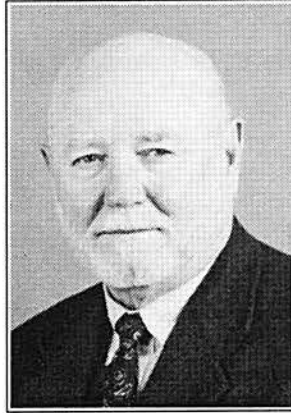


Agora

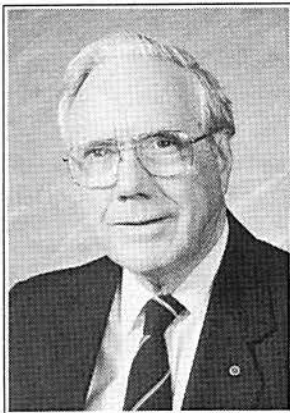
A Newsletter for Faculty and Staff



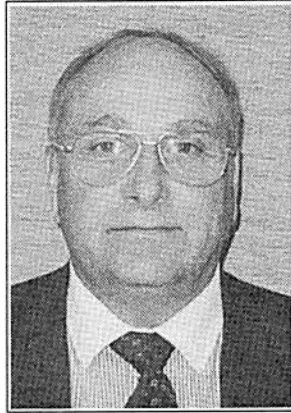
Carol Shields



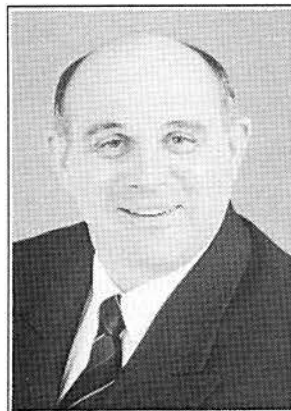
Dr. Jack Thomas



Dr. Jim Colquhoun



Tony Seuret



Peter Prior

Two to Receive Honorary Degrees at Convocation

Saturday, May 26th

by Frances Harding

A Pulitzer prize-winning author and a renowned wildlife biologist will receive Honorary Degrees from Lakehead University on Saturday, May 26 at the Community Auditorium.

Carol Shields, the author of *The Stone Diaries* and other novels, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree during the morning Convocation ceremony which begins at 9:00 a.m. Her address to the graduating class will be delivered by her daughter Catherine Shields.

Dr. Jack Thomas, former chief of the U.S. Forest Service, wildlife biologist, and author based at the University of Montana, will receive an Honorary Doctor of Science degree during the afternoon ceremony beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Two community leaders will have the title 'Fellow of Lakehead University' conferred upon them. During the morning, the title will be awarded to Dr. Jim Colquhoun, a physician and teacher who taught in the Northern Ontario Medical Program up until 1990 and served on the Lakehead University Board of Governors for 14 years, including two years as chair.

During the afternoon, the same title will be awarded to Tony Seuret, vice-president and general manager of Thunder Bay Television and a former professor of Business Administration at Lakehead University, who served on the Board of Governors for 16 years, including two years as chair.

The Alumni Honour Award will be given to Peter Prior (Bus.Dip.'70), managing director and vice-president, national operations, of BMO Nesbitt Burns. Peter Prior is a member of the Lakehead University Foundation, actively raising funds for the construction of the Advanced Technology and Academic Centre.

For more information contact the Office of the Registrar.

From the President's Desk

Much has happened since my last message in the *Agora*. The Nortel Networks/Bell Canada agreement was finally announced and the IP telephony component is being installed. The provincial government has committed to a northern medical school and the NORMS Liaison Council has been preparing a process proposal for implementation. The Lakehead representatives on the Council, John Whitfield, John Augustine, Blair Schoales and Jim Kraemer, are to be commended along with their colleagues in Sudbury for their efforts. Bill McCready, chair of NOMP, has rejoined the Council. Bill was a member of the George Expert Panel and could not participate on Council during that appointment because of the conflict of interest involved.

