

Agora

MARCH 1999

A NEWSLETTER FOR LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY STAFF & FACULTY



Lakehead students expressed their concern with rising tuition fees on February 25 by staging 45-minute Talk Show with the president, mounting a mock execution of a student "fried by debt" and faxing 1,000 letters of protest to the Ministry of Education and Training.

See page 2 for information on tuition fee increases.

Check our
Website

www.lakeheadu.ca

under
"New and Events"
for more information
about

Events On Campus

**

Events Off Campus

**

Media Releases

**

University Publications

**

Strategic Planning
Update

**

Search Committee for
Vice-President
(Academic)

Shad Valley Coming to Lakehead

by Dr. Yves Prévost

Shad Valley is not a place on a map. Shad Valley is a live-in motivational program representing a partnership between universities, high schools and industry. Science, technology, entrepreneurship and the environment will be the themes studied by 52 of Canada's top high school students this July at Lakehead University. The students that participate in the program are in the top 2% nationwide. They are top scholars, community leaders, provincial, national and international athletes, gifted musicians, published authors, competitive and curious about the world around them.

The program consists of two phases; the first is four weeks of university life and the second is a five-week work placement with a partnership company. On the campus in July, the days are intense when the students attend university lectures; participate in sports, math challenges, and workshops about business, ecology and engineering; work on at least two business proposals; produce a month-book and a web page; organize an open house and a variety show for the closing ceremonies.

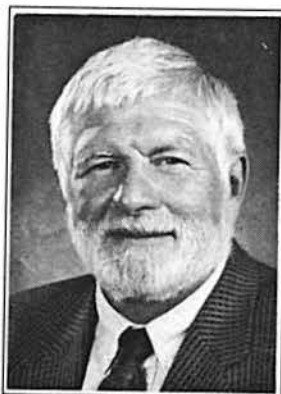
Shad Valley could be likened to a menu, where the students get a taste of this and that to help them discover what they want to do as a career. In Shad Valley, the same students are not always the best of the class as they are accustomed to be. The synergy generated by their interactions pushes the students to be the best they can be.

Company placements occur in August and consist of practical work where the student may lead the way in computerizing a workplace, creating a company web page, or solving a problem that no one else has had an opportunity to think about. The work experiences are wide and varied! The companies in northwestern Ontario that participate as Shad partners in 1999 are Abitibi Consolidated in Fort Frances, Bowater, Bearskin Lake Air Service, FedNor, KBM Forestry, Lakehead University, Paterson Foundation, Royal Bank of Canada, Thunder Bay Hydro, Thunder Bay Telephone, and Union Gas.

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From the President's Desk

by Dr. Frederick F. Gilbert



On page 6 of the *Agora* is an article on the "double cohort." While it is difficult to predict the impact on Lakehead University, it would appear that the government is looking at the situation seriously to determine how best to manage the influx of greater numbers of university students. There are massive implications for faculty, physical facilities, and operating budgets that, even if we were to take in our current proportion of provincial enrolment, would mean drastic changes at Lakehead. Some COU estimates place the dollar impact in new funding for all universities at a level equivalent to current government funding (\$1.5 billion).

This level of funding is an unlikely scenario as the government will be seeking less costly measures to address the increased number of students. Extending the hours of operation (including summer sessions), workload adjustments, leasing of space, new co-operative arrangements with the colleges, and distance education are all proposals being considered. Issues like tenure, faculty review procedures, quality indicators, sabbaticals, and merit are all part of the current discussion mix prompted by university requests for additional funding and the Ministry's drive for greater institutional accountability. Ultimately, there will be trade-offs and issues of critical importance to Lakehead like unfunded (i.e. out of corridor) students, deferred maintenance, additional space requirements (new construction), and technology enhancement may get addressed.

