

•Agora Online

A Newsletter for Faculty,
Staff, and Friends of Lakehead University
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2004 Distinguished Instructor

Dr. Margaret McKee, recipient of the Lakehead University 2004 Distinguished Instructor Award, is an exceptional teacher who brings leading-edge research into the classroom.

"I believe that adult learners benefit from hearing how their teachers think, how they struggle with ideas and assumptions, how they argue a point," says McKee. "It is not the content per se that I want them to 'get'; what I want to model is the courage to think critically and independently, and to make a reasoned argument."

Stories you may read online at

www.agora.lakeheadu.ca

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Orillia Satellite Campus Initiative

by Frances Harding, Publications Coordinator

Lakehead University and the City of Orillia announced on January 18 that an agreement in principle had been reached to develop a satellite campus of the University in Orillia.

Such a collaboration would offer, initially, academic courses and programs that can be partnered with Georgian College. It would respond to the City of Orillia's interests in international studies, Aboriginal studies, and tourism, and it would be linked to the distributed learning capacity of Lakehead University's Thunder Bay campus.

These courses and programs would require physical facilities in Orillia that are compatible with the learning technology of the Advanced Technology and Academic Centre (ATAC) in Thunder Bay. Together with the City of Orillia and Georgian College, Lakehead University will explore the opportunity to provide academic programming in the City.

"The City of Orillia is an ideal community to partner with our institution," says Dr. Fred Gilbert, President of Lakehead University. "Over the next months we will be working with the City, Georgian College, and our own faculty and staff to develop academic and business plans for the delivery of university education in Orillia. We are very positive about the enormous potential this initiative has for the community of Orillia as well as for Lakehead University."

The City of Orillia approached Lakehead after discussing the matter with Mary Anne Chambers, the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, and with Bob Rae,

the former premier of Ontario, who is chairing a review of postsecondary education for the Government of Ontario.

Lakehead undertook the initiative because it was consistent with its 2005-2010 Strategic Plan and with the University's response to the Rae Review where, under Recommendation 8, specific mention is made to a satellite campus. The matter was discussed by the Board of Governors and approved. ■

Advantages to Lakehead

There are many advantages to having a satellite campus. They include: increased student enrolment; the opportunity to increase Lakehead's distributed learning capacity; improved visibility and marketing opportunities; having a physical and political presence in southern Ontario; increased numbers of faculty; and access to greater fundraising opportunities.

Says Dr. Gilbert, "I sincerely believe it is in the best interests of the University to take advantage of an attractive host community's interest in a partnership with Lakehead to establish, through comprehensive joint planning, the basis for a mutually beneficial academic initiative."

Currently, the proposed campus location is lakefront property that would provide plenty of expansion as the Orillia campus student numbers grow.



"We are very positive about the enormous potential this initiative has for the community of Orillia as well as for Lakehead University."

Dr. Fred Gilbert

Both academic and business plans recommended by the Orillia University Implementation Task Force, will be presented to the Senate and Board of Governors before the satellite campus is established.

An initial target date to start the satellite campus in Orillia has been set for the fall of 2006. ■

Arthur Mauro Challenge

In January, the Arthur Mauro Challenge was announced, in which Arthur Mauro will match any donation up to \$150,000 made to the ATAC ~ *Future of the North Capital Campaign* by members of the Italian community,

Arthur Mauro was born and raised in Thunder Bay and, although he has since left the community, he has never forgotten his roots. Mauro has fond memories of growing up on Secord Street in Port Arthur as well as his time at Port Arthur Collegiate Institute. He has since moved to Winnipeg, but because of his commitment to his hometown and the realization of the importance of Lakehead University to the community, he has committed up to \$150,000 to the ATAC ~ *Future of the North Capital Campaign*. He is challenging the Thunder Bay Italian community to match this contribution.

The organization working to establish a Chair of Italian Studies at Lakehead is helping the University meet this challenge, and the president of the organization, John Bonofiglio, is excited to see Lakehead and the Italian community work together on a common goal. ■

Lakehead U President Term Extended

Jackie Dojack, Chair of the Board of Governors of Lakehead University, announced on January 13 the renewal of the contract of Dr. Frederick Gilbert, President of Lakehead University. The unanimous vote of confidence by the Board of Governors extends Dr. Gilbert's current contract, which was due to be completed on December 31, 2006, to May 31, 2010.

