must accept the challenge to demonstrate their usefulness. The failure to do so will only be seen as amplifying the perception that SSHRC researchers are unable to adjust to the "new world." Renaud also said that he wishes to change the "us" versus "them" mentality that has come to characterize the relationship between SSHRC and its research community. This type of relationship does not exist between MRC/NSERC and the researchers that they fund and can be damaging to SSHRC's efforts to deal with the future. Renaud graphically illustrated the decline in SSHRC research grant success rates since the mid 1980s from 60 percent to 30 percent and pointed out that currently SSHRC only funds about 15 percent of humanities and social science researchers in the country whereas NSERC funds 60 percent of its researchers.

In order to improve penetration rates for SSHRC, Renaud proposed a strategy whereby in return for more funding of basic curiosity-driven humanities and social science research, SSHRC would commit itself to also funding more policy-based research. Using a pyramid model of research with basic curiosity-driven research at the base of the pyramid supporting policy-driven research at the top, Renaud proposed that SSHRC push for one dollar for basic curiosity-driven research for every one dollar increase in funding for policy-driven research. Renaud urged all humanities and social science researchers not only to "publish or perish" but to "go public or perish." Humanities and social science researchers need to find creative ways to demonstrate their usefulness and to also

Continued on page 4

Building Knowledge to Combat Youth Crime

by Josh Slatkoff

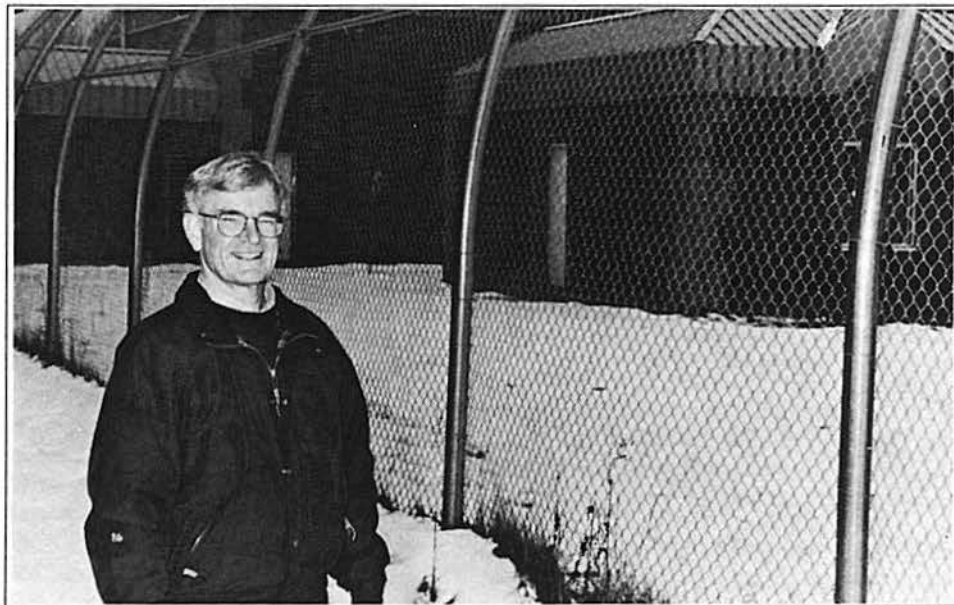
In its statement of philosophy, William W. Creighton Youth Services stresses that "the needs of young people are best served by the provision of positive, growth productive, and supportive programs in conjunction with the youth's offence."

To fulfil this mandate, the Ministry of Community and Social Services funded agency provides a full range of juvenile justice programming for Phase I young offenders aged 12 to 16 years. The agency services 39 youths in custody as well as 200 youths in the community. The focus of the agency is rooted in programming to promote healthy lifestyles and teaching to address the physical, mental, and social needs of young offenders, explains Margaret Boone, associate professor in Lakehead University's School of Nursing and president of the board of directors of Creighton Youth Services.

Through collaborative research with the agency, Lakehead University faculty and students have helped to assess the programming, learning, and educational needs of young offenders through seven completed studies since 1994. The research has been conducted by the departments of psychology, social work, sociology, and kinesiology.

What has made the partnership so successful is Creighton staff involvement and program support from Probation Services throughout the entire research process. As members of the research evaluation committee, staff identify areas they think need to be researched. Then, "students meet with staff and they will look at the research design to see whether it's feasible within the facility and whether it fits in with the philosophy of the facility," says Boone.

Further, the research promotes accountability for services offered by the agency. "As service providers, we must provide programs that make a difference. Research



"Research – conducted by Lakehead University faculty and students in conjunction with our staff – helps assess the relevance of what we are doing," says Bob Thompson. He is executive director of Creighton Youth Services, an agency that provides juvenile justice programming for Phase I young offenders aged 12 to 16 years.

helps assess the relevance of what we are doing," explains Bob Thompson, executive director of Creighton Youth Services.

The agency's staff has felt especially encouraged to cooperate on projects because of the feedback they receive. Dr. David Challen, assistant professor in the Department of Social Work and member of the board of directors of Creighton Youth Services explains that one requirement for conducting research is that once the report is completed, "staff and management can depend on receiving a report back from the researcher or the student."