We are making our case directly, and indirectly (through COU), to the Ministry. I am optimistic that the double cohort

problem will bring about major action by the provincial government. There are ancillary issues associated with the demise of Grade XIII and now the OAC's. For example, should we continue to offer three-year degree programs? What should be the most effective working relationships with the colleges? Still the basic questions remain related to access and quality and how the existing physical and human infrastructures can be tweaked to maximize productivity and efficiency. These may be government words but they are well worth heeding. There will be "strings attached" to any new funding consistent with the patterns we have seen with OSOTF, ATOP and other recent government initiatives. It will be important to deal with these in ways that improve the university, respect its autonomy to make internal decisions, and ensure that current and future students receive a high-quality education. The forthcoming Strategic Plan should aid us in the longer time frame (beyond the next election), but action will have to be taken to respond to government proposals that should finally re-infuse some much-needed funding into Lakehead University.

Needless to say, we will continue to track the evolving policy decisions related to the double cohort. I would expect the Speech from the Throne and the Provincial Budget to provide clearer insight into the implications for the Ontario universities and Lakehead.



Board of Governors Sets Tuition Fee Rates and Approves Open Meeting Policy

by Denise Bruley, Communications Officer

At a meeting held on February 25, 1999, the Lakehead University Board of Governors accepted the tuition fee recommendations by the Board's Financial Planning Committee.

The rates for 1999/00 reflect a 7% increase for undergraduate degree and diploma programs except for Education and Engineering degree programs which would increase by 11.3%.

Graduate student fees will increase by 5% and visa rates by 12% for graduate students and 12.9% for undergraduate programs. In addition, the Board approved a policy that will make meetings of the full Board of Governors open to anyone who wishes to attend. The first open meeting will be in late April and will be announced on campus and in the local media. The Open Meeting Policy is subject to certain guidelines which will be made available on the Lakehead University website and to media.

"The Board of Governors is committed to the principle of accountability to the students, faculty and staff and of Lakehead University and to the public which is served by the University and this resolution further demonstrates that commitment," said Paul Gordon, Acting Chair, Lakehead University's Board of Governors.

CORRECTION

In the previous issue of the *Agora*, an article appeared detailing the Canada Foundation for Innovation awards received by Lakehead University. The description of the project entitled "Lakehead Engineering Research Centre" omitted research centre members: Dr. H. T. Saliba, S. H. L. Tsang, Dr. C. D. Johnson, Dr. W. Huang and Dr. A. G. Gillies as being part of the research team. This new Research Centre has 10 faculty members as part of the original CFI application.

SHAD continued from page 1

In 1999, Dr. Yves Prévost will direct the Shad Valley program, as well as be responsible for ecology, while Professor Ken Hartviksen will lead entrepreneurship. Dr. Meilan Liu will teach engineering and Professor Craig Law will offer expertise in computers and systems.

Lakehead has many well known professors and collaborators who have much to offer in science, technology, engineering and environment. This is an invitation for all professors to give a guest lecture during Shad Valley on some aspect of your science and technology that would be intellectually challenging to 52 of the brightest high school students in Canada. Please contact Dr. Yves Prévost at yves.prevost@lakeheadu.ca before June 1, 1999.

If any business would like to become a partner they can contact Christine Costa at cmcosta@gale.lakeheadu.ca or at (807) 343-8747. Applications for high school students can be obtained by calling (519) 884 8844 or at www.shad.ca.

Apply before March 31 if you would like to participate in one of the nine campuses in Canada



Dr. Graham Borradaile

recipient of the
1998 Distinguished Researcher Award
will give a public lecture entitled
**"Using Magnetic Properties to
Understand the History and
Deformation of Rocks"**

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

4 p.m.

Lower Lecture Theatre

**35th Annual Northwestern Ontario
Regional Science Fair**

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

For further information

www.baynet.net/~sciencefair/index.htm

or e-mail: sciencefair@mail.baynet.net

The deadline for entries from schools is
Wednesday, March 31, 1999

Superior Science

A New Summer Day Program for children ages 9-12



Engineering Science Quest presents "Superior Science," a hands on science program for children ages nine through twelve. The goal of this university student-run program is to explore new horizons in science by giving children an opportunity to see, touch, design and experiment in a variety of different fields of science.

This week-long adventure takes place on the Lakehead University campus allowing children to learn more about university life while conducting science experiments, building structures and using computers to learn about the Internet.

