

LAKEHEAD

ALUMNI

SUMMER 2013 | VOLUME 30 NUMBER 1



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Burney**

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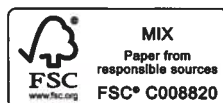
Photo courtesy of Karen Ramsdale

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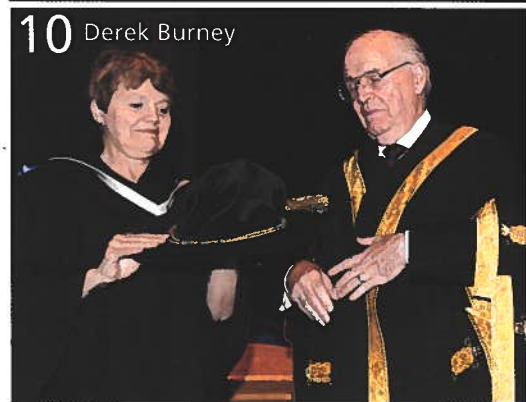
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Cover photo credit: Photo courtesy of Norton Rose Fulbright

Editor's Message

BY TRACEY SKEHAN
editor@lakeheadu.ca



BEING STRONG AND TAKING RISKS

It's not always easy to stand up for what you believe in, or to make choices that stray from the conventional path.

Yet this isn't stopping Lakehead alumni and faculty from doing just that. In this issue of the magazine, we meet Lakehead grad Breanna Lawlor-MacDonald who decided to go back to school to pursue an education degree while her daughter was still a toddler. After setting in motion this major life upheaval, she found that classroom teaching wasn't for her. But she didn't let this newfound insight discourage her, instead, she searched for alternatives and now has a job she loves as a museum art educator.

Taking these kinds of risks is something Media Studies Professor Sandra Jeppesen is familiar with too. She made a dramatic change when she walked away from an established career as a biomedical engineer to study creative writing and become a social activist. Jeppesen (featured on page 16), is the coordinator of Lakehead Orillia's Media Studies program, which gives students media production skills and the tools to advocate for positive social change.

The social sciences and humanities have always been essential to understanding our world and making it a more compassionate and democratic place. Faculty members like Sandra Jeppesen are in the thick of this vital work as researchers as well as teachers.

Research endeavours in areas like anthropology, political literacy, kinesiology, history, and palliative care are making people sit up and take notice. Lakehead was ranked first in the value of Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants awarded among Ontario's primarily undergraduate universities by Maclean's Magazine in 2011 and we continue to make inroads.

In 2012, Lakehead received \$23.8 million in research dollars and was ranked #1 in Canada for publishing in the area of Aboriginal Studies. "Our researchers and students are highly committed to creating new knowledge and products that benefit communities, business, and society," says Rui Wang, Lakehead's vice-president of research, economic development, and innovation.

One of these researchers is Psychology Professor Ed Rawana, who recently secured Lakehead's first SSHRC Partnership Development Grant for nearly \$200,000. He is winning acclaim for working with school boards to empower students to improve their academic performance, overcome hardships, and reduce bullying.

Professor Rawana, along with Professor Keith Brownlee, have developed a Strengths Assessment Inventory (SAI) so that teachers, parents, and counselors can identify children's personal strengths and build their self-esteem. Rawana's new SSHRC grant will allow his research team to explore how cultural diversity shapes the integration of strengths-based programs in schools.

This positive approach is transforming the classroom and the schoolyard. Focusing on the unique qualities of individuals makes society as a whole stronger. And it gives our youngest citizens the courage to stand up for what is right, even when it's hard. ■

LAKEHEAD

SUMMER 2013

Volume 30, Number 1

Lakehead University Alumni Magazine is published twice a year by the Marketing Support unit which is responsible for establishing policy, editorial direction, and content for the Magazine. The views expressed or implied do not necessarily reflect those of Lakehead University or Marketing Support.

