



Agora

Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada
April 1998, Vol. 15, No. 4
ISSN 0828-5225

A NEWSLETTER FOR LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY STAFF & FACULTY

Description	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September
1998 Projects									
Fire Alarm System Repairs									
Update 5 Yr Maintenance Plan									
C.B Elevators									
Health and Safety Bldg Inspection									
Library Renovations									
Kinesiology Renovations									
Convocations									

For Jim Podd, a sure sign of spring is the long list of maintenance projects that must be completed by Campus Development before the fall. This month he and nine other employees are marking their 30th year at Lakehead. Details on page 3.

Necessity is the Mother of Invention

When Dr. Claude D. Johnson and Dr. S. Ali Mirza wanted to test the strength of high performance concrete, they had two options: they could purchase an expensive grinder and prepare their concrete samples in the conventional way, or they could invent a new method.

Given the chronic shortage of research funds at Lakehead, they chose to invent an entirely new method and have since secured a U.S. and Canadian patent for their innovation.

"This is the first patent supported by the University that is a direct spin-off from basic research," says Dr. Connie Nelson, dean of graduate studies and research.

"It shows the importance of the relationship between basic research and its potential applications."

High performance concrete is valued both for its strength and durability. Ali Mirza cites the bridge connecting P.E.I. to the mainland as an example where high performance concrete has been used to withstand the effects of salt water and ice over a design life of 100 years.

Another use is in high-rise buildings. Structural columns made out of high performance concrete, he says, can be made smaller, resulting in more rentable space for their owners!

Yet Claude Johnson sees other applications beyond strength and durability -- economy and sustainability.

When you consider the life span of a project including maintenance and replacement costs, he says, structures built with high performance concrete result in more sustainable infrastructure. They also conserve on natural resources.

With their invention now patented in both the United States and Canada, Mirza and Johnson are hoping that an entrepreneur will come forward to negotiate a licensing agreement with Lakehead University.

The next stage for the inventors will involve further testing, manufacturing and marketing. -- F. Harding

**More on Lakehead's first patent on
Page 2.**

"A Simple but Effective Approach"

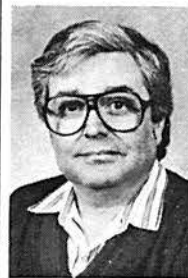
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IN MEMORIAM

On April 2, 1998, Lakehead mourned the passing of José de Cangas, Associate Professor of Nursing.

Obituary on page 3.



A Simple but Effective Approach

Lakehead marked an important milestone this year when a team led by Dr. Claude D. Johnson and Dr. S. Ali Mirza secured the University's first patent for a confined capping system for compressive strength testing of high performance concrete cylinders.



Photo:(r-l) Former Lakehead Engineering Technologists Edith Ramanathan and Eric Powell (not pictured above) assisted Dr. Ali Mirza and Dr. Claude Johnson with their innovation. Standing with them is Dr. Connie Nelson, dean of graduate studies and research.

Concrete cylinders are tested for strength by crushing each one in a large compression testing machine. When it comes to testing *high performance* concrete, however, the ends or "caps" of the cylinders must be stronger than the concrete below. If they are not, the caps will crumble before an accurate reading of the sample's strength can be taken.

One way of preparing a strong cap is to smooth-grind the sample ends using an expensive grinding machine. This method is both costly and time-consuming. Instead, Johnson and Mirza figured out a way to make the cap stronger.



They placed the sample on melted sulphur capping compound poured inside a metal confining ring. When this is done to both ends of the sample and the capping compound is allowed to harden, Presto! One high performance concrete cylinder with even stronger metal-ringed capped ends ready for testing.

Johnson and Mirza first published an article about their discovery in the *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering*, Vol.22, No.3, June 1995, pp 617-620. The article was used in the patent application. -- Frances Harding

CAMPUS NOTES

A New Graduate Award valued at \$6,000

Do you know a graduate student who is conducting research on issues related to Northwestern Ontario? If so, you should tell them about an award commencing in 1998-99 that is so new it is not yet listed in the University calendar.

The G. Bernard Weiler and M. Marcella Weiler Family LU 30th Anniversary Graduate Award of Merit will be awarded to one full-time thesis graduate student entering the first year of his/her master's program in any discipline who demonstrates high academic standing and financial need.

The intended area of thesis research must involve issues related to Northwestern Ontario. A one-page outline of the proposed research must be submitted with the Award Application. To receive the second instalment of this award the student must provide an updated research report approved by his/her thesis supervisor.

Upon completion, the student is required to submit four additional soft-bound copies of his/her thesis to the Development Office for distribution to the Weiler family and interested organizations in Northwestern Ontario.

The award was established by family, friends and colleagues in honour of the late G. Bernard Weiler, Q.C., former Fellow and Chancellor Emeritus of Lakehead University and his wife Marcella. For more information contact the Office of Graduate Studies and Research.



Third-year visual arts student Kelly Catton had an opportunity to speak with Edmonton printmaker/installation artist Lyndal Osborne about her sculpture when Osborne visited the campus in March.