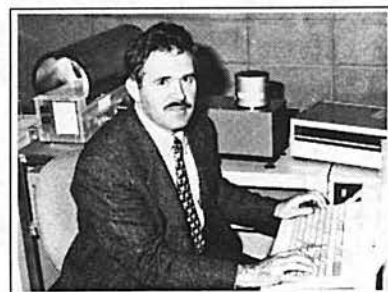
Enrolment is limited. Registration will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Program runs: August 9 -13 and August 16 - 20

Cost: \$100/week

Call toll-free to register 1-877-377-5437 and receive more information.

Graham Borradaile's Work Subject of a BBC Documentary



British public television will be filming a short documentary on a method for determining the age of re-orientation of rocks, developed by Dr. Graham Borradaile, a professor in the Department of Geology.

Filming is planned in Britain where Borradaile first calibrated the method using archeological monuments ranging from late Roman times (A.D. 300).

When ancient builders quarried and reoriented certain types of stone, the rock commenced remagnetization in the newly imposed direction of the geomagnetic field. The 'amount' of remagnetization acts as a clock, fixing the age of reorientation.

Borradaile then used the calibrated remagnetization scale to estimate the ages of some poorly documented medieval building phases to within 25 years. He was able also to prove that medieval builders had recycled Roman masonry, to reduce the costs involved in quarrying new stone.

BBC will also film in Cyprus where the studies are continuing in collaboration with the Department of Antiquities, and subsequently in the laboratory at Lakehead University.

"The archeological aspects of this work are merely applications, the main focus is to understand the mechanism by which rocks become magnetized," says Borradaile.

Until Borradaile's work, the longest "experiments" on magnetization took place in the laboratory over periods of hours or days, quite inadequate for extrapolation to geological times and processes.

The work is funded by NSERC.

Advanced Anatomy Course Offers Unique Learning Opportunity

by Kris Ketonen

Since the beginning of January, Lakehead students have had an exciting opportunity to take a close-up look at the human body. It comes courtesy of a new fourth-year half-course in Advanced Human Anatomy, created by Donna Newhouse, a sessional lecturer in the Department of Biology.

"The course is unique because it will revolve around two surgical observations, an autopsy observation, and surgeons putting on active lectures," said Newhouse.

"It's a much more involved course than the other anatomy course currently offered -- Biology 2020 (Human Anatomy) and the students who are admitted are topnotch."

The idea for the course came to her about a year ago, but it took time to transform that idea into an actual course.

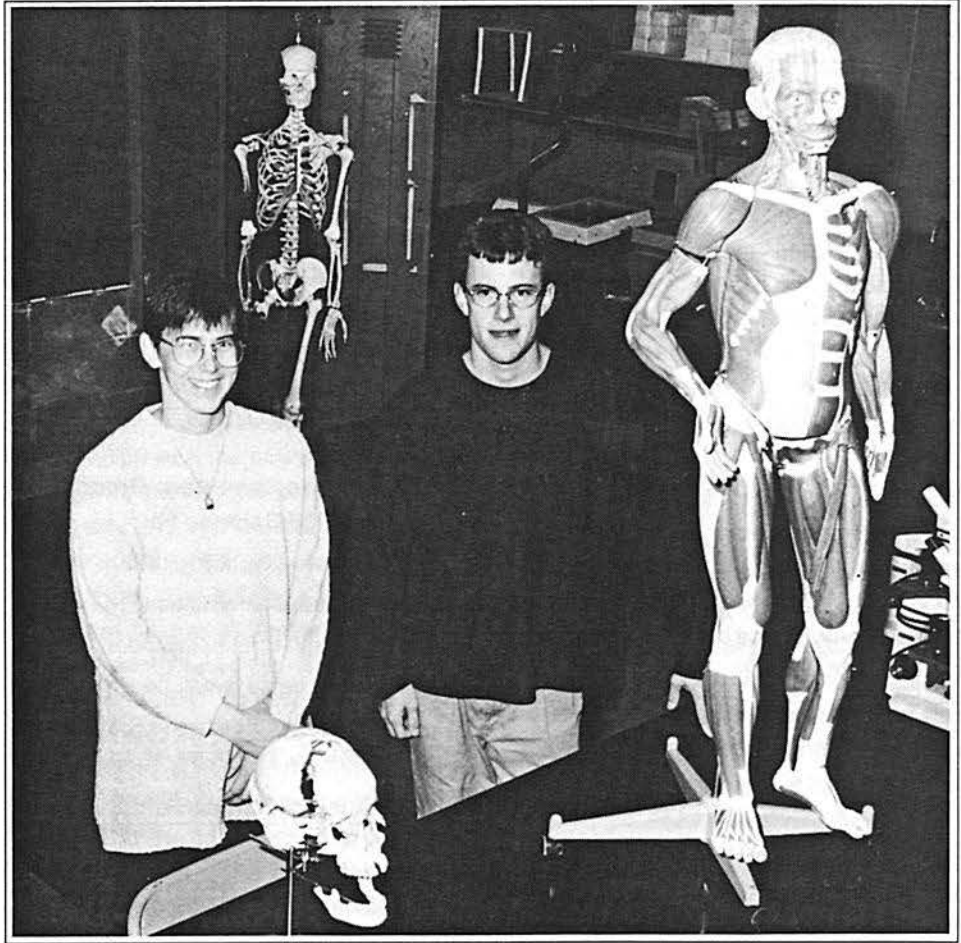
First, she had to make a presentation to both the School of Kinesiology and the Department of Biology as the course is hosted by both units. "I had to kind of sell it, but they liked the idea," said Newhouse.