Publications Mail Agreement Number 40062450

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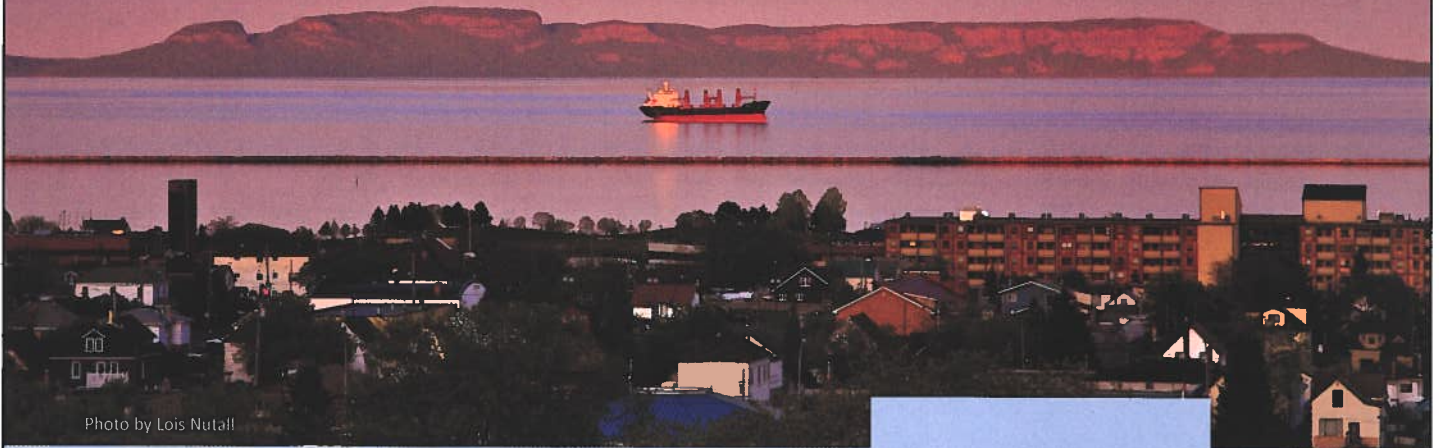


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Campus News

NEW VICE-PROVOST, ABORIGINAL INITIATIVES

Professor Cynthia Wesley-Esquimaux is Lakehead's new vice-provost, Aboriginal initiatives. She is actively engaged in a variety of environmental and humanitarian



causes and has held the Nexen Chair in Aboriginal Leadership at Alberta's Banff Centre for the past four years. Her teaching and academic writing has

focused on historic and intergenerational trauma within the Aboriginal community. A member of the Chippewa of Georgina Island First Nation, Wesley-Esquimaux says that she is "very aware of the value of positive community relations and the need to build strong and productive conversations between people from diverse populations."

PRESIDENT'S GOLF INVITATIONAL IN ORILLIA

On August 19, the President's Golf Invitational (formerly the Lakehead Orillia Golf Tournament) will celebrate five years of supporting Lakehead University students. This fundraiser has grown tremendously with 144 golfers raising a record \$100,000 last year. Three Lakehead Orillia students have each received \$5,000 entrance scholarships over the past three years and this year, a new \$5,000 scholarship was established for a graduating business student. The inaugural scholarship recipient is Honours Bachelor of Commerce student David French. Funds raised by the 2013 President's Golf Invitational will support three initiatives critical to Lakehead University Orillia and Simcoe County – student scholarships, athletics, and the Humanities 101 program which provides a university experience to people facing financial and other barriers.

Sign up for an exciting day of golf on August 19 and help Lakehead students achieve their educational dreams. Contact Jacquie Kent at (705) 330-4008 Ext. 2080 or jkent@lakeheadu.ca.

HONORARY DEGREE NOMINATIONS

The Senate Honorary Degrees Committee invites you to nominate an outstanding person for an honorary degree. Lakehead University grants honorary degrees to individuals with a history of extraordinary accomplishments and remarkable service who support the values of advanced learning and the pursuit of knowledge. The degrees will be awarded at the 2014 Convocation ceremonies on the Thunder Bay and Orillia campuses. To access the nomination form and for further information, please visit the University Secretariat's website at: lakeheadu.ca/about/sg/secretariat/awards/honourary-degree

Send your nomination to:
University Secretariat, UC 2004
Lakehead University, 955 Oliver Road,
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5E1

BASKETBALL VICTORY

The men's basketball team bounced away with a silver medal in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Final 8 tournament. It was Lakehead's first Canadian championship gold medal game since 1977. This nail-biting showdown with the Carleton Ravens was the final game for graduating Thunderwolves:



The Thunderwolves face the Ravens for the CIS gold medal

Matthew Schmidt, Joseph Jones, Brendan King, Greg Carter, Yoosrie Salhia, and Ben Johnson. "This group of seniors has helped elevate the program from the literal bottom of the heap to the silver medal," Coach Scott Morrison says. "Their accomplishments will be applauded for years to come."

