

# Agora

Online -- September 2003

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A Newsletter for Faculty, Staff  
and Friends of  
Lakehead University



Photo: Peter Puna

**Nowhere Else I'd Rather Be** -- Orientation activities, such as the President's BBQ featured above, attracted capacity crowds this year. New events such as the Boat Cruise of Lake Superior were sold out and Shinerama, the annual fund raiser for Cystic Fibrosis, raised over \$6,980.

Welcome to **Agora Online**, a monthly tip sheet of the 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 news and information. Send it to:

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## Top Stories You May Read Online

<http://agora.lakeheadu.ca>

### 1. Umed S. Panu Receives Distinguished Researcher Award

Lakehead's most prestigious award for research has been given to Dr. Umed S. Panu, a Professor of Civil Engineering.

### 2. Lakehead Opens Doors to New Residences

Two new residences have opened, adding a total of 288 beds to the campus. They contain 36 units each, including a number of units designed for barrier-free accommodation.

*Continued on page 3*

## More stories you may read online ...

### 3. SportWeb -- The Online Learning Project

Wrestling Coach Francis Clayton is managing the development of a new website to help coaches improve their skills.

### 4. Roger Mitchell Honoured by The Royal Society of Canada

Dr. Roger Mitchell, Professor Emeritus of Geology, has been awarded the Willet G. Miller Medal for geology.

### 5. Three Civil Engineering Students win National Award

Kerrie Fabius, Mike Vogrig, and Adam MacDonald have been recognized by the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

### 6. News from the Northern Ontario Medical School (NOMS)

Despite the summer setbacks of power outages and computer viruses, NOMS is right on track with its accreditation process.

### Lakehead X-C Positioned for Excellence

A new three-way partnership will boost Lakehead's Nordic Cross-Country Skiing Program

### 8. Cones or Cylinders?

K.C. Yang's new theory on juvenile wood formation is featured in the latest edition of a textbook that is being widely used in the teaching of Forestry.

### 9. Lakehead Researchers Receive CFI Grants

Dr. Gao (Civil Engineering), Dr. Chen (Chemistry), and Dr. Hollings (Geology) have each received a New Opportunities Grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

### 10. Student Radio Hits the Airwaves

Starting September 29, Lakehead University Radio will be broadcast on the FM band as well as on the Internet.

### 11. Welcome New Faculty and Staff

A listing of new hires since May 2003.

### 12. Campus News

A Time of Change; Alumni Open Raises Funds for Student Aid; Call for Nominations, Honorary Degree Recipients; TBSO Noon Hour Concert; National Emerging Composers' Workshop; Athletics Gears up for 2003-04.

## Tove Tronslien: Lakehead University Webmaster

Lakehead's new Webmaster has a lofty goal -- to make Lakehead University's website the best university website in Canada.

Since joining the Office of Communications four months ago, Tove Tronslien has made visible improvements to the University's main page as well as significant progress in the development of a new template for subsidiary sites.

The template is being developed in conjunction with individual departments (Human Resources, Aboriginal Initiatives, English, History, and Communications) and will be rolled out in the coming weeks.

"The challenge," she says, "is working with so many people who have so many different ideas and concepts. But it's also an opportunity to make the website more user-friendly, more effective, and more vibrant."

Tronslien has a masters degree in Computer Science from the University of Technology and Science in Trondheim, Norway, as well as an undergraduate degree in History and Political Science.

Originally she wanted to be a teacher, but then became interested in computer science when she realized that very few women were entering the field.

It is the human interaction with technology that fascinates her. In fact, she did her masters thesis on that very topic using Statoil, a large Norwegian oil company, as a case study. "The computer is just a tool. Without people, it is nothing."

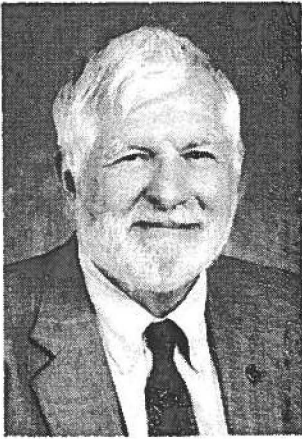


**"The challenge is working with so many people who have so many different ideas and concepts.**

**But it's also an opportunity to make the website more user-friendly, more effective, and more vibrant."**

-- Frances Harding

# President's Message



*by Fred Gilbert  
President,  
Lakehead University*

Another academic year is under way at Lakehead University, and we welcome new students, faculty and staff to the University. The Advanced Technology and Academic Centre (ATAC) is open, the new residences complete

and, we have fully accommodated our Double Cohort demand with some room to spare for next year.