When Lakehead approved the course last spring and the funding came through, the next step was to get the idea approved by the Hospital's Operating Room Committee (surgeons, nurse managers, physicians and hospital administrators).

The focus of the course is on all structures pertaining to regional anatomy such as the head, neck, back, and extremities.

"Students choose the surgeries they want to see and they go on their own," said Newhouse. "I get a list and post it as far in advance as I can."

Another interesting aspect comes with the autopsy viewing. Because autopsies obviously aren't scheduled and an opportunity to view one can appear with only a few hours notice, Newhouse and



Senior students like Aaron Bois (right) are being given the opportunity to witness surgeries at the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital thanks to the efforts of Donna Newhouse (left), a sessional lecturer in the Department of Biology

her class make use of a pager that the students take turns carrying.

Since the course came into official existence too late to be published in the University course calendar, all the advertising has been word of mouth. And the buzz is good, according to Newhouse. The maximum number of students allowed in the course is 20. Last fall, 24 students applied.

Academic standing and a paragraph outlining why they want to take the class were used to screen the applicants. And the work doesn't stop there.

Newhouse is tackling the material with a tremendous amount of respect and gratitude, and is making sure the students do the same.

"The workload is heavy," she said, adding that the students are required to submit a

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Anatomy continued from page 4

pre-surgery report three days prior to each surgical observation. The report is a formal paper outlining the related anatomy of the surgical procedures they are about to see. "It must be of 'A' quality," Newhouse pointed out. "If not, they won't go to see that surgery. I'm not going to send anyone in there that doesn't know their anatomy. I want them to be the second-most knowledgeable person in the O.R."

But the effort will pay off in the end according to Scott Kingston, a fourth-year Kinesiology student who acted as Newhouse's teaching assistant. He has had the opportunity to view both a surgery and an autopsy and says, "It's really invaluable when you consider that you're usually just looking at plastic models and books."

Aaron Bois and Jill Criscione, also fourth-year Kinesiology students, agree.

"It opened up a new perspective to what science has to offer. Textbooks only offer so much. Viewing a surgery has huge educational worth," Bois said.

"It gets you more into what real anatomy is," Criscione said. She stressed the value of the experience, especially to students who go on to study in the health sciences field.

As for Donna Newhouse, she is excited about her course and the fact that it was approved by both the University and the Hospital.

"One of the most interesting things," she says, "is that it comes at a time when the Thunder Bay Regional Hospital is making plans to construct a new hospital on 60 acres of land donated by the University.... This course may pave the way for other instructors to create similar kinds of learning opportunities for Lakehead students."

