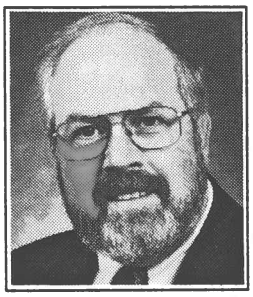
PAT O'BRIEN ELECTED CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS



At the first meeting of the 1994-95 academic year in September, LU graduate **Pat O'Brien** was elected Chair of the Board of Governors for a one-year term.

O'Brien graduated from Lakehead University in 1970 with a BA in Economics and English. He joined Ontario Hydro in 1972 as a Public Relations Officer and is now the company's Senior Stakeholder Relations Officer. In addition to serving as Chair of the Board of Governors, O'Brien is a member of the Northwestern Ontario Associated Chambers of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of the 1995 Nordic World Ski Championships, and Chair of the Marketing, Promotion and Media Division of the 1995 Nordic World Ski Championships.

In 1985, O'Brien joined the Lakehead University Board of Governors as the Alumni Association Representative. He was elected to the Board in 1988 and has served on a variety of committees including the Executive Committee, Financial Planning Committee, Human Resources Committee, Nominating Committee, and Audit Committee.

O'Brien succeeds **Tony H. Seuret** in the position of Chair. **Maureen Doig** was elected first vice-chair and **Steve Hessian** second vice-chair.

At the same meeting, five new members were elected to the Board: **Mrs. Cheryl Balacko**, who has worked in the University's Bookstore for 17 years, will represent the unionized staff of the University; **Mr. Joseph Baratta,** principal of Corpus Christi School in Thunder Bay and past-president of the Lakehead University Alumni Association, will serve as the Alumni Association Representative; **Dr. John Griffith,** head of the LU's Department of Mathematical Sciences and past-president of the Lakehead University Faculty Association, will serve as the representative of Senate. **Mr. Ian Middleton,** a past-president of LUSU, will serve a second term as a representative of LUSU. Also representing LUSU is **Mr. J.J. Davis,** a fifth-year Chemical Engineering student. (Balacko, Baratta and Griffith have been elected for three-year terms. Middleton and Davis are serving one-year terms.)



C. Balacko



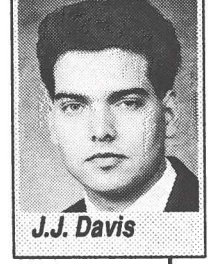
J. Baratta



J. Griffith



I. Middleton



J.J. Davis

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According to Dr. Barry, failures are propagated in a manner which may be analogous to the way an epidemic spreads through a population, and in fact, Dr. Jim Betts of the University of Bradford is involved in the advanced statistical analysis of these results. Furthermore, it is apparently the formation of "free radicals", which are harmful to humans, that damage the components. These free radicals are formed by the fast electrons that are generated by the effect of irradiation.

Dr. Barry is quick to point out that these tests are conducted at radiation levels that are far higher than those used for treating humans. The experiments are "accelerated tests" in which the data is analyzed to produce a "local model" of the behaviour of the components under high levels of irradiation. Then, using advanced statistical methods developed by Dr. Marco Meniconi, the local model is used to forecast a "global model" which can be used to predict the behaviour of the components at lower radiation levels.

"PHYSICIANS DON'T HAVE A BACKGROUND IN SEMICONDUCTOR PHYSICS ... THAT'S WHY WE'RE INVOLVED ... TO ADVISE THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE PACEMAKERS."
-- Dr. Declan Barry

Dr. Marco Meniconi (BEng'86) is a former graduate student and research associate of Dr. Barry. He was one of the first LU students to enrol in a PhD program at another university and to carry out most of his research at Lakehead. Dr. Meniconi subsequently received his PhD from the University of Bradford and in October returned to his second alma mater to take up a position as Lecturer in Engineering.

Recently the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation in Thunder Bay received a large grant that has enabled the Foundation to update their equipment to levels which will considerably aid Lakehead's pacemaker and dosimeter research. "In the end," says Dr. Barry, "Research into the reliability of semiconductor devices will help oncology and cardiac specialists in patient management."

Dr. Declan Barry's research has been sponsored by the Canadian Microelectronics Corporation, and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council.

Denis Onen is enrolled in the final year of the Electrical Engineering degree program. He is one of several Lakehead students participating in S.P.A.R.K - LAKEHEAD, a writing program coordinated by the Department of External Relations in conjunction with the Department of Graduate Studies and Research.