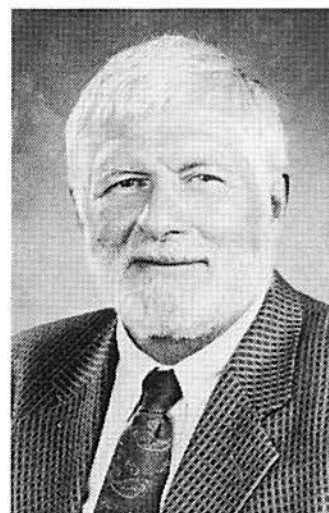
The provincial budget contained significant news for the post-secondary education sector. The government has committed to full cost funding for growth in the universities and colleges through 2003/04. It has made additional funds available for facilities renewal and increased the northern grant by 10 per cent. However, our primary issue of unfunded students has not been resolved and unless it is in next year's budget, with the balanced budget requirement Lakehead University will be unable to meet its current obligations. While I will continue to make the case for our University, we must be prepared to deal with the consequences of current policy decisions. It is true that growth at Lakehead will be funded and so recruitment and retention become even more critical elements of self determination. We will continue to position the University for revenue generation resulting from joint venture and development opportunities. The

bottom line is that we must find ways not only to balance the budget but also to pay down the accumulated debt. Until the Ministry of Finance acknowledges the inequities that exist within the university system and addresses them, it will constrain Lakehead's ability to foster economic development in the region through its academic activities.

To summarize: in 2001/02, Lakehead University's budget is achievable; planning for the 2002/03 budget must acknowledge both the balanced budget requirement and possible continued lack of support for our unfunded BIU's; and there will be every effort made to convince government of Lakehead's special circumstances. I remain optimistic that the case can be made. The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities fully appreciates our situation and tried very hard to convince Finance as well as Management Board to fund the unfunded BIU's. The message of the unfairness of the current funding policy must be persistent and clear. Every one of us has to impress this on government whenever there is an opportunity.

Annual events that have recently taken place reinforced the importance of the people of Lakehead University and the long-term commitments they have made to the institution. Both the Service Awards' Reception and the Quarter-Century Club Dinner are testament to the strong attachment that individuals have with the University. It is always a pleasure to recognize such long-term dedication.

Another Convocation is almost upon us and, although a joyous occasion, this year will mark John Whitfield's last Convocation as a member of the administration. John will be appropriately honoured at a special



by
Dr. Frederick F. Gilbert
President

retirement party on Friday, May 25, but I want to thank him for his fine service to this University and for the wisdom and understanding he has brought to the Administrative Executive Committee and his most recent role as vice-president (research and development). John is a dedicated, principled and kind person whose counsel will be missed at AEC. I thank him for all that he has done for Lakehead University and for the assistance that he has provided me these past three years.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the Advanced Technology and Academic Centre will take place next month. This will signal the start of construction and a fundamental change in traffic circulation on campus. As we move to implement the recommendations of a study on vehicular and pedestrian traffic, Lakehead should become a safer and more pedestrian-friendly environment.

So, while we continue to face fiscal challenges, the University is moving ahead on many fronts. We expect many more positive events in the months ahead.

Prostate Cancer Research

The Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Canada has awarded funds to a group of scientists at the Northwestern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre and Lakehead University. The aim of the project is to study damages to a subset of genes in cells of the prostate as a potential early detection method.

Dr. Bob Thayer (Kinesiology) is part of a research team that includes Dr. Sunil Gulavita (Radiation Oncologist), Dr. John Th'ng (Research Scientist), and Dr. Mamdouh Abdel-Malak (Urologist).

Employment Rates Better Than Average

The results of the recent University Graduate Employment Rate Survey show that Lakehead University's 1998 graduates have performed better than the provincial average of university graduates in terms of employment. Lakehead placed second in the province in the six-month employment rate for 1998 graduates.

The survey measures the employment rate of students employed or looking for work six months after graduation and two years after graduation. It focuses on the employment rate of students employed or looking for work, as opposed to students who are continuing their education or are out of the work force for personal reasons.