Kris Ketonen is one of several Lakehead students taking part in a student writing program sponsored by The Chronicle-Journal.



Civil Engineers Best in Mid-West Regional Championship

The civil engineering team of Joe Martino, Kristy Mattila, Scott Pattyson, Scott MacKenzie, Shaun Walker, Alan Jinks, Bill Mellanby, Dr. Tony Gillies (Faculty Advisor) and Kailash Bhatia (Shop Supervisor) captured first place overall at the 1999 Steel Bridge Competition.

The competition, hosted by the University of Iowa, challenged civil engineering students to an intercollegiate competition that included design, fabrication and construction. Participating students gained practical experience in structural design, fabrication processes, construction planning, organization and teamwork.

Lakehead University, the first Canadian team to win the annual competition, beat engineering teams from Iowa State; North Dakota State; South Dakota State; University of North Dakota; University of Wisconsin-Platteville; University of Minnesota and University of Iowa.

The scaled simulation bridge, which spans 17 feet and can withhold 2,700 pounds, was judged in the following award categories: Construction Speed, Economy, Stiffness, Efficiency and Aesthetics. The structure was required to meet standards for durability, constructibility, usability, strength and serviceability that reflect the volumes of regulations that govern the design and construction of full-scale bridges. Safety was the primary concern, as with actual construction projects. Winning the competition has qualified the students to enter the National Student Steel Bridge Competition in Anchorage, Alaska in May, 1999.

Sponsorship from the following local organizations and businesses helped make this accomplishment possible: Anchor Construction Industrial Products; Classic Gift and Tuck Shop; Coastal Steel Construction; HG Limo Services; Lakehead University Engineering Department; Lakehead University Student Union; Local Union 759; Mallon's Corporate Impressions; Payford Steel; Canadian Society of Civil Engineering (Lakehead University Student Chapter) and Thunder Bay Testing & Engineering. This talented team of graduating civil engineers is looking for more sponsorships from the community to enable them to represent Lakehead University in Alaska.

For more information, contact Dr. Tony Gillies, Department of Civil Engineering at 343-8755.

-- Jennifer Willanen, Communications and Institutional Analysis Assistant

Lakehead University -- March, 1999

Double Cohort: Worrisome Prospect

By Susan Bloch-Nevitte

The following article appeared in the January, 1999, issue of For the Record, a publication of the Council of Ontario Universities

Double cohort. Preface it with "decaf" and it sounds more like a new coffee, one that nonetheless is keeping a lot of people awake at night. A by-product of restructuring in the Ontario high school system, the double cohort results from the elimination of Grade 13 by the year 2003. An unprecedented surge in postsecondary applicants and enrolments could ensue as many of the last of the OAC students and the first of the Grade 12 students simultaneously come knocking on the doors of colleges and universities.

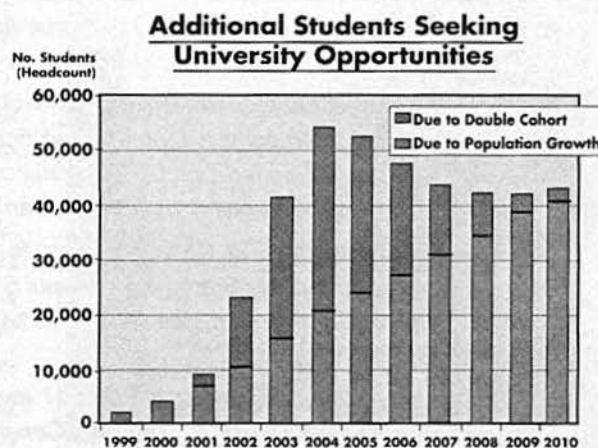
Making the brew even more potent is the fact that no one really knows yet what the numbers will be. Starting with next fall's crop of Ontario high schoolers, students can opt for the last of the five-year curriculum or an accelerated four-year program. Depending on what the students choose, the impact of the double cohort could be spread over several years or hit all at once.

In addition, students, parents, and teachers are being asked to get an earlier start on planning for life after high school. The Ontario government has introduced "streaming" into the high school curriculum, where core courses will have either an academic or applied focus in Grades 9 and 10 and a university, college or work focus in Grades 11 or 12. Both educational reforms are destined to have an impact on student participation levels in Ontario universities by the first years of the new millennium, but it's still unclear just how much.