OPEN CESME

"Building better relationships between mining companies and the communities where they work will be critical to the development of Northern Ontario," says Geology Chair Peter Hollings. He is also the director of Lakehead's recently launched Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME) which will support research and outreach activities focused on mineral exploration and mineral extraction as well as the social, economic, and environmental impacts of these activities. CESME researchers will take a collaborative approach to economic development by partnering with First Nations, government, and the mining industry.

NEW ARTS GATHERING PLACE

The Lakehead Orillia Centre – A Gathering Place for Arts, Culture and Community was launched this summer to offer creative learning opportunities for the general public. Inspired by the vibrant regional arts scene, the "Centre," in cooperation with several community partners, provides gathering places throughout Simcoe County to participate in the arts. Under the direction of Program Coordinator Kathy Manners, an eclectic mix of programs is being provided from "Shakespeare Seductions" and "Mariposa Folk Expressions" to "Life Books" and "Film School Smarts." Learn more by visiting Lakehead University's website at lakeheadu.ca.

PATHWAYS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Lakehead's Senate has approved new articulation agreements that are opening up exciting opportunities for Georgian College students and supporting Lakehead University's recruitment goals. Graduates of Georgian College's General Arts and

Science diploma program are now eligible for course credits in Lakehead's HBASc or BASc Interdisciplinary Studies programs, with specializations in Political Science, Psychology, or Sociology. Graduates of Georgian's Environmental Technology diploma program are eligible to transfer into the HBASc Environmental Sustainability program. For more college transfer details, visit Lakehead's website at: mylakehead.ca/college/

GO TEAM!

Lakehead Orillia has been accepted as an affiliate member of the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA). This new status came into effect on May 1 and expands varsity sports and athletic competition options. Varsity men's and women's curling will begin in the 2013-14 season and new varsity sports teams will be added over the next five years. The OCAA membership will also boost the growth of extramural clubs such as soccer, hockey, and basketball. Congratulations to Liz Ross, athletics and recreation facilitator, and the Student Affairs department for their success in developing this new alliance.



Liz Ross (l) with athletes: Josh MacDonald (hockey), Sandra Best (equestrian) and Cassandra Uyl (curling)

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP WINS AWARD

A cutting-edge research partnership between Lakehead University and EcoPoly Solutions Inc. was recognized with the Business Achievement Award for Technological Advancement from the Orillia District Chamber of Commerce in February. Interdisciplinary Studies Professor Chris Murray leads the research team to improve the company's degradable plastic film products which are designed for worldwide agricultural use. A research garden developed on campus is being monitored by student researchers testing the new products.



Breaking sod for Orillia's Research Garden

HUMANITIES 101 GRADS CELEBRATE

Lakehead Orillia celebrated its second successful Humanities 101 program in April with fifteen students completing the 12-week course. At the graduation ceremony, valedictorians Christina Doucette and Erica Noble made moving speeches that inspired the audience of family, friends, community leaders, and Lakehead faculty and staff. The program provides a university experience to people who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

CROSS-CANADA FOODRIDE

Megan Clark and Adrian Arts are bicycling 10,000 km to raise \$100,000 in food and monetary donations for Canadian food banks for their initiative called FoodRide. These two Lakehead students began pedalling on April 25 in Victoria, British Columbia. "Food banks were created as a temporary emergency service in the early 80s," explains Adrian, "and are now a daily necessity to a growing population." The FoodRide team is taking action by organizing food drives with community and campus food banks in every province throughout their gruelling trek. The team will end their journey in St. John's, Newfoundland, on September 8. Donate online by going to foodride.ca. ■