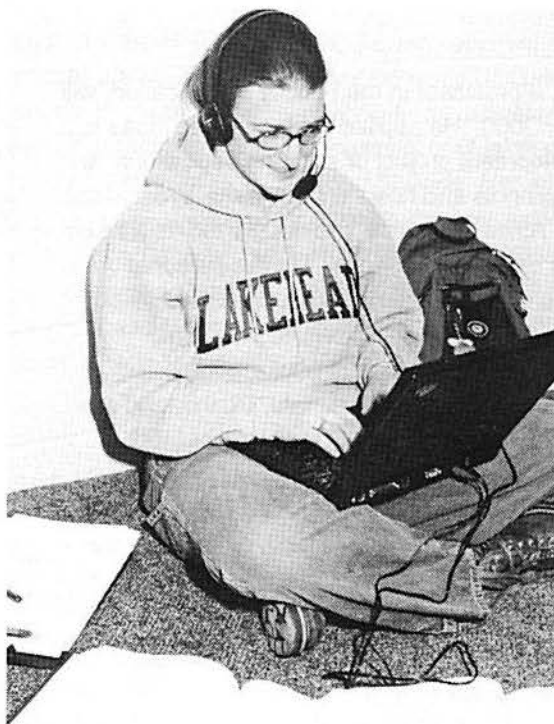
At six months, 95.9 per cent of Lakehead graduates were employed versus 94.6 per cent for the system overall. At two years, 97.3 per cent of Lakehead graduates were employed. The provincial average for the two-year mark was 97.2 per cent.

LUSU President Re-elected

Jeremy Salter will serve another year as LUSU president. Joining him on the executive for 2001-02 is Dan Mackie, vice president finance and Jen Keystone, vice president student issues. Eric McGoeay will serve as editor of *The Argus*.

Achieving Convergence

Emerging Technologies



"Lakehead University is the first learning institution in North America to adopt IP telephony on such a vast scale."

— Terry Mosey, President, Bell Canada (Ontario)

On March 20, 2001, Lakehead University announced an innovative partnership with Nortel Networks and Bell Canada that will see the campus become the site of the largest installation of voice-over Internet protocol (VoIP) telephony in North America and an important regional training centre.

The new system builds on Lakehead's existing communications infrastructure, migrating it to an IP-based infrastructure. The new, converged network, including 2,100 IP phones, totally integrates Lakehead's voice and data information into one common network. Users will be able to effectively collaborate on research, work together on projects and talk on the telephone through their computers (software-based PC phone); regardless of whether they're in a laboratory, an office or a dormitory.

What does this agreement do for Lakehead?

As a partner with Bell and Nortel, Lakehead will be an integral player in the on-going research, training, development and marketing associated with Internet protocol communications technology. As a result, Lakehead University will be at the forefront of communications technology providing its students, faculty and staff with a distinct advantage over those at other institutions.

The African Millennium Box Project

The Little Donation that Grew and Grew

by Nancy Angus, Co-ordinator, Communications and Public Affairs

Dr. Douglas Thom, a professor in the Faculty of Education, will remember the year 2000. He applied his leadership ideas to a research and development project of shipping educational and medical goods to schools and hospitals in Ghana, West Africa, and Uganda, East Africa. His "little" project started as a box of books to donate to schools in Uganda. Thom's personal venture to mark the Year 2000 grew from a one box donation to boxes weighing in at a total of 30 tons. His African Millennium Box project sent 10 tons of books, computer equipment, and medical supplies to Tamale, Ghana, and saw 20 tons of the same plus hospital equipment successfully arrive in Kampala, Uganda. People and organizations locally, provincially, nationally and worldwide assisted with the effort which before it was over, involved all of land, air and sea travel via three routes.

