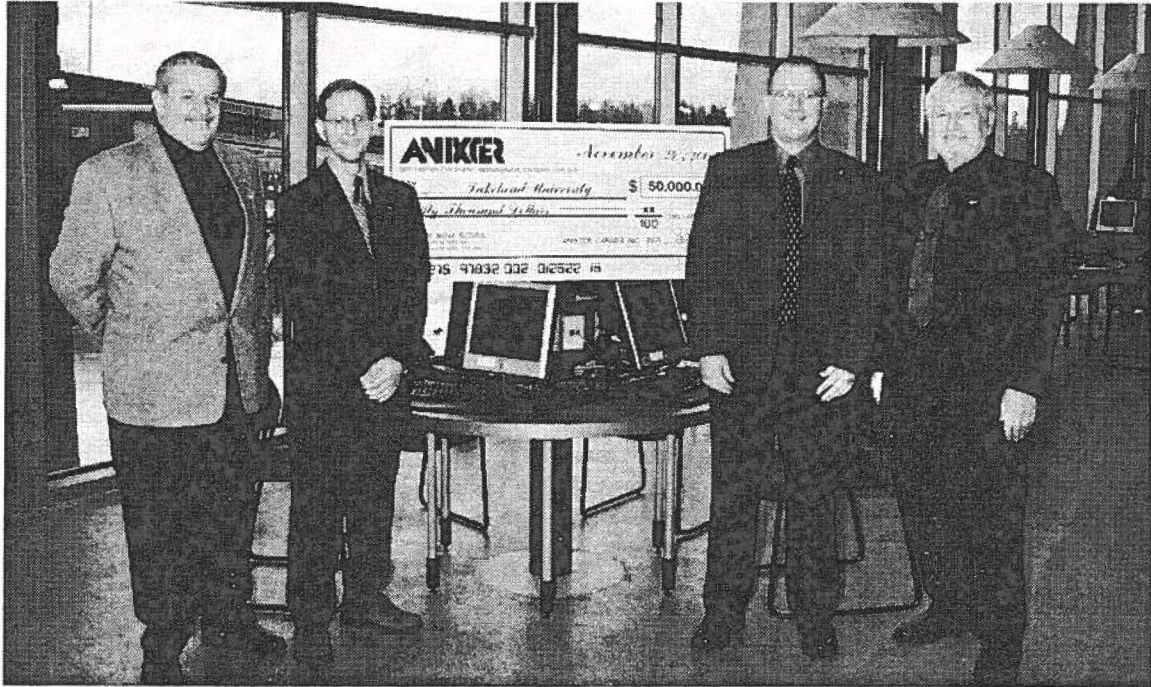


Agora Online

A Newsletter for Faculty, Staff, and Friends of Lakehead University
December 2003 Vol. 20, No. 7

Photo: Peter Puna



ATAC Attracts International Attention Anixter, leading global distributor of wire, cable, and communications connectivity products, donates \$50,000 to ATAC, making it their first cash donation in Canada. Photo shows cheque presentation on November 24: (L-R) Michael Pawlowski, VP Admin. & Finance, Lakehead University; John Dechaine, Sales Representative, Thunder Bay branch, Anixter; Ron Hendry, Area Vice President, Anixter; Fred Gilbert, President, Lakehead University.



Read more online!

<http://agora.lakeheadu.ca>

Welcome to **Agora Online**, a monthly tip sheet of news and information you may read online at:

<http://agora.lakeheadu.ca>

Agora Online is produced by the Office of Communications and distributed to staff, faculty, and friends of Lakehead University.

We welcome your contributions. Please send them to:

Office of Communications

Lakehead University

955 Oliver Road

Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5E1

Phone: 807-343-8177

Fax: 807-346-7770

Email:

communications@lakeheadu.ca

1. ATAC Update

The Advanced Technology and Academic Centre (ATAC) hosts extracurricular activities, tours by major donors, and visiting universities in addition to day-to-day activities

2. Lakehead Leads International Exchange Program

Lakehead University leads the Canadian Circumpolar Mobility Consortium and coordinates Canada's participation in the 'North2North' Exchange program

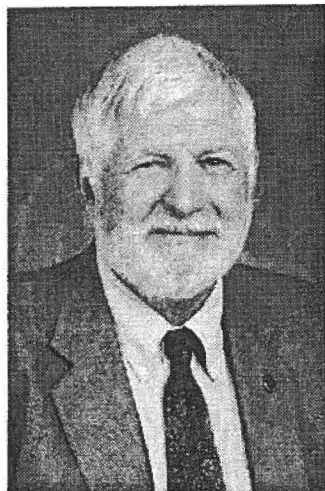
3. Student Researches Disc Numbers in Inuit Pop Culture

Adam Bryx spent the summer in Iqaluit researching the role of disc numbers under the direction of Dr. Gary Genosko, Canada Research Chair in Technoculture Studies

... continued on page 3

President's Message: State-of-the-University Address

By Dr. Fred Gilbert
President, Lakehead University



At this December's State-of-the-University address, Michael Pawlowski, Vice-President, Administration and Finance, offered some words for the future: "The only thing certain is that there will be change."