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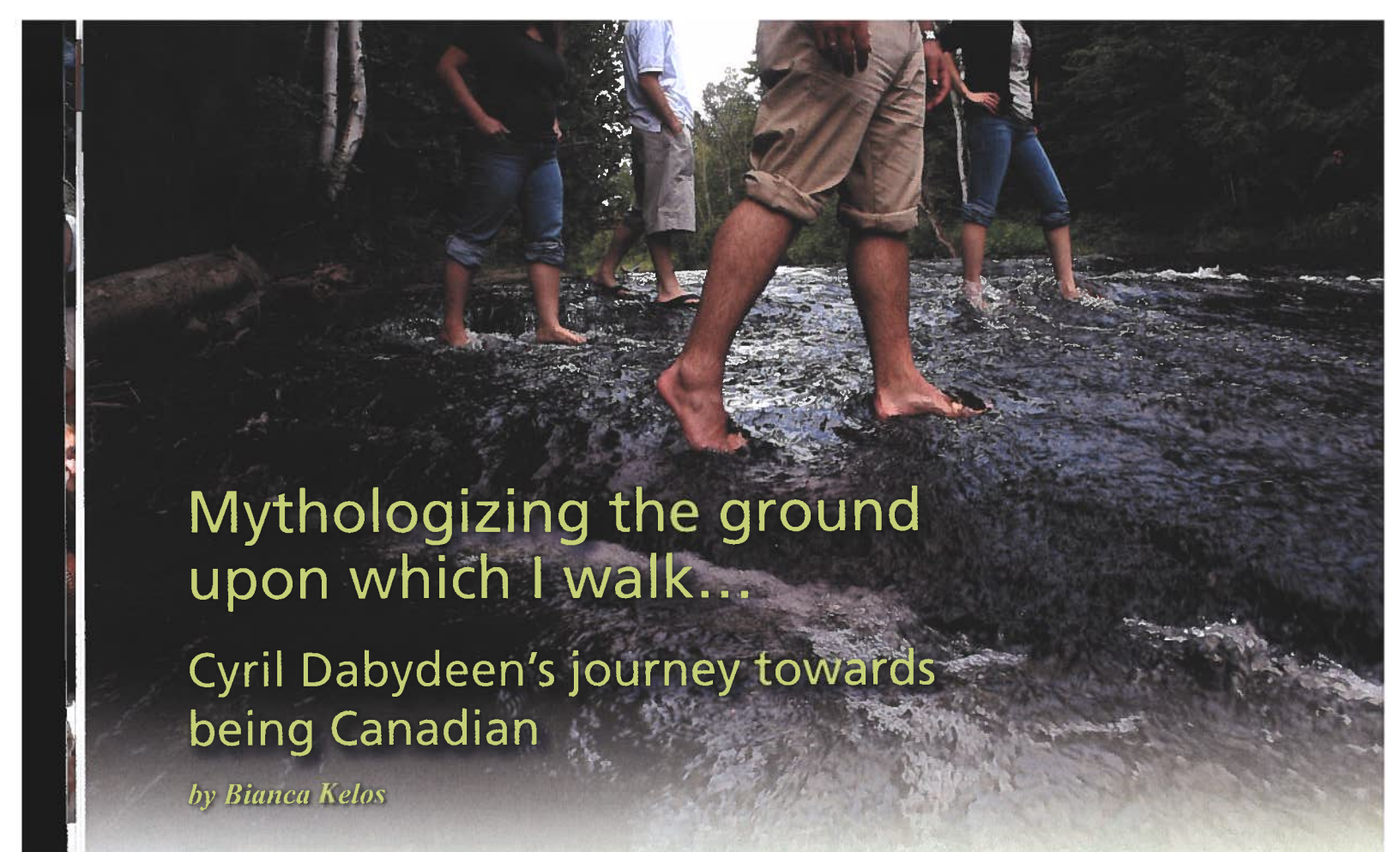
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Mythologizing the ground upon which I walk...

Cyril Dabydeen's journey towards being Canadian

by Bianca Kelos

Canadian novelist, poet, and critic Cyril Dabydeen spoke at Lakehead University this past February. His talk "Being Canadian" was part of the University's McLeod Lecture Series which connects distinguished literary academics with the Thunder Bay community.