Osborne was one of five artists to visit Lakehead this year thanks to funds provided by the Canada Council. The other artists were David Alexander, a painter from Saskatoon, Milly Ristvedt, a painter from Tamworth, Ontario, Nancy Paterson, a multimedia artist from Toronto, and Oliver Girling, a painter from Toronto.

EMPLOYEE SERVICE RECEPTION

Staff and faculty who were recognized at Lakehead's annual Employees Service Recognition reception on April 15 included:

20 Years of Service

Richard Berg	Associate Professor, Philosophy
Helen Bingham	Accounts Clerk, Finance
Graham Borradaile	Professor, Geology
Glen Broman	Programmer/Analyst, Re-Engineering
Karen Chivers	Library Assistant
Dave Christie	Assistant Director of Finance
Richard Clarke	Associate Professor, Forestry
Ernie Epp	Associate Professor, History
Allan Gilbert	Associate Professor/Chair, Chemical Engineering
Arlene Glavish	Library Assistant
Geoff Hill	Systems Programmer, CTCR
Sheila Hulina	Accounts Clerk, Finance
Bob Isotalo	Associate Professor, Business Administration
Louise Reccia	Library Clerk
Mike Richardson	Professor/Chair, English
Morna Toderash	Secretary, Business Administration
Dolores Wawia	Assistant Professor, Education
Gwen Wojda	Director, Part-Time Studies

30 Years of Service

George Anderson	Technician, Physics
Sharon Bjorklund	Bookstore Clerk
Dave Corbett	Technician, Chemistry
*John Griffith	Professor/Director, Mathematical Sciences
David Holah	Professor, Chemistry
Dave Kemp	Acting Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Alain Nabarra	Associate Professor, Languages
Gerry Phillips	Professor/Chair, Curriculum Years 1 & 2, Business Administration
Jim Podd	Director, Campus Development
Paul Satinder	Professor, Psychology
Judy Ward	Secretary, Human Resources

*Also retiring in 1998

Retirees

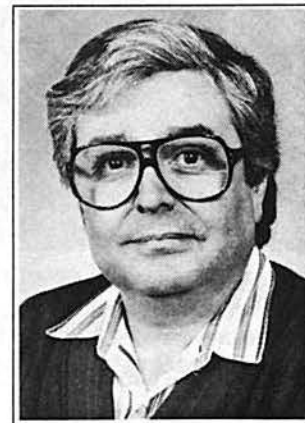
Lynn Barber	Cataloguing Librarian, Chancellor Paterson Library
Jolene Bohonis	Secretary, Forestry
Dan Crozier	Associate Professor, English
John Futhey	Assistant Professor, English
John Griffith	Professor/Chair, Mathematical Sciences
Boris Pantic	Professor, Electrical Engineering
Gerry Vervoort	Professor, Education/Mathematical Sciences

Lakehead Staff Win the Lottery

Switchboard operator Marie Ferguson summed it up nicely when speaking about her winnings. "It was not enough money to corrupt," she said, "but just enough to make life a little bit easier." She and eight others who work in the University Bookstore: Terri Clouthier, Terry Griffin, Karen Stecky, Kathy Webb, Helen Bilcowski, Lori Fleming, Cheryl Balacko, and Becky Hurley each won \$9,178.34 from the March 14 Lotto 649 draw. The lucky winners say they will use the money for "bills and renovations" and are grateful to Dave Christie for arranging the bank drafts!

IN MEMORIAM

Professor José de Cangas



The University community was deeply saddened by the death of Professor José de Cangas of the School of Nursing on March 29, 1998.

Professor de Cangas joined the School of Nursing in 1989, after completing a Master's degree in Nursing at the University of Edmonton. He previously served as the Director of Mental Health for the Government of Alberta and the Director of Nursing for Acute Psychiatry at the Alberta Hospital in Edmonton.

Concurrent to his professorship at Lakehead, he was a visiting professor to Universidad Autonoma de Madrid faculties of Psychology and Medical Department of Psychiatry. He established the first successful case management program for the severely mentally ill in Canada in Edmonton in the late 1980s, and directed a local adaptation of this program in Thunder Bay in 1991. This program continues to this day.

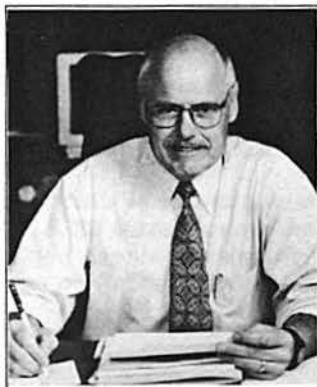
José was a wonderful gourmet chef, lover of wine, old movies and classical music. He is survived by his wife Helen Wann and his son Joachim. A service to mark his passing was held at the Avila Centre on April 2. We all grieve his passing. He will be sadly missed.