The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) estimates that as many as 53,000 additional students could be seeking university opportunities by 2004 -- a figure which combines the double cohort and population growth among the 18-to-24 age group.

Demand for an Ontario postsecondary education could increase by as much as 53,000 spaces over current enrolment of 227,800

Figures based on projected demand for full-time enrolment



Assuming some sort of surge is just around the corner, the question facing postsecondary leaders and the provincial government is how the surge will be accommodated while protecting access and quality.

The Ministry of Education and Training has assembled a planning group to begin getting a handle on the numbers and strategies for coping with the double cohort. Representatives of the ministry, colleges, universities, the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario (ACAATO), and COU are meeting monthly and hope to have preliminary recommendations to the ministry by April 1999.

Among the issues they are exploring are enrolment patterns throughout the postsecondary system; institutional resource constraints including faculty, libraries, labs, and ancillary space such as sports facilities, the potential of distance learning and new information technologies; alternative class scheduling options such as weekends and expanded summer schools; and current and projected institutional capacity.

Robert Prichard, chair of COU and president of the University of Toronto, views the double cohort as an opportunity to create a legacy of reinvestment in the system. But he acknowledges the risk of the double cohort's being perceived as merely a temporary problem, one that merits only temporary attention.

"Temporary personnel, facilities, and support negate long-term planning and building on strengths," says Prof. Prichard. "We should have a strategic objective of using the double cohort as an occasion to invest in enhancing the quality of the university

experience across Ontario"

Ontario ranks dead last among the 10 provinces in university operating grants *per capita*. In Prof. Prichard's view, new funding based on the double cohort could substantially improve that ranking if the funding were to be permanent, regardless of whether enrolments retreats after the double cohort bulge passes through the postsecondary system. "During the peak period we would be preserving quality and then see a modest appreciation in quality through increased resources per student in the latter years," he says. "That would be a very desirable outcome."

Faculty renewal, already a priority at Ontario universities, assumes greater urgency in the

Cohort continued from page 6

face of the double cohort. COU estimates that thousands of new faculty will have to be hired just to keep pace with current enrolment. According to COU figures, the ratio of students to faculty has increased by 25 percent over the past decade. At a current ratio of 21 to 1, Ontario universities would need 2,400 new appointments just to restore the faculty complements to where it was a decade ago.

Prof. Prichard says that universities should be expanding their teaching complement over the next two to three years. "A delay in hiring until the onset of the double cohort will see demand outstrip the available supply of new faculty."

The ministry's working group will also have to grapple with an "echo" double cohort some two to four years after the enrolment bulge when universities can also expect increased demand for places in first-and second entry professional programs. Graduate and professional programs may not be top of mind yet within the double cohort working group, but universities with significant enrolments in postgraduate programs are expected to keep the issue alive.

While the double cohort is front and centre with the ministry, university leaders are also encouraging the government not to lose sight of the other important public policy objectives such as enhancement and maintenance of research infrastructure and support and effective mechanisms for student financial aid and debt reduction.

Prof. Prichard says Ontario's universities need the opportunity to develop their own responses to the new postsecondary environment. "In a differentiated university system with different combinations of quality and cost, a one-size-fits-all approach will not likely work well. Each university should be challenged to think systematically and strategically about how it might contribute on its terms to the challenges of the double cohort and longer-term demographic challenges."

Susan Bloch-Nevitte is the director of Public Affairs at the University of Toronto and a member of the Ontario Universities' Public Affairs Council.

Get the Facts

Ever wondered

How many Honours Bachelor Kinesiology degrees were issued in 1998?

Answer: 80

What percentage of the total student body is female?

Answer: 54%

What is the ratio between students and faculty at Lakehead?

Answer: 21.4:1 in 1997-98 compared to 16.9:1 in 1990

These facts and many others can be found in Lakehead University's **1998/99 Institutional Statistics Book** prepared by the Office of Institutional Analysis and distributed to Senators, Board Members and Departments.