Dabydeen's visit also had a deeply personal significance.

As a Lakehead grad whose sojourn in Northwestern Ontario was crucial to his artistic development, he was keen to return to his alma mater to share what being Canadian means to him.

Dabydeen was born in Guyana to parents of Indian ancestry. He moved to Canada in 1970 and completed an HBA (English) in 1973 at Lakehead University followed by two master's degrees at Queen's University. He is currently a sessional professor at the University of Ottawa.

Even before Dabydeen came to Canada, he had established a reputation as a talented

writer. He won the Sandbach Parker Gold Medal for poetry in 1964 and the A. J. Seymour Lyric Poetry Prize in 1967.

Since then, he has published nearly 20 books and won many other awards for his work. His writing has appeared in more than 70 literary magazines and anthologies worldwide. Dabydeen has also published nearly 100 book reviews and academic papers.

Writing is his way of "...mythologizing the ground upon which I walk." This mythic aspect surfaces throughout his work, whether it's in his book titles, like *Stoning the Wind*, *Dark Swirl*, and *The Wizard Swami*, or when Dabydeen compares the sound of a storm in Thunder Bay to an elephant howling.

Dabydeen is intrigued by other writers' thoughts regarding the purpose of literature. Distinguished Guyanese author Sir Wilson Harris, for example, believes that the aim of writers is to explore the

"I spent my summers tree planting. I am proud to say that I planted roughly a quarter-million trees while living in bush camps for weeks at a time."

— Cyril Dabydeen

bottomless pool of origins. Margaret Atwood defines works of fiction as reflections of the highest forms of human consciousness on how we live on earth. Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes uses the metaphor of the agora to describe the novel: the place where all voices are heard and respected. Lakehead's Agora, Dabydeen says, reflects Fuentes' definition.

Dabydeen describes himself as a "hybrid writer" whose ideas and work reflect multiple influences and identities. Three of his cultural identities include: a native of Guyana and the Caribbean, a man with Indian roots, and a Canadian.

Arriving from the Caribbean to what he calls "Canada's Heartland," Dabydeen had some formative experiences that defined his character and his sense of Canadian nationhood. He remembers his professors at Lakehead as "authentic Canadians" and he draws upon his recollections of life in Northwestern Ontario for inspiration when he writes.

One memory in particular resonates with Dabydeen. "I spent my summers tree planting. I am proud to say that I planted roughly a quarter-million trees while living in bush camps for weeks at a time." He jokes that he only got lost in the forest five or six times.

During his tree-planting days, Dabydeen met many people from diverse backgrounds – from American draft dodgers to First Nations Canadians. One friend in particular, an Aboriginal man named Larry, became the subject of a poem called *Ojibway*, which he recited during his McLeod lecture.

Several Canadian musicians, including Gordon Lightfoot, Anne Murray, and Neil Young, have been an inspiration too. Dabydeen also remembers the drama of the 1972 Canada - Russia Hockey series and Pierre Trudeau's multiculturalism policies. These were all important pieces of Canadian culture in the early 1970s that shaped his feelings about what it means to be Canadian.

As a professor at the University of Ottawa, Dabydeen has taught many students and often asks them to describe a Canadian. He has been given a wide variety of answers, and shares a few of his favourites.

A Nigerian student said a Canadian "... is someone who gives help to a stranger, [who] gives love," while another student claimed Canadians are "people who bring justice to those who deserve it." Others kidded that a Canadian is "a Mexican with sweaters" and that "an American is a Canadian with an attitude." It's clear that being Canadian is different for everyone.

Dabydeen argues that what constitutes Canadian culture is an ongoing debate, much like that of beauty or art. Who is to decide what is truly Canadian culture, art, or beauty? These are merely opinions, not definitions.

The audience at Dabydeen's talk enjoyed hearing him read several selections of his poetry interspersed with anecdotes about what motivated him to write each piece. Surprisingly, most of them traced back to his time spent in Northwestern Ontario and his experiences of becoming Canadian.

As he reminded his listeners on that wintry night, "It is not your ethnicity that becomes destiny, but it is your geography that becomes destiny." ■

Bianca Kelos completed an internship with Lakehead University's Marketing Support and Media Relations departments as part of her Public Relations diploma with the University of Western Ontario. She will be starting a Bachelor of Education degree at Lakehead University this fall.