-- Professor Linda McKay

School of Nursing

An Update from the President

Dr. John Whitfield



Thunder Bay Community Development Partnership

A Community Development Partnership was established in May of 1997 and involves several organizations:

- ☐ Development Thunder Bay
- ☐ Thunder Bay Ventures
- ☐ Thunder Bay Chamber of Commerce
- ☐ Lakehead Social Planning Council
- ☐ Thunder Bay and District Labour Council
- ☐ Lakehead University
- ☐ Confederation College
- ☐ Municipality of Thunder Bay

The Partnership, which is open and welcoming to new partners, came together to work with City Council to move forward with the Community Development Strategy. This Strategy, which was developed over the past several years, has five streams:

- Forestry
- Diversified Economy
- Regional Leadership
- Community Infrastructure and Quality of Life
- Information Technology

There could be and should be more strategic directions.

In my view, it is essential that the University continues to play an integral and active role in the Partnership. The University provides strength and support in each of the five streams mentioned above. On the other hand, a strong and healthy community base is necessary to support a vibrant and healthy university.

The vision of the Partnership is:

Thunder Bay and Region will be an attractive and healthy environment in which to live, work and play through the maintenance and enhancement of economic and social support that define healthy communities.

Strategic Reinvestment in Ontario's Universities

The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) is calling upon the Government of Ontario to make a strategic re-investment in its universities. Ontario has the distinction of being the North American jurisdiction with the highest level of disinvestment from higher education with a 15% reduction. In view of the Government's announcement that there will be no increase in the 1998/99 transfer payments, COU is urging a one-time investment as part of the 1998 Spring Provincial Budget. Such a strategic reinvestment would:

- ☐ ensure that no qualified student is denied the opportunity of pursuing an education;
- ☐ facilitate the delivery of the highest quality education across a wide range of disciplines;
- ☐ enable our universities to attract and return the best minds to teach and research;
- ☐ position Ontario to lead the country in the generation of new ideas and the application of new technologies.

In Memoriam -- William R. Parks

William R. Parks passed away April 1, 1998. A longtime friend of Lakehead University, he will be greatly missed. Parks was elected to the University's Board of Governors in 1982 and served three consecutive terms completing his service in 1991. He was a member of several Board committees including the Executive Committee and Fund-Raising Committee each for five years. Parks was a forester by training and worked both as a professional forester and a public servant in Saskatchewan and Ontario. He served the community through his extensive volunteer activities. Our condolences are extended to his wife, children and grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM

Allan M. Becker

Family, friends and colleagues are deeply saddened at the untimely passing of Allan M. Becker in early April.

Becker was elected to the Lakehead University Board of Governors in 1995 and for the past three years was an active member of the Board's Audit Committee and Fund Raising Committee. He was also co-chair of the University's OSOTF Campaign Committee and instrumental in acquiring the leadership gift from Royal Bank for the *Share Our Northern Vision Campaign*.

Becker's 24-year career with Royal Bank of Canada started as an accountant trainee in Thamesford, Ontario. In 1989 he moved to Thunder Bay as Area Manager to supervise a group of branches. In 1992, he moved to London to oversee the branch network there as Area Manager. He joined head office in Toronto in 1995 as Vice-President, Implementation & Operations Support. Last year he joined the bank's Service Delivery group as Vice-President, Credit Granting, to lead a vital component of a major sales and service initiative.

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

by Dr. Jim Gellert,
Acting Vice-President (Academic)
and Chair, Strategic Plan Steering Committee

As was reported in the January issue of the *Agora*, an open meeting was held on January 27, 1998 in order to provide the University community with the opportunity to share information and ideas on the external environment affecting Ontario universities, as well as the implications of the system-wide environment for Lakehead. Professor Bonnie Patterson, Chair of COU and Interim President John Whitfield were on hand to lead discussion on the two areas noted.

On February 27, 1998, an all-day colloquium was held to begin the process of determining Lakehead's Mission Statement and the Strategic Area Working Groups which will provide the basis for the development of the new plan. The colloquium was attended by a cross-section of faculty, students, staff, administration and the Board of Governors, and was facilitated by Dr. Ken Brown from the Faculty of Forestry and Executive Director of Services Grant Walsh. After reviewing the history and development of Lakehead University, as well as the status of the 1992-98 Strategic Plan, the participants focused on a wide variety of perceived opportunities and obstacles facing Lakehead at the current stage of its development. The Strategic Plan Steering Committee views the colloquium as a constructive exercise in clarifying and articulating issues affecting the University community as a whole, and wishes to thank all those who participated.

As the Steering Committee ends its involvement in the development of the Strategic Plan, it will be releasing a report summarizing the information gathered to date, and it will be inviting further input from all constituencies across the institution. In addition, it has become evident that it will be essential that Lakehead's incoming President have a substantive role in the articulation of the University Mission Statement and be involved in defining the direction of the Strategic Plan itself. Accordingly, while information gathering and identification of strategic options will continue, the actual formulation of the plan will be delayed until a new President is appointed.