"Lakehead University has experienced many challenges over the last few years, many of which are directly attributable to inadequate funding and a declining university student population in the Northwestern region, the primary catchment area of Lakehead University," says Dojack.

"Despite these challenges, Dr. Gilbert has leveraged the strengths of the University faculty and researchers, staff, and alumni to embark on a vision of academic excellence and technology-assisted learning. Some of these challenges will continue to tax the University's limited resources, passion, and creativity, but the Board, with broad support from the University community, believes Dr. Gilbert will continue to lead the University to enable it to carve a special niche among institutions of higher learning, while enhancing its economic impact on the City of Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario." ■

Award to Staff for Outstanding Performance

Nominations are now open for the Award to Staff for Outstanding Performance and/or Contributions. This award recognizes and rewards outstanding performance or contributions to the University by a non-faculty employee. For the complete policy outlining items such as the eligibility of candidates, selection criteria, and nomination guidelines, link to: <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~lusec/award-staff.htm>.

To link to the Application Form: <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~humanres/stafawrd.htm>.

Deadline for nominations: March 1, 2005 ■



Celebrate!

The campus kick-off event to mark Lakehead University's 40th Anniversary took place in the Agora on January 12 when balloons were released from the balcony, and coffee and cake were served to students, staff, and faculty.

Over 100 guests were in attendance to hear speeches from Lakehead U President Dr. Fred Gilbert, Alumni Association President Ken Owen, and LUSU President Graham Strickert.



Executive Planning Committee Co-chairs Sharon Cole-Paterson and Mark Piovesana

Lakehead will be hosting special anniversary events all through 2005, including the Anniversary Celebration Weekend, September 29 to October 2, 2005

Read more about the Executive Planning Committee in the story, 40th Anniversary Update, published in this issue of *Agora Online*. To find a listing of 40th Anniversary Events, visit the website: lakeheadualumni.ca/40years/

Guest Editorial

Deliberative Democracy and Citizenship

by Professor George Fallis, York University



The following is a brief excerpt from an essay entitled "The Mission of the University" by Professor George Fallis, Department of Economics and Division of Social Science, York University. It was written for submission to the Postsecondary Review: Higher Expectations for Higher Education, chaired by Bob Rae, former premier of the Province of Ontario. You may read the full essay online: www.thinkontario.com

One strand of this current literature on citizenship is especially interested in how political participation in our liberal democracies might be increased and how the civility and public-spiritedness of citizens could be encouraged. Will Kymlicka and Wayne Norman survey this literature in their article: "Return of the Citizen: A Survey of Recent Work on Citizenship Theory." They identify several answers to the question of how the challenges to democratic citizenship might be met. One answer comes from liberal virtue theorists. They acknowledge that liberals must share blame for the current imbalance between rights and responsibilities. Liberals placed too much emphasis "on the justification of rights and the institutions to secure these rights, without attending to the responsibilities of citizens." Liberal virtue theorists articulate a list of citizenship virtues, including political virtues: a "capacity to discern and

respect the rights of others, willingness to demand only what can be paid for, ability to evaluate the performance of those in office, willingness to engage in public discourse." According to Kymlicka and Norman, "it is the last two virtues — the ability to question authority and the willingness to engage in public discourse — which are the most distinctive components of liberal virtue theory."

These capacities of a good citizen have clear and direct implications for undergraduate education. An undergraduate education is well-suited to developing the capacity to question authority and the willingness to engage in public discourse. And the complementarity to the concept of a deliberative democracy is also clear. An undergraduate education should include the development of political virtues and prepare citizens for participation in a deliberative democracy.

Thus, universities have a new mission, a mission because they are institutions of democracy. Great universities should be judged not just by the quality of their research, the learning of their students, and the contributions and accomplishments of their graduates, but also by their service to democratic society as critic, conscience and public intellectual and by their preparation of students for citizenship. ■

Agora Online

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