We certainly have been dealing with change in terms of growth. Both full-time and part-time enrolments have increased dramatically, and we project that next year's student numbers will be at an historic high. We face many issues in responding to growth, particularly in the area of space (facilities). ATAC has helped, though it really only meets the needs of the campus prior to additional demands placed on us by the double cohort. Therefore, we will continue to look at ways of generating more facilities to accommodate students, faculty, and research needs.

Strategic planning is well under way. In September 2003, we began the process with an in-depth analysis of our current state. We looked into our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for the future. Seven task forces are currently working on the directions that came out of the analysis. We anticipate the coming year to be exciting and full of opportunities. After engaging in community dialogues, we expect to formulate a draft Strategic Plan by early February, followed by presentation to the community and then the Board of Governors and Senate for approval in April 2004.

Update on ATAC

- The Centre has significantly increased the University's capabilities—especially in distributed learning, so much so that proposals from other areas of the University are coming in to update other teaching venues to ATAC's level.
- Fundraising continues: to date, 77% of the \$44 million total project cost has been secured. We have had continued success in fundraising efforts, and it is anticipated that at least half of the remaining funding will be secured before the grand celebration on May 13, 2004.

Northern Ontario Medical School

- The first board meeting was held in Sudbury on December 2, 2003. The board is made up of 35 women and men representing cultural, geographic, and community interests across Northern Ontario. Though producing an effective mechanism from such a large group will be a challenge, the commitment and energy of those involved bode well for its success.
- Policy and fiduciary responsibilities sit with the board; academic responsibilities for NOMS ultimately rest with the Senates of the two universities.
- Financially, NOMS is an independent unit, set up as a private corporation, with the two universities acting as the corporate members ("shareholders").
- The 6th floor of ATAC will house the administrative arm of NOMS and will be ready near March 2004. In addition, the 3-storey building to be built on campus will be ready by the fall of 2005.

Budget

- This year, we've met the budget enrolment target of 5800 full-time students. We have almost 7500 students on campus. We are basing the 2004/05 budget on an enrolment target of 6250 full-time students. We expect to provide a balanced budget, with revenues based on the enrolment target and cost-effective expenditures. We must eliminate the accumulated debt of \$4.7 million in the next three budgets.
- To accommodate growing needs, there will be an increase of up to 25 full-time faculty in addition to replacements for retirements. Also there will be an increase of up to 10 new staff positions.
- We foresee several challenges for future budgets: eliminating the debt by 2006/07; dealing with government funding; an increase in utility rates; addressing a major pension shortfall in the retirement fund; allocating funds for deferred maintenance; and enhancing safety measures on campus.

Looking back on 2003, we have had a very good year, with the prospect that the University's fortunes will continue to improve.

We are an institution that is indeed changing and growing, so while it is understandable that we will continue to face challenges in the future, they will be related to the costs of expansion, uncertain funding, and debt elimination. It is conceivable that our head count will be sustainable in the range of 9,000 to 10,000 students. The new Strategic Plan should provide effective guidance for the future.

Best wishes for the holidays and the New Year!



More stories online...

4. **Researcher Advancing Knowledge of Food Safety**

Dr. Heidi Schraft is taking part in a national research project aimed at fostering collaborations between scientists and advancing knowledge in food safety

5. **National Research Team for Seniors' Safety**

Dr. Michel Bédard is coordinating research that received major funding to review the effectiveness of driver re-training programs and vehicle design for seniors

6. **Lakehead Houses Joint PhD in Educational Studies**

Lakehead teams with Brock, Western, and Windsor to offer collaborative Joint PhD in Educational Studies

7. **Civil Engineering Dept. Receives Learning Tree**

A steel demonstration structure called the "Learning Tree" was dedicated to the Lakehead campus as an educational tool for civil engineering students

8. **Update: Northern Ontario Medical School**

NOMS is busy working towards accreditation, holding its first Board meeting, and broadcasting Symposium events to healthcare sites across the province

9. **Agora Profile: Registrar's Office**

Millo Shaw and Tim MacInnes stepped up to the plate this September as Lakehead's new team in the Registrar's Office