CAMPUS NOTES

International Workshop in Tokyo

Dr. John Naysmith, Professor Emeritus Forestry, co-chaired an International Workshop on Model Forests held in Tokyo, Japan, in March, 1998. Eighteen countries and six international non-government organizations participated in the Workshop which was hosted by the Government of Japan.

The Workshop explored an array of Model Forest issues in the context of a proposal to establish a global network of sustainable forest management pilot projects involving countries from every continent. For the past two years Naysmith has been actively engaged in work related to Canada's current network of 11 Model Forests. The proceedings of the Workshop are to be published this spring.

THANK YOU SCHOLARS AND DONORS



Aarvo Nuutinen, owner of Country Good Meats & Deli, gave a heartfelt speech on behalf of donors at the annual Scholars and Donors reception held in March.

Lakehead is the single most important factor in the survival of our community, he said. And he was happy to donate, especially when his gift last year was matched by the government of Ontario. "I just wish I could give more," he said.

Undergraduate student Marie Cappello and graduate student Smirti Agarwal said a few words on behalf of the students. Dusty Miller spoke on behalf of the Board of Governors.

Music students Michael Costa and Chedo Barone played guitar while students from the Department of Anthropology were on hand to answer questions about their display of the Department's research activity, paleoanthropology, DNA Lab, cultural anthropology, and archaeology.

Congratulations to Steve Elliot

The Faculty of Forestry's Class of '98 has chosen Steve Elliot to be the recipient of this year's Welbourne Educator's Award. The Welbourne Educator's Award, presented yearly by each graduating class at the Canadian Institute of Forestry Ring Ceremony, recognizes "excellence as a teacher to the students of the Faculty of Forestry through the period 1994-98."

CORRECTION

In the March '98 issue we reported that the Distinguished Instructor Award came with a \$3,500 cash award. In fact, it is now \$1,500. The award had to be decreased in recent years as a result of University-wide budget cuts.

Opportunities for Study in Finland

at the University of Lapland

by Dr. Kari Hakapää

University has always been "international." In the Middle Ages Finnish students and scholars travelled to the academic centres of Europe. However, at the time, academic studies were the privilege of only a few, and when the first Finnish university -- the Academy of Turku -- was established in the then Sweden-Finland in 1640, it was first and foremost a cradle for national culture. But, science knows no borders, and from the very beginning international contacts were vital.

Recent years have totally internationalized academic life. Increased contacts between faculty have resulted in unprecedented numbers of student exchange programs between the universities of different countries and continents. Today, Finnish students may pass part of their studies in foreign universities, and correspondingly foreign students may come to Finland for part of their studies. In a short time, studies abroad have become an opportunity within the reach of the student body at large.

This is the case also with my home University, the University of Lapland. The University of Lapland is the northernmost university in Finland, established in 1979 and having some 3,000 degree students in four faculties: law, social sciences, education, and art and design. For each of them, student and teacher exchange is an established activity. Exchange is conducted with universities both in Europe and elsewhere. There are extensive exchange programmes especially between the Nordic countries and between the membership of the European Union. In Finland, the exchange is also facilitated by extending government student allowances to studies abroad.

Geographical affinity has promoted cooperation between northern universities: they have established the Circumpolar Universities Association to strengthen mutual contacts and presently preparations are under way to launch the activities of a new "University of the Arctic," building on even closer cooperation between the existing universities in the area. The University of Lapland is also partner and European Chair to a recently established "North Consortium" promoting student exchange between four Canadian and four European institutions of higher education and funded by the EC/Canada Programme of Cooperation in Higher Education and Training. At the same time, the University of Lapland has advanced its northern contacts on a bilateral level, for instance, with universities in Canada, Japan, Russian Federation and the United States. In Canada, partners to such arrangements include Lakehead University, University of Northern British Columbia and Yukon College.

Student exchange has also reached fields such as law which previously took a primarily national character. Today, the relations of states are often regulated by international treaties while international cooperation also requires knowledge of foreign legal systems. At the University of Lapland, law students have been among

The University of Lapland seeks to develop itself into a distinctive institution of teaching and research with a significant international role, particularly as a seat of expertise on the North. As part of this objective, the University will endeavour to improve life and culture in northern Finland.

(University Mission Statement, 1989)

the most active to study abroad. In recent years, more than 30 law students have annually studied in foreign universities corresponding to more than 25 per cent of the annual intake of law students to the University of Lapland. Most of them have studied either in other Nordic universities or in British or other English-speaking universities but recently there has also been a growing interest in studies in France, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Student exchange is a two-way street. A university sending out students must also be prepared to welcome students from abroad. For Finnish universities (the total number of which is today 21) this poses a considerable challenge. It is obvious that not many foreign students may pursue studies in Finnish. To facilitate student exchange, the Finnish universities have developed study programs in foreign languages, particularly in English. Also at the University of Lapland courses are offered in English. Moreover, the Arctic Centre of the University of Lapland is running an international Arctic Studies Program covering various arctic themes in natural and social sciences as well as humanities and cultural studies.