Cyril Dabydeen
HBA'73

A Literary Life

- Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence, Guyana Council of Canadians (2010)
- City of Ottawa Poet Laureate (1984-87)
- Co-winner of the top Guyana Prize for Fiction
- Two-time winner of the Okanagan Fiction Prize
- City of Ottawa Heritage Award winner, Writing and Publishing (2004)
- Certificate of Merit (for Arts), Government of Canada (1988)
- City of Ottawa Book Prize finalist

Nominated for:

- International IMPAC/Dublin Prize
- Pushcart Prize (US)
- National Magazine Award (Canada)
- Journey Prize (Canada)



Jim & Shirley SYMINGTON

TENACIOUS AND TALENTED

Jim and Shirley Symington believe in the ability of people to become exceptional citizens. It's something they've done themselves.

Their transformation from humble beginnings – into a successful chartered accountant and a nursing educator and public health nurse – was accomplished through hard work and the power of a university education. The retired Thunder Bay couple are now championing life-changing opportunities for Lakehead students.

Their generosity has established the James and Elizabeth Symington Bursary for Lakehead University Education students (named in honour of Jim's parents) and the James and Shirley Symington Bursary for Northern Ontario School of Medicine students.

"Giving somebody a hand up," explains Shirley, "can change their future and make our society more resilient."

The Symingtons are also contributors to Lakehead's Team Achieve, an initiative to help children in our community overcome barriers to postsecondary education.

SCHOOL DAYS

Both Shirley and Jim had their own challenges to face when it came to getting ahead in the world.

Shirley was a teenager in London, Ontario, during the 1950s. "In those days, if you were a woman, you went to work in an office, you were a nurse, or you were a teacher."

She herself trained as a nurse but took the unconventional step of earning a Bachelor of Nursing Science from Western University with the help of a Victorian Order of Nurses bursary. "I wanted more options. I wanted more doors open."



Her decision gave her the freedom to take greater control of her career path.

Jim grew up in the tiny village of Hurkett in Northwestern Ontario where his family owned the general store. After high school, he spent a year at the Lakehead College of Arts, Science and Technology (which later became Lakehead University). Although his parents had always encouraged him to get an education, they didn't have money for postsecondary studies. Fortunately, Jim was able to secure bursaries.

"Financial aid was very helpful to both myself and Shirley in getting our education."

Jim earned a Bachelor of Commerce from Queen's University and went on to prove his mettle in Toronto as the financial controller of a large Bay Street investment company.

In 1976 Shirley and Jim, along with their two children, moved to Thunder Bay believing that a smaller northern community would be a better place to raise a family. They've been a vital part of the community ever since.

THE NEXT GENERATION

The Symington's conviction that postsecondary education brings success prompted them to support Lakehead University.

"We deliberately focused our donations on bursaries rather than scholarships," Jim says "because there are many bright and capable people who are in need of money but may not qualify for scholarships." The couple gave to Lakehead through gifts of stocks, an option that brings excellent financial advantages to donors.

"Transferring these stocks to Lakehead saved us significant capital gains taxes," Jim says, "and we also got a charitable donation receipt for their current market value."

Offering young people the tools to construct their own destiny has made Jim and Shirley Symington an integral part of the Lakehead University family. Thank you for making us stronger. ■

Help a student become a proud Lakehead alum and give yourself a tax break. Learn more about gifts of stock by contacting Lee-Anne Camlin with Lakehead University's External Relations department at rlcamlin@lakeheadu.ca or (807) 346-7792.

You can be a hero!

Has someone ever helped you out? Given you a hand when you needed it most? Maybe you were even once a student and received a scholarship or bursary. At Lakehead University, much of the financial support for scholarships and bursaries, faculties, and even equipment comes from our alumni and friends.

Soon students from Lakehead's Phone-a-thon Program will be calling people like you and encouraging them to make a gift. Naveen, who has been with the Program for the last three years, knows what a difference that phone call can make.

"When people donate, they're giving us more than an education. It's like they're giving us a vote of confidence – saying that they believe in us and what we can achieve. That encouragement has meant a lot to me."