And Speaking of Faculty ...

Lakehead University hired 21 new faculty for the 1998-99 academic year. Some have already been profiled in the *Agora* and others will be featured in future issues. In the meantime, here is a complete listing of the new faces on campus:

Don Auger, Assistant Professor, Indigenous Learning
Dr. Xiang Chen, Assistant Professor, Electrical Engineering
Dr. Glenn D. Colton, Assistant Professor, Music
John Colton, Assistant Professor, Outdoor Recreation, Parks & Tourism
Dr. Todd Dufresne, Assistant Professor, Philosophy
Dr. Stephen J. Hecnar, Assistant Professor, Biology
Colin Kelly, Lecturer, Forestry
Craig Law, Lecturer, Business Administration
Dr. Judith Leggatt, Assistant Professor, English
Dr. Deli Li, Assistant Professor, Mathematical Sciences
Zeng Lin, Assistant Professor, Education
Dr. Kefu Liu, Assistant Professor, Engineering (Mechanical)
Dr. William J. Montelpare, Associate Professor, Kinesiology
Alioune Ngom, Assistant Professor, Mathematical Sciences
Dr. Christopher Parkes, Assistant Professor, English
Dr. Bryan J. Poulin, Associate Professor, Business Administration
Dr. Gillian H. Siddall, Assistant Professor, English
Dr. Teresa Socha, Assistant Professor, Education
Dr. Sharon Stone, Assistant Professor, Sociology
Dr. Michael Stones, Professor, Psychology (NECAH)
David Tranter, Assistant Professor, Social Work

CIAU National Women's Basketball Championship

March 11,12,13 & 14

For tickets and information call 343-8213

Lakehead University -- March, 1999



In Memoriam
Dr. Gerd Schroeter
1940-1999

A memorial service was held at the Avila Centre in March to mourn the passing of Dr. Gerd Schroeter, a professor in the Department of Sociology, who died suddenly and unexpectedly during his sleep on February 10, 1999.

Dr. Schroeter was a respected scholar who enjoyed reflecting on key issues of his discipline and their connections to the problems of society.

Born into a Mennonite community near Gdansk, Poland, he emigrated to Canada in 1949, and settled in Winnipeg where he completed undergraduate studies before pursuing postgraduate studies in sociology at Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. There, in 1974, he obtained a PhD and joined the faculty at Lakehead University a year later.

Friends, relatives and colleagues speaking about his life recalled Schroeter as being a quiet, solitary man whose intellectual discourses were often peppered with acerbic witticisms and insights. He was a generous man who involved himself in the lives of his relatives and friends and supported their interests and activities.

Dr. Schroeter served Lakehead University as chair of the Department of Sociology, secretary of the Arts and Science Council, member of Senate, chair of the Senate Appeals Tribunal, and secretary and treasurer of the Lakehead University Faculty Association. His community activities included serving as secretary and treasurer of the Port Arthur NDP Riding Association, a member of the Board of the Thunder Bay Education Employees/ Credit Union and member of the Ontario Film Review Board.

22nd Annual Juried Student Exhibition

March 12- April 4, 1999
at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery
Opening and Awards Presentation:
Friday, March 12, 1999 at 7:30 p.m.

Department of Music
Lumina Concert Series
1998-99

March 16, 1999
Dominique Corbeil, violin;
Colin Mathews, cello;
Joy Fahrenbruck, piano
Concerts are held in the Jean McNulty Recital Hall, William H. Buset Centre for Music and Visual Arts at 12:30 p.m.

Public Lecture

March 23, 1999
Mark Murphy
Office of Environmental Commissioner of Ontario will speak on "Ontario's Environmental Bill of Rights"
2:30 p.m.
RC-2003

Alumni Curling Fundspiel

Friday, March 26, 1999
at the Port Arthur Curling Club
\$35 per person \$140 per team
Chinese Food Buffet. Cash Bar. Prizes
Open to all Alumni, Friends, Faculty and Staff. Space is limited. To register call Alumni Services at 343-8155.
Registration Deadline: March 19, 1999.

Agora

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Send us your news.
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