But student exchange does not only mean studies abroad. It also means a possibility to leave the familiar home environment and to experience new surroundings, ways and customs. At its best it offers much more than lectures and exams in a foreign language; it also offers a chance to make new friends, to familiarize oneself with different cultures, and to build confidence in one's abilities to manage out in the world. Years back I was, myself, privileged to have that experience, and now as a visiting professor the experience is equally rewarding. Hopefully, the coming years will also see more students and teachers of Lakehead University visiting Lapland.

Dr. Kari Hakapää is a Professor of Public International Law at the University of Lapland and is the first person to hold the Ronald A. Ristimäki Chair in Finnish Studies at Lakehead University.

A Year Full of Changes

A Report on LUSU Accomplishments during 1997-98

by Michael Blower, LUSU President

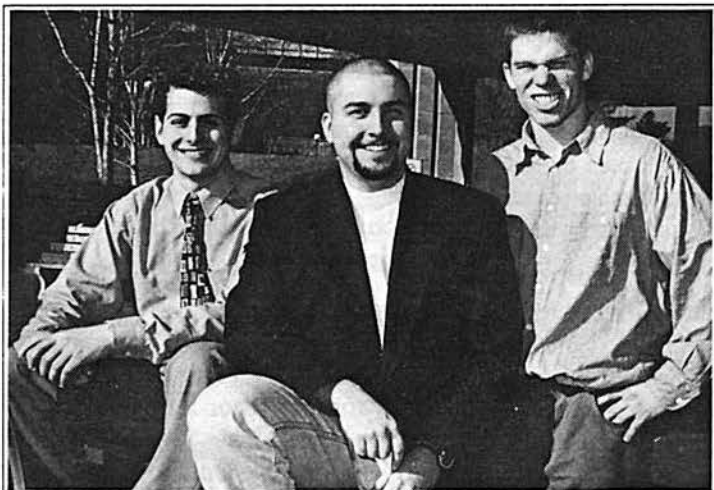
This past year in the Student Union has been quite eventful on every level of our operations, and we have seen great successes in all our initiatives. This was truly a year full of changes for the Student Union that I, along with Vice-President Finance Justin Tawil and Vice-President Student Issues Shawna Hickey, have worked hard to implement.

In the summer months we focused our energy on a general clean-up, and improvement to LUSU space. This began with the LUSU office, which saw the construction of a brand new board room to accommodate the numerous LUSU committees that meet on a regular basis. The effort to maximize the efficiency of our space began within the LUSU office and eventually spanned throughout the entire Student Centre.

The Gender Issues Centre was moved into a larger, newly renovated room to allow the Centre to accommodate its increased usage. This move gave birth to the new LUSU lounge, which is now fully equipped with cable TV as well as some vintage furnishings, thus providing a relaxing and comfortable meeting place for students.

Another large undertaking was the timeless issue of how to raise awareness of what LUSU is, and what we do for the students. This was accomplished by the creation of three large signs which are now displayed throughout the University. Each of these signs promote all of the services that the Student Union provides to the students.

As we rolled into September our initiatives were maintained at full force and the next area of focus was our Student Centre tunnels. We solicited a student artist, Stan Kalaska, to help us liven up the tunnel area. The result: an impressive depiction of art history stretching through the heart of the Student Centre. This still remains a work in progress, but is expected to be completed by midsummer.



Our Day of Action, in protest of the current provincial governments' initiatives, saw over 1,200 students circulating through the Agora.

The next target was the large meeting room located in UC 2020. Previously furnished with old broken tables and unstable chairs, UC 2020 has now been refurbished and is truly one of the most professional meeting rooms on campus.

All of our events experienced record-breaking student participation. Orientation was one of the most successful of its kind. The Shinerama campaign for Cystic Fibrosis had over 600 students involved. Our Day of Action, in protest of the current provincial government's initiatives, saw over 1,200 students circulating through the Agora, and those are only a few of the highlights. The most surprising, however, was our LUSU Executive elections which drew 25 per cent of the student body to the voting booths surpassing all other Canadian universities.

Aside from all of the new projects and events, the Lakehead University Student Union this year was forced to confront a somewhat grim issue; the Outpost facing serious financial difficulties. The entire LUSU/Outpost team was called upon to make some major changes to operations. We are pleased to report that we have seen an enormous turnaround in operations over the past year, and that the Outpost has achieved its break-even goal. We are confident that the efforts put forth by the Student Union and the Outpost management this year will indeed continue into a profitable future.

As this highly successful year is coming to a close I am looking forward to my second term in the office of LUSU president. In the coming year we will be continuing along many of the directions set this year as well as undertaking many new and exciting ventures. We are currently calling for faculty support in our efforts to reform the course evaluation system into a more useful format in which the results would be accessible by the student body. We are looking to broadcast an Events and Information Calendar over the currently existing televisions on campus, as well as to facilitate more student murals in our hallways -- just to mention a few.

I am very pleased with the direction that the Student Union has taken over the past year, and I am confident that this level of success will surely be exceeded in the year to come.