The origin of the project was in 1996 when Thom, whose teaching areas of expertise include educational administration, leadership, and finance, spoke at a conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. At the conference, a colleague from Uganda asked him if he might be able to help the Ugandan schools. They kept in touch over the years and in November, 1999, Thom put a box outside his Lakehead University office inviting students and faculty to drop off donations of books. "Around that same time, I read a feature article in *Newsweek*. It was called *The Plague Years* and reading about the devastation of AIDS and wars on the African people, especially the children, had a profound impact on me," said Thom. "I knew that I could collect books and more. To my surprise, people started calling me. School boards had used computers, hospitals were replacing some of their aging equipment, and many organizations wanted to make sure supplies, equipment, and books found a new life somewhere else. I had also learned that the donated material had to be in working order for Africa so we spent considerable time ensuring the computers and the hospital equipment were operable."

Getting the donations was one thing but transporting them proved to be a tale of adventure with risk, serendipity, and some anxious moments. Initially, goods were flown by Air Canada on a route from Thunder Bay to Washington, DC, and then by Ethiopian Airlines across the Atlantic to Uganda. Then, transport companies donated their services to truck goods from Thunder Bay to Toronto. Once in Toronto, goods were prepared for travel on two other routes. Air Canada flew



Many people on campus helped Dr. Doug Thom (right) with his Millennium Project including (l-r): Stan Nemec, manager of printing and mail services; Frank Sebesta, supervisor, administrative services/circulation, Chancellor Paterson Library; Dawn Oldford, a graduate student in the Faculty of Education; and Roland Morais, security

the Ghanaian donation to Heathrow Airport, UK, where it was taken across the English Channel to the Netherlands and loaded onto a container ship and transported down the west coast of Africa to Ghana. Other goods were loaded on a container ship at the Toronto dockyards and transported up the St. Lawrence River over to the Mediterranean and down the east coast of Africa to Uganda.

There were potential roadblocks: getting through customs; airline strikes; airport storage fees; goods never getting to the children they were intended for; corruption along the route; and international intrigue. Some interesting characters were involved — example, Sintaro. "At one point, part of the project was put into the hands of Sintaro, a Ghanaian based in Australia who routinely works with airport and container ship officials. Sintaro and I kept up an e-mail correspondence. It was challenging for me not to be able to oversee the whole operation -- I had to rely on Sintaro and his crew," said Dr. Thom, "but once the goods made it to Ghana and his role was completed, this person exited as mysteriously as he had entered the scene."

continued on page 5

Box Project continued from page 4

Doug Thom learned a great deal throughout the year 2000. He learned patience and the feeling of frustration that you can never do enough to help others. But he believes that people can make a difference. His team's example of perseverance and staying focused on the goal are qualities that we all can all learn from in this new year, a new century and a new millennium.

Editor's Note:

Dr. Doug Thom has recently been asked to become involved in a project similar to his African one with respect to helping poor schools in China. To discuss the matter further this month, he is travelling to London, England, where the Dr. Douglas John Thom Collection of Scholarly Works is housed.

Many people contributed to The African Millennium Box Project including:

Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board, universities, publishers, hospitals and community health units, City of Thunder Bay, Air Canada, Ethiopian Airlines,

Courtesy Freight Systems, Erb Transport Limited, the Wing Group, Bowater, Dagbon Network, the Sisters of St. Joseph, the Friends of Makerere, the Uganda Council for Educational Administration,

Latif Abdul-Rahman, Jim Arnot, Professor Emeritus David Bates, Justin and Paul BeauParlant, David Belrose, John Bonofiglio, Mary Boyer, Aldina DaRosa, Andrew Douglas, John Gourley,

Dr. Jim Haines, Craig Hardy, Becky Hurley, John Hutton, Tania Killian, Dr. Daniel Klassen, Elsie Klassen, Dr. Zeng Lin, Roland Morais, Stan Nemec, Dawn Oldford, Dr. Julia O'Sullivan, Dr. Medhat Rahim,

Dr. Fentey Scott, Frank Sebesta, Joan Seeley, Dr. Teresa Socha, Eydie Stewart, Professor Linda Strey, Dr. Bob Sweet, Susan Thom, Wes Thom,

Dr. Marta Vargas, Professor Dolores Wawia, Sheila Wilson, and members of senior administration of Lakehead University.

Research

Lakehead is pleased to announce the nomination of the three Canada Research Chairs.

The Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program was established by the Government of Canada to foster world-class centres of research excellence in the global, knowledge-based economy.

Lakehead's nominees will be assessed by a College of Reviewers in Ottawa. If accepted, they will be named Canada Research Chairs and Lakehead University will be granted funds to support their research programs.

NSERC Tier I Canada Research Chair Nominee: Dr. Ellie E. Prepas

Dr. Prepas received her PhD from the University of Toronto in 1980 and is presently a professor (Limnology) at the University of Alberta in the Department of Biological Sciences. Prepas' research focus is sustainable water management where she brings over 20 years of experience on the Boreal Plain. One of her goals is to extend this research to the Boreal Shield and landscapes to the south in Ontario and Quebec.

NSERC Tier II Canada Research Chair Nominee: Dr. Lionel Catalan

Dr. Catalan received his PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Waterloo in 1993. Before joining Lakehead University as an assistant professor in November 1999, he acquired five-and-a-half years of extensive industrial and research experience as a project leader and a scientist with the Noranda Technology Centre in Point-Claire, Quebec. Dr. Catalan's expertise and research interests focus on waste management related to the mining, metallurgical, and petroleum industries and the subsequent environmental impacts created by such industries.

NSERC Tier II Canada Research Chair Nominee: Dr. Heidi Schraft

Dr. Schraft received her Dr. med. vet. at the University of Zurich in 1991. She is currently an assistant professor at the University of Guelph in the Department of Food Science. Her work in molecular food biology involves molecular microbiology work aimed at sustaining and improving the safety of our food supply. Her research activities are concentrated primarily in three areas: a) biofilm formation by foodborne microorganisms, b) cold-adaptation of Bacillus cereus and other foodborne pathogens and c) molecular techniques for detection, typing and ecological studies of bacteria.

Letters

I want to congratulate Erik Knutson on his article in the February issue concerning the Maclean's rankings.

I am a graduate of three universities, the University of British Columbia, the University of Toronto, and the University of London (England). I taught part-time in the graduate schools of UBC and McGill University and was a full-time faculty member at the University of Saskatchewan and Lakehead University and was also a Fellow at the University of Minnesota in the USA. I can say unequivocally that the Lakehead MA is equal to that of any university I was associated with and that goes for the undergrad program too.

-- Hugh McLeod, Prof. Emeritus of Psychology

To all friends and colleagues, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the special part each of you played in saying *Auf Wiedersehen*. Thank you to everyone who took the time to offer warm good wishes.

-- Bev Stefureak, Assistant Secretary, Governing Council, U of T



From Canaries to Black-billed Cuckoos

A Profile of Biologist Dr. Janice Hughes

by Carrie Gibbons

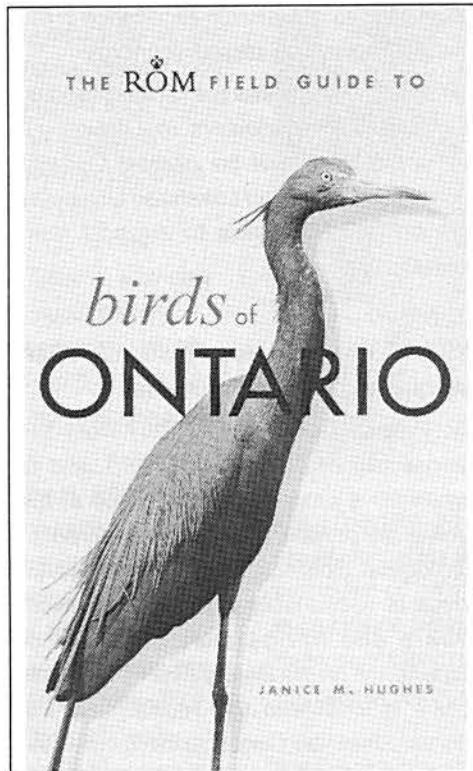


How do you raise your child to be a biologist? Although Dr. Janice Hughes acknowledges that there were many influences that directed her

interests to the field of biology, one of the first was her father. "My father was always very much into science. He never told me bedtime stories; he used to teach me about continental drift and about Charles Darwin." Obviously these unconventional childhood tales had an impact, for in September 2000 she joined the faculty at Lakehead University and now works as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology and in the Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment.