10. **Welcome New Faculty and Staff**

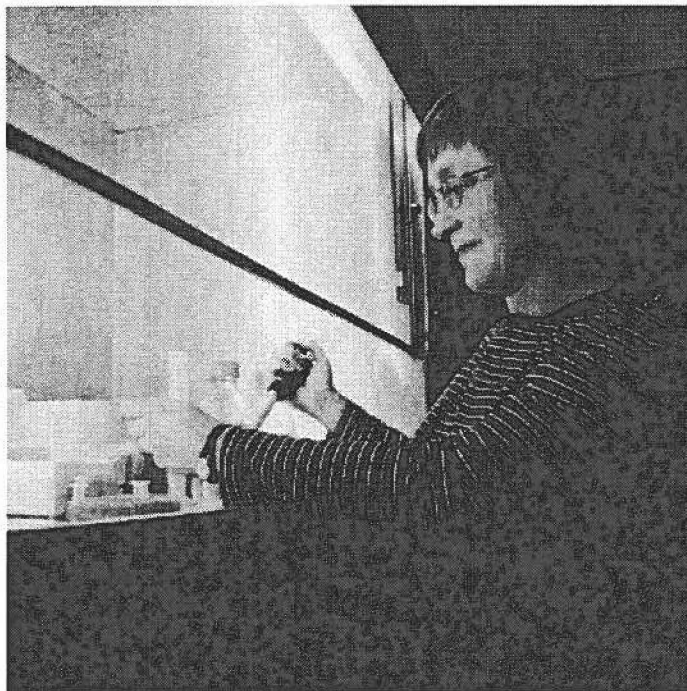
A listing of new hires since September 2003

11. **Awards and Honours**

Read about some exciting achievements by Lakehead's staff, faculty, and students online

12. **Campus News**

New Personal Hearing System for Learning Assistance Centre; Program Information Day 2003; Employee Holiday Gathering at the Outpost; Retirement Social for Betty Snow



While households across the country are gearing up for a busy holiday season, stocking cupboards, and planning Christmas meals, there is much more going on behind the scenes, as far as the public's food supply is concerned. Lakehead's Dr. Heidi Schraft is part of a network of researchers across Canada—a team intent on establishing interdisciplinary collaborations aimed at advancing the science behind food.

Dr. Heidi Schraft was appointed Lakehead University Canada Research Chair in Molecular Food Microbiology in June 2002. She is now well into her work at Lakehead, conducting interdisciplinary research aimed at improving our basic understanding of the mechanisms involved in persistence and growth of pathogens in food and food production environments.

Schraft's work is centred on molecular microbiology work; she concentrates on the study of biofilms—which are composed of bacteria that attach to a solid surface and surround themselves with a slimy protective layer—and their impact on food safety. □

Read the full story online: <http://agora.lakeheadu.ca>



Agora Profile

CD Trojan
Development Office

Millo Shaw & Tim MacInnes: New Team in Registrar's Office



"Our first goal is to reduce the level of the great ocean of paper that we find ourselves wading through."

Millo Shaw and Tim MacInnes find themselves wading through the Registrar's Office in a great sea of paper. Their task is daunting. Besides making themselves familiar with the day-to-day tasks of the Registrar's Office, they are in the midst of dealing with many other changes as well. On top of being the new Registrar's team, they answer to a newly appointed Vice-Provost of Student Affairs, and are being looked upon by the University community to transform the workings of the Office.

So far they have been riding a learning curve. Tim has a few years of "Lakehead experience" which makes the job a little easier. However, they both have large shoes to fill, picking up where Lakehead's former duo in the Registrar's Office, Pentti Paularinne and Brenda Nelson, left off. "Pentti and Brenda were virtually institutions here, carrying decades of experience with them," says Dr. Shaw.

Dr. Shaw holds an HBA (French/English) from the University of Manitoba, MA (Classics) and PhD (Classics) from the University of British Columbia. His studies in Classics were interrupted for a short time with a sojourn into law; Dr. Shaw also holds a Bachelor of Laws degree from UBC. His passion for Classics prevailed and he went on to teach at Augustana University College from 1992 to 2000. In June 2000 he transferred to the Registrar's Office at Augustana and in August 2003 made the move to Lakehead.

Tim MacInnes holds HBSc and HBComm degrees from Dalhousie University. He came to Lakehead in 1999 from Mount St. Vincent University, bringing extensive expertise in administrative database system and systems management – both of which are ideal for the task of maintaining records. His strengths in systems management were needed when Lakehead converted to a new method of records maintenance.

Together Millo Shaw and Tim MacInnes form an impressive team. The primary function of the Registrar's Office is to maintain and preserve student records as well as to maintain objectivity and fairness of academic records. Their key challenge is to move many of the Registrar's processes online. Combined, their talents are well suited to making this happen.

The team is being looked upon to implement some big changes; there are high expectations of the team from outside the Registrar's Office. "The University environment right now is one that is focused on change. We are all very goal-oriented, beginning with a proactive President who sets short-term goals to get things done, but who also has a vision of what he wants to accomplish long-term. There are people here at the University whose sole purpose is making change, to make us more competitive, and in a lot of ways, to make our system more aligned with the U.S. system to improve student service overall," says MacInnes. □

Read the full story online at <http://agora.lakeheadu.ca>



*Wishing you all the best
this holiday season!*

Lakehead
UNIVERSITY