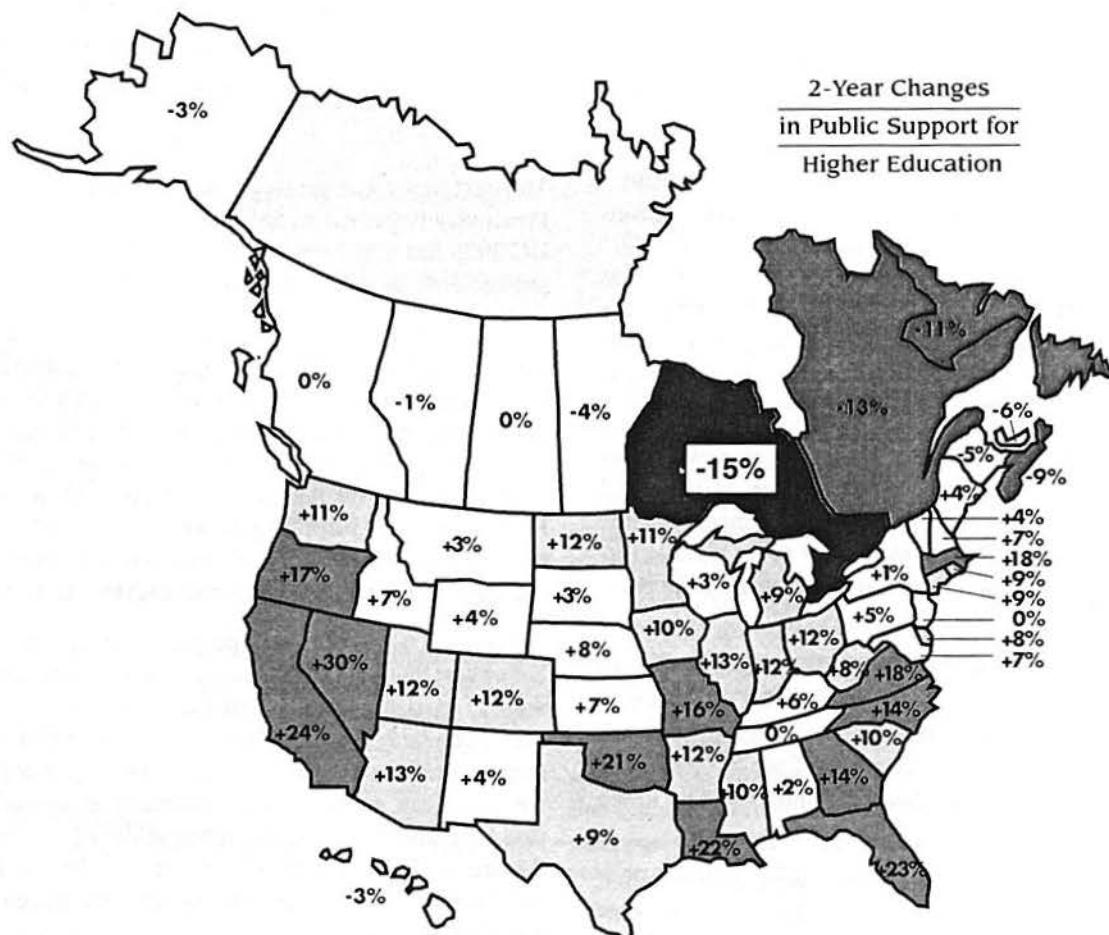
Meet the new LUSU Executive for 1998-99 (l-r): Vice-president Finance Eric McGoey, President Mike Blower (serving a second year) and Vice-president Student Issues, Mike Lyons

*This article
appeared in the
University of
Toronto Bulletin on
March 2, 1998*

Mapping It Out

Ontario universities are at the bottom of the North American funding scale

by Bonnie Patterson



On Nov. 19 Premier Mike Harris told a gathering of representatives from business, government and the university community. "We want Ontario to be the best jurisdiction in North America to live and work and invest in and to raise a family. A skilled and highly educated workforce is absolutely essential and central to our ability to be able to reach that goal."

It should be self-evident that the realization of this goal will be dependent on the strength of the Ontario government's partnership with its universities. The Council of Ontario Universities has developed a three-point plan to ensure that Ontario universities are able to fulfil the responsibility the premier sees for us as major contributors to our provinces's economic, so-

cial and cultural well-being and to ensure that Ontario will be the best jurisdiction in North America. The plan is included in our February 12 brief to the standing committee on finance and economic affairs, which was presented by President Robert Prichard of the University of Toronto (also chair of COU), President Paul Davenport of the University of Western Ontario and chair of COU's government and community relations committee and myself.

A key element of our plan is our call for a renewed public investment in excellence and accessibility. Unfortunately the province has consistently chosen to make fiscal decisions that have moved Ontario universities to the bottom of the North American funding scale. Today Ontario univer-

sities are 10th out of 10 among the provinces, making them the poorest funded on a per capita basis in the country. Comparisons with American universities are even more stark: the map above illustrates two-year changes to Canadian provincial grants and American state appropriations. One can readily see that Ontario universities have been dealt the hardest blow with a reduction of 15.3 per cent in provincial operating grants.