A summer of negotiation has resulted in a tentative agreement with the Faculty Association, and all parties are to be commended for what have proven to be constructive and fruitful discussions. The deal is as fair and equitable as possible given the University's current fiscal situation that, while improving, is still very vulnerable. Ratification by members and Board of Governors' approval are still required, and hopefully that will occur by the end of the month.

Construction of the Northern Ontario Medical School (NOMS) Phase I – sixth floor of ATAC, should be complete early next year. A three-storey building between the School of Nursing and ATAC will follow, with construction beginning next spring. Staffing at NOMS West is growing substantially and is occupying space at the Northwestern Ontario Technology Centre as well as in the Braun Building. Work on the curriculum and other steps toward accreditation are progressing well. The new NOMS Board will meet at Lakehead University for its inaugural meeting next month.

Congratulations to Dr. Roger Mitchell of the Geology Department on receiving the Willett G. Miller Medal for geology.

The Strategic Planning Committee is active, and the University community can check in on its meetings which are reported on the Lakehead website via the Communications link or at <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~lusec/stra.htm>.

The Committee will soon be engaging the community directly with open meetings. I hope everyone who is able to participate takes the opportunity to do so.



## **ATAC Officially Opens its Doors**

*The paint is dry, the technology is in place, and students and faculty are learning and teaching in a state-of-the-art facility. For more information visit <http://atac.lakeheadu.ca>*

## **History Happenings**

**Book Launch - Sept. 18:** Congratulations to Dr. Bruce Strang on the launch of his book, *On the Fiery March: Mussolini Prepares for War*.

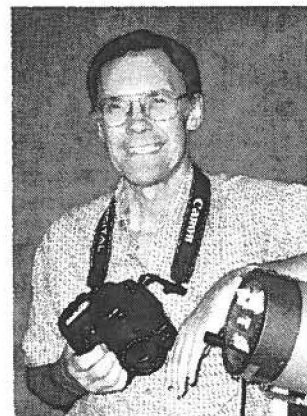
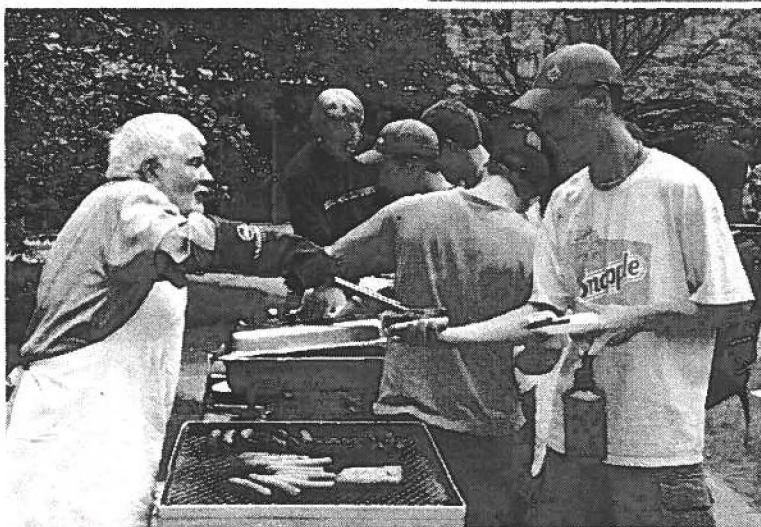
**Film Presentation and Discussion - Sept. 30**  
Join Dr. Ron Harpelle for a public screening of "Banana Split" and the launch of Banana stories/Histoire de Bananes at 7 p.m. at the Waverley Resource Library.

**Conference Presentation - Oct. 8-9:** Dr. Bruce Muirhead will be presenting "Missing the Boat: North American Economic Integration" at the 4th International INHA-Le Harve Conference on Globalization and Economic Integration.



## *Lakehead University: Nowhere Else I'd Rather Be*

Scenes from  
Orientation 2003



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