Hughes studied image arts at Ryerson Polytechnic in Toronto and was self employed as an architectural and industrial photographer when her husband gave her a pet Canary. The little bird changed her life. "I found this Canary so interesting that it dawned on me that maybe I should go back to school." After taking her first university course, Hughes knew she wanted an academic career and finished her undergraduate honours degree in ecology and environmental biology at the University of Toronto in two-and-a-half years. "I skipped my master's degree and applied directly to the PhD program at the University of Toronto."

Where do birds come into all of this? Besides the infamous Canary, her interest was encouraged during her undergraduate years and later at the



graduate level where her advisor, Dr. J. C. Barlow, was the curator of birds at the Royal Ontario Museum. Hughes completed her doctoral dissertation on the evolution of brood parasitism in New World Cuckoos. (Brood parasitism is the fascinating process whereby an adult Cuckoo lays its egg in the nest of another bird. When the egg hatches, the Cuckoo offspring kills the host chicks and is subsequently raised by the host parent.)

Dr. Hughes continued on at the Royal Ontario Museum as an NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow and Research Associate where, along with field work in Canada and the United States, she did research in the molecular systematics laboratory. One of her many projects was on the phylogenetic classification of the

Hoatzin which "was considered one of the most vexing problems in avian systematics for 200 years." The Hoatzin had been deemed most closely related to the Cuckoos, but Hughes was not convinced of this position. She examined numerous bird species, very long DNA sequences (5,487 nucleotide base pairs) from both mitochondrial and nuclear genomes, and appropriate models of molecular evolution determined empirically using computer software created for this purpose. She concluded that this rather strange South American bird should *not* be classified among the Cuckoos or Galliformes (fowl-like birds). It was instead most similar to the Turacos, a bird family from sub-Saharan Africa.

Janice Hughes is the author of the Royal Ontario Museum's *Guide to the Birds of Ontario* published by McClelland and Stewart. She says researching and writing about more than 350 birds was one of the best parts of this project: "We're lucky in Ontario because we're centrally located in the continent and because of the Great Lakes there is a huge diversity of birds here, far more that you would otherwise think."

In terms of the future direction for her own research at Lakehead, Hughes would like to start a long-term study of the Black-billed Cuckoo found in this region.

"What a lot of people don't know is that there are Cuckoos up here. We really don't know much about it. There are a couple of little papers where someone has observed three or four nests, but nobody has devoted their life to it."

The location of Lakehead University will certainly give Janice Hughes the opportunity to do just that. "Being able to have a field population five miles down the road is such a good opportunity. One of the best things that Lakehead has to offer is outside the window -- my Black-bills are out there; the forest is out there."

Carrie Gibbons is one of many students taking part in SPARK, a student writing program at Lakehead funded by The Chronicle-Journal

Dr. Reino Pulkki

Appointed

Dean of the

Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment

After a nation-wide search, Lakehead University has selected Dr. Reino Pulkki to be dean of the Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment.

Reino Pulkki is a graduate of Lakehead University (BScF'78) who continued his education at the University of Helsinki (MScF'80, LicScF'82, DrScFor '85) in Finland.

A member of the Lakehead faculty since 1987, Pulkki has a distinguished record of service to the University and to the forestry industry.

He is currently chair of the Canadian Woodlands Forum, Central Branch, a member of the Advisory Committee of the Central Woodlands Magazine, a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of Forest Engineering*, and a member of the Board of Examiners of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association.

His awards include the Logging and Sawmilling Journal Award for the best English paper delivered at a Canadian Pulp & Paper Association Woodlands Section Branch Meeting (1997), the W.A.E. Peplar Award for the best paper of the current year on improving the utilization of wood (1989), and the Canadian Institute of Forestry Gold Medal (1978). He has also been named as an honorary foreign member of the Finnish Society of Forest Science, and recently was appointed a visiting professor in forest science (forest engineering) at the University of Stellenbosch, in South Africa.