The province's cuts have occurred despite the recommendations of its government-appointed Advisory Panel on Future Directions for Postsecondary Education, chaired by David Smith. The Smith report strongly asserted that Ontario should fund its universities at the average for other

Mapping it Out continued from page 8

6TH ANNUAL CHEMICAL ENGINEERING CONFERENCE

March 21, 1998

Canadian provinces and be reasonably in line with government support of major public university systems in the United States. As with other publicly-funded sectors, the best measure of underfunding remains just such a comparison with the national average of provincial investment, one which enables the government to make informed decisions about reductions or, indeed, new investments. This measurement should also be an important benchmark for Ontario taxpayers, alerting them to the fact that, relative to other jurisdictions, fewer of our per capita tax dollars are invested in universities. By this measure, Ontario universities are underfunded by approximately \$500 million.

The staggering void left by this loss of hundreds of millions of dollars has been felt by every student in every Ontario university. Services, facilities and resources throughout our university campuses -- from learning resources such as those available through our university libraries to student support programs through to classroom and laboratory facilities -- have been negatively affected by the cuts. Our universities have also had to reduce faculty and staff to meet reduced budgets. Compared with 1990 levels there has been a province-wide reduction of 1,050 full-time faculty, despite an increase of 8,000 full-time students in that same time period.

Public investment in postsecondary education has been rapidly declining at a time when the need for higher education and knowledge-based industries is growing. Ensuring excellence in teaching, research and learning is the best way to help secure the future for our students and society at large. If it wants to achieve its own stated desires, the government of Ontario must increase its financial commitment by raising the funding of Ontario universities to the benchmark of the national average.

Bonnie Patterson is president of the Council of Ontario Universities.



Lakehead's annual Chemical Engineering Conference just keeps getting better and better.

This year 82 people registered in the conference which is organized by the Lakehead University Student Chapter of the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSCHE).

Registrants included students, alumni, practising engineers, community members, and representatives from industry and from the Northwestern Ontario Regional Cancer Research Centre. As well there were registrants coming from other departments on campus (Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering, NAPE and Social Work) and from local and regional high schools.

The morning session featured remarks by faculty advisor Dr. I. Nirdosh; student chapters representatives Kathy Strapac and Colin Gilbert; Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering Dr. Allan Gilbert; and President John Whitfield.

The rest of the session was devoted to technical presentations by students (Abebe Habte Gabre, Nathan Latour, Colette Lepage, Kristine Morgan and Walter Turek) covering a variety of topics such as pulp and paper, biomedical engineering, oil sands and process control.

The highlight of the afternoon session was the keynote address entitled "Life-long Learning, Continuous Professional Development" given by Maja Veljkovic, president of the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering.

The Conference allowed the Student Chapter members to interact with Veljkovic and the other participants as well as to build contacts and make friends. Evening activities included dinner at the Calabria Restaurant and a TBSO performance of *The Merry Widow*.

-- taken from a report on the Conference prepared by Dr. I. Nirdosh.

The Humanities and Social Sciences Federation of Canada has announced that the *Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities*, formerly known as the Learned Societies Conference, will be held May 27 to June 6, 1998 at the University of Ottawa. The Congress brings together some 7,000 researchers from across Canada with representation of over 1,000 participants from outside the country and from all five continents. <http://www.hssfc.ca>

FUND RAISING FOR ELECTRONIC ACCESS

by Frances Harding

If you are fortunate enough to own a laptop computer you can use the "wired" study carrels in the Library to access the Internet. But what if you don't have a computer?

"Then you're forced to spend a considerable amount of time doing research using print indexes," says Chief Librarian Anne Deighton, "and that's the problem we are trying to address."

In late March, Lakehead University launched a campaign to raise \$300,000 to improve electronic access in the Chancellor Paterson Library. The goal is to secure the hardware and software necessary to enable students to access the increasing amount of data now available through the Internet.

Lakehead's wish list includes 20 PCs (plus computer tables and chairs) for the Student Lab on the third floor; equipment to upgrade the Library's Automated Catalogue; as well as a variety of products to improve circulation, public access, and electronic resource management.

"Students expect a technologically proficient library; one that takes full advantage of the access to information provided by new technology," says Deighton. "At present, there are no computers available for students to view electronic journals or other paid Internet resources in the Library."

Currently, the Library maintains a print reserve and examination collection where high-demand items are signed out for a shorter loan period. In most cases, these print items must be viewed in the Library, one item at a time, during Library hours only. With a scanner, these items could be converted to electronic form and made available to students through the Internet. This would allow for greater access at any time of the day or night, from any location including residence.

Among the companies currently being approached for donations are the building suppliers and contractors involved in the renovations. To date the University has received nearly \$37,000 in gifts and pledges. If you would like to make a gift, please contact Anne Deighton at 343-8205.