Be a hero every month!

Register today and become a monthly donor. Monthly giving provides Lakehead University with a dependable stream of income and allows us to plan and implement projects. Choose to donate by direct bank withdrawal or by credit card.

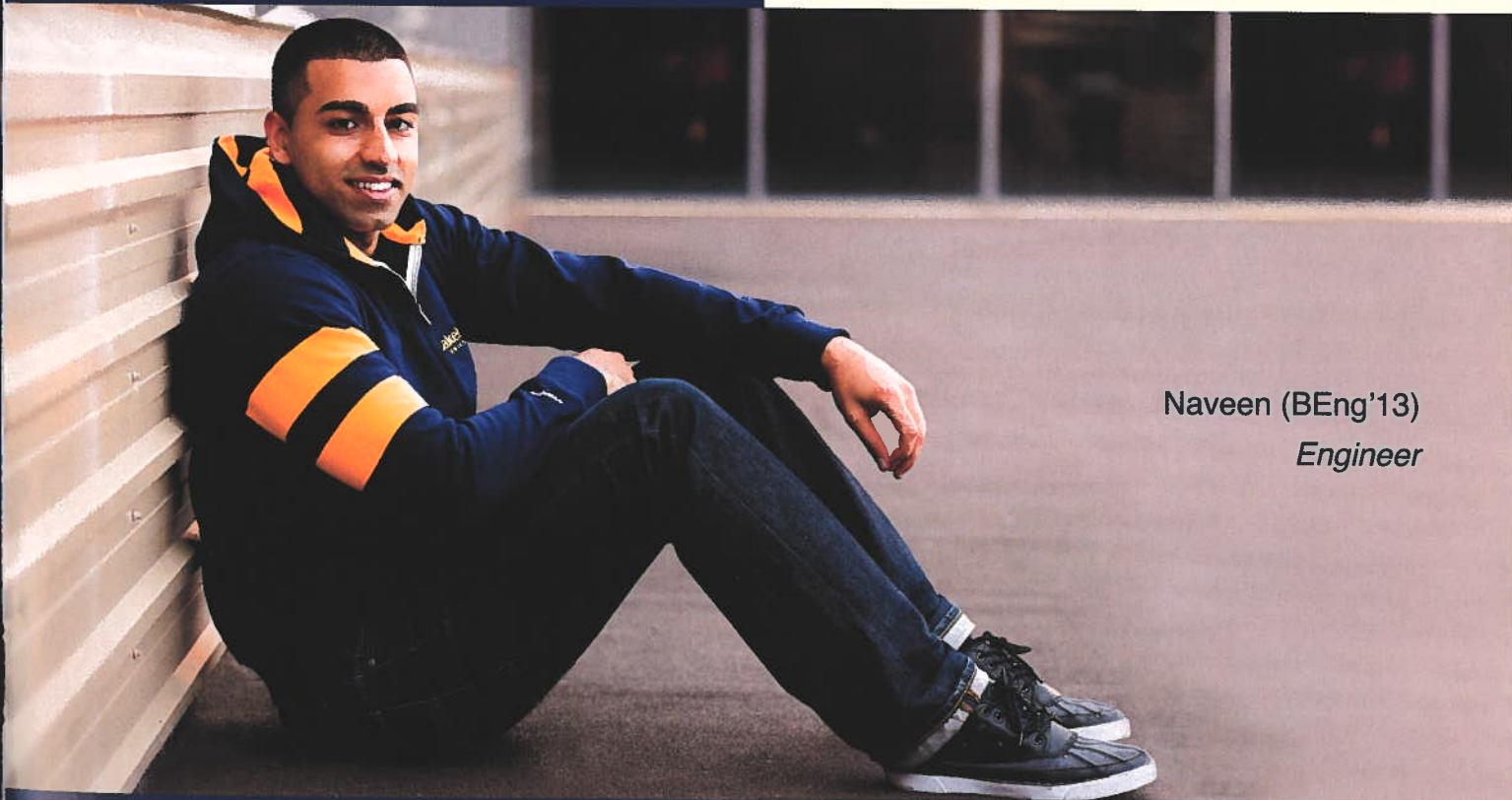
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