Pulkki sees a number of challenges and opportunities ahead. In a recent presentation at the annual meeting of the Northwestern Ontario Section of the Canadian Institute of Forestry, he spoke about the need to improve public awareness of how sustainable forest management is practised now and how it must be practised in the future.

Pulkki would like to see Lakehead make better use of innovative and effective methods for developing student skills and to further develop partnerships to help in the delivery of programs.

"Graduate training in forestry is critical to develop the research potential of the country. To be able to have our full impact we must develop a PhD program in forestry," he says.

Pulkki succeeds Dr. David Euler who retired from Lakehead University in December.



Congratulations

The following professors will be awarded the title Professor Emeritus/Professor Emerita at Convocation:

Prof. Frederick Anderson

Professor Emeritus of Economics

Prof. Harry Elmslie

Professor Emeritus of Business Administration

Dr. Minoru Hasegawa

Professor Emeritus of Computer Science

Prof. Lillian Hoffman

Professor Emerita of Nursing

Dr. Claude Johnson

Professor Emeritus of Civil Engineering

Dr. Brian Phillips

Professor Emeritus of Geography

Dr. Douglas Rabb

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy

Dr. Paul Satinder

Professor Emeritus of Psychology

Dr. Edson Setliff

Professor Emeritus of Forestry

Dr. Neil Weir

Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

Dr. John Whitfield

Professor Emeritus of Mathematical Sciences

Leaders of the Pack

For the second consecutive year, Lakehead awarded its highest honour to the same two students athletes.

Runner Ria Dinning picked up the title of Female Athlete of the Year, while runner and wrestler Aaron Coutts was awarded the title Male Athlete of the Year.

Both varsity athletes are Academic All Canadians -- that is, they maintained an average of 80 per cent while taking part in varsity sports.

This year, Lakehead University had 14 Academic All Canadians.



Farewell Dinner for Dr. John Whitfield

Lakehead University will bid farewell to its vice-president (research and development) at a Farewell Dinner in the Faculty Lounge on Friday, May 25, 2001. Whitfield, who joined Lakehead in 1965 as an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics, is retiring on June 30.

At the Employee Service Recognition Reception held on April 17, Lakehead President Dr. Fred Gilbert made the following remarks:

"John Whitfield's career has been a long and distinguished one. He was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1970 and full professor in 1982. He served as dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science from 1986 to 1990 when he became acting vice-president (academic) until 1991. He accepted the position of vice-president (academic) on a full-time basis in 1991, and held that office until his appointment as acting president for the period 1997-1998. John then accepted the new and challenging position of vice-president (research and development) where he has worked diligently promoting Lakehead University within the corporate sector.

"Over the years John has been involved in many community activities and has served on numerous professional boards and committees, the most recent and widely recognized being that of co-chair of the NORMS Liaison Committee promoting the development of a medical school in the north. John's tireless dedication to such efforts are a testament to his commitment, not only to Lakehead, but to the community as a whole.... We wish John all the best for a long, happy and healthy retirement."

For Tickets to the Farewell Dinner contact Linda Phillips (807) 343-8200.



Lakehead UNIVERSITY

May 2001 Vol. 18, No.4
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO, CANADA
ISSN 0828-5225

The Agora is published by the Office of Communications and distributed monthly September through June. We welcome news and other submissions from our readers. Send them to:

Editor, Agora

Lakehead University

955 Oliver Road

Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1

Telephone: (807) 343-8193

Fax: (807) 343-8075

E-mail: frances.harding@lakeheadu.ca

Canadian Postmaster:

Send address changes to

Office of Communications

Lakehead University

955 Oliver Road

Thunder Bay, Ontario Canada

P7B 5E1

Publications Mail

Agreement Number 1497073

Photography: Peter Puna

Printing: Lakehead Print Shop

**Deadline for submissions for
the next issue is**

June 1, 2001