A team of volunteers has joined faculty and staff to raise \$300,000 for Electronic Access in the Chancellor Paterson Library. Front row (l-r): Marv Detweiler, Manager, Northwestern Business Banking Centre, Royal Bank of Canada; Anne Deighton; Beverley Brucha, Chief Librarian, Thunder Bay Public Library; Dr. Mike Richardson. Back Row (l-r) Dr. John Whitfield; Bob Angell; Joe Logozzo, President, Iron Range Bus Lines; Fred McIntosh, former Lakehead Chief Librarian; Robert Paterson, N.M. Paterson and Sons; Brian MacIvor, Cheadle Johnson Shanks MacIvor; Rob Zuback. Absent: Margaret MacLean

CONSTRUCTION FOR THE FINAL PHASE OF RENOVATIONS BEGINS JUNE 8

The final phase of the renovations to The Chancellor Paterson Library is set to take place during this summer and will be completed by September. This Library renovations project began in 1993 and will end this summer with a completely remodelled library.

You can view the plans for the new main floor entrance in the Lobby Area of The Chancellor Paterson Library.

To prepare for the final phase of renovations to The Chancellor Paterson Library, there will be a number of moves over the next few months.

- * These service points and collections will move to the Ground Floor during renovations to the Main Floor:

Information Desk	CODOC Collection
Circulation Desk, Reserves	Reference Collection
Interlibrary Loans Office	Search Services Office
Online Catalogue terminals	ERL and Stand-Alone Workstations
Public Library Computer	FirstSearch Workstation
Current Contents Workstation	Photo Identification

- * The front doors of the Library will be closed once the Circulation Desk is moved to the Ground Floor. The Shipping and Receiving Doors will become the main entrance to the Library. Watch for announcements of this temporary change.
- * Periodicals will move from the Third Floor to the Second Floor as soon as examinations are completed. Current issues will be moved to the new Current Issues Reading Room by September.
- * Books A to L on the Ground Floor will move to the Third Floor.
- * Microforms will move from the Main Floor to the Second Floor during renovations to the Main Floor.

The Library will keep you informed of moves and changes with signs, posters and updates in this column.

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A WHOLE NEW SPECIES OF WORKSTATION.

NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO WRITERS WORKSHOP (NOWW)

Author Janis Rapoport will be in Thunder Bay to give a reading on Friday April 24 at 8 pm at Rumours Dining Room Confederation College. (Admission is free.) The next day, Saturday, April 25 from 10:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the Waverley Resource Library she will give a workshop titled "The Best Things I know About Writing" (\$10 for non-members, free to members).

Janis Rapoport, a creative writing instructor at the University of Toronto, has held writer-in-residence positions at several Canadian libraries, and has for many years been an avid promoter of Canadian literature. In recent years, she has been on the forefront of establishing ties between Canadian and Israeli writers and publishers, and is currently on the executive of the Writers Union of Canada.

NETNOTES

Maclean's website (www.macleans.ca) has a writer-in-electronic-residence program to link online readers with Canadian writers.

Each month, a different writer presides (poet Susan Musgrave was the first), initiating weekly topics for online discussion, short essays and/or opinions on literary issues. Writers to follow in coming months include Richard van Camp, Ann Ireland, Leon Rooke, Andrew Pyper, Robert J. Sawyer, Howard Engel, Austin Clarke and Eden Robinson. Behind it all is Writers in Electronic Residence (WIER), a program in which Canadian authors use the Internet to connect to students at all levels in writing classes and libraries across Canada. Working online from their homes, the authors critique writing and make suggestions for further reading to students and teachers in schools across the country. WIER's own website is at www.edu.yorku.ca/WIERHome.html

The Agora
is published on the 15th of
every month.
We encourage you to send in your
news. Deadline for the May issue is
May 6, 1998

MEMBERSHIPS TO THE C.J. SANDERS FIELDHOUSE

Although the main gym and the track will be the only facilities available from April 27 to August 30, 1998, memberships for full-time faculty, staff and their families will be available May 1, 1998.

As of May 1, 1998, only full-time faculty and staff of Lakehead University are entitled to free memberships.

Proper Lakehead identification indicating full-time status will be required to obtain a membership.

For further information
call Sharon Kozak at 343-8213.



Mark your calendar

for the following

OSOTF DRESS DOWN DAY

May 8, 1998

THE CHANCELLOR PATERSON LIBRARY

Extended hours will apply from March 13 until April 23, 1998

Monday to Thursday

8 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Friday

8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Saturday

10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Sunday

12 noon to 11:30 p.m.

Note: Friday, April 24, the Library will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

INSTRUCTIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

May 5-6, 1998

Regional Centre Room 2003

For information contact

Ken Brown

Instructional Development Advisor

343-8114

Agora

April 1998

Vol. 15, No. 4

Agora is published by the Information Office of the Department of Student Services and Community Relations. The newsletter is distributed monthly (except for July and August) to faculty, staff and friends of Lakehead University.

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Community Relations:

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Printing: LU Print Shop

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