This feedback loop has now been expanded to include community stakeholders in the youth justice system. On January 23, 1998, at the Prince Arthur Hotel in Thunder Bay, Creighton Youth Services is hosting a symposium where data collected in regard to youth from this region will be presented. Stakeholders from the districts of Thunder Bay, Rainy River and Kenora will be given a chance to strengthen connections and plan for new collaborative efforts aimed at expanding knowledge and developing applied research projects. The symposium is supported by a grant from the Government of Ontario's Trillium Foundation.

In one of seven presentations, former Lakehead University psychology graduate student Sandy Jung will discuss the findings from her study of the validity of a risk/need assessment tool for Aboriginal and

non-Aboriginal youths of both sexes. The research was conducted in collaboration with Creighton Youth Services and the Ministry of Community and Social Services Probation Services under the supervision of Dr. Edward Rawana, adjunct professor in Lakehead University's department of psychology and former clinical psychologist at the agency. The results, which indicated that the tool can accurately predict recidivism for both populations and sexes after a period of six months, have led to its endorsement across the province.

Staff of Creighton Youth Services and students are not the only ones to benefit from the research partnership. As Professor Boone explains, the research allows you "to take a different focus, and you bring this with you into your teaching as well."

Symposium – January 23, 1998

Organizations whose representatives have been invited to the symposium include: Children's Mental Health; Child Welfare; Probation Services; Salvation Army; Phase I Young Offender Services; Correctional Services; Provincial Court, Youth Division; School Boards; Confederation College; and Lakehead University. For information contact Dr. David Challen at 343-8447.

Josh Slatkoff is a graduate student in clinical psychology and one of several students participating in a writing program sponsored by The Chronicle-Journal called S.P.A.R.K. -- LAKEHEAD (Students Producing Articles on Research Knowledge).

Lois Wilson continued from P.1

The murderers of the Mayan peasants walk free.

And then there's South Africa. A member of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission told me that the country is in extreme stress, from which it may never recover. Murderers are promised amnesty in exchange for the "truth." But many families of the victims feel robbed of justice, since the murderers may eventually walk free.

What is to be done? I reject "an eye for an eye" philosophy. What then? And what has all this got to do with Lakehead University and the season we celebrate?

One of the most important, if not THE most significant, issues of 1998 is impunity. It is the move to establish an International Criminal Court that would bring to justice individuals accused of human rights violations including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. This includes effective means to investigate and prosecute gender crimes. Of course it will be no panacea, but its very existence will be a sign of hope. And the impetus comes from ordinary citizens, who are urging their heads of governments to work towards establishing such a court. It might prevent open festering sores from exploding years after the atrocity.

Another woman I've thought about is Jody Williams. She's just a persistent ordinary citizen who has demonstrated heroic commitments in her movement to get rid of land mines. She is a person with a conscience and a sense of what is involved in just and humane relationships. She could have gone to Lakehead University. She certainly represents the values we honour.

In this season that speaks of hope and peace on earth, think about these things. Never be paralyzed by despair. Think about the ways you can help to create a space where authentic human community can flourish and be celebrated. And never underestimate your own contribution. And oh yes - the greetings of the season to you!



LUMINA CONCERT SERIES

January 13

Les Voix Humaines

Susie Nappier and Margaret Little, viola da gamba duo

12:30 p.m. Jean McNulty Recital Hall

Livio Di Matteo continued from P.2

publicize the value of their work to society. Some individuals expressed reservations regarding what they felt could become a deliberate government distortion of individual research agendas but the point was made that in order to get more funding for what we want to do, we were going to have to trade for it. The general consensus appeared to be that support should be provided for the SSHRC President by communicating suggestions and comments to him as well as writing on behalf of the research community to politicians and opinion makers. I would urge all humanities and social sciences researchers at Lakehead to write their federal members of Parliament and impress on them the importance of the work in their respective fields and its contribution to society. In a working session of university representatives, it was suggested that given the nature of Parliamentary representation, "permanent" letters rather than E-mail would be more effective. Please consider making this effort now in an atmosphere of relative calm rather than later as an act of desperation. Do not forget to forward a copy of your letter to the HSSFC.

In other news, the first Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences will be held over the period of May 27-June 6, 1998 at the University of Ottawa. The 1999 Congress will be jointly held at Bishop's-Sherbrooke Universities and the 2000 Congress will be at the University of Moncton. Offers will go out to all universities to present their candidacies for the 2001 and 2002 Congresses. In addition, the new president elect of the Humanities and Social Science Federation is Louise Forsyth. Dr. Forsyth is from the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Saskatchewan. Marcel Lauziere, the current executive director of the HSSFC, is leaving to join Dr. Renaud at SSHRC as his executive assistant. Marcel was a dedicated and hardworking executive director

**Deadline for submissions
to the January Agora:
January 5, 1998**

and his presence at HSSFC will be missed. The acting executive director at HSSFC is now Paul Ledwell and the search for a new executive director has resulted in the choice of Louise Robert who will begin her position February 1, 1998.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at Livio.DiMatteo@Lakeheadu.ca or the HSSFC directly at fedcan@hssfc.ca. The address of the HSSFC is 415-151 Slater St., Ottawa, K1P 5H3 and the HSSFC can be reached by fax at 613-238-6114 and by phone at 613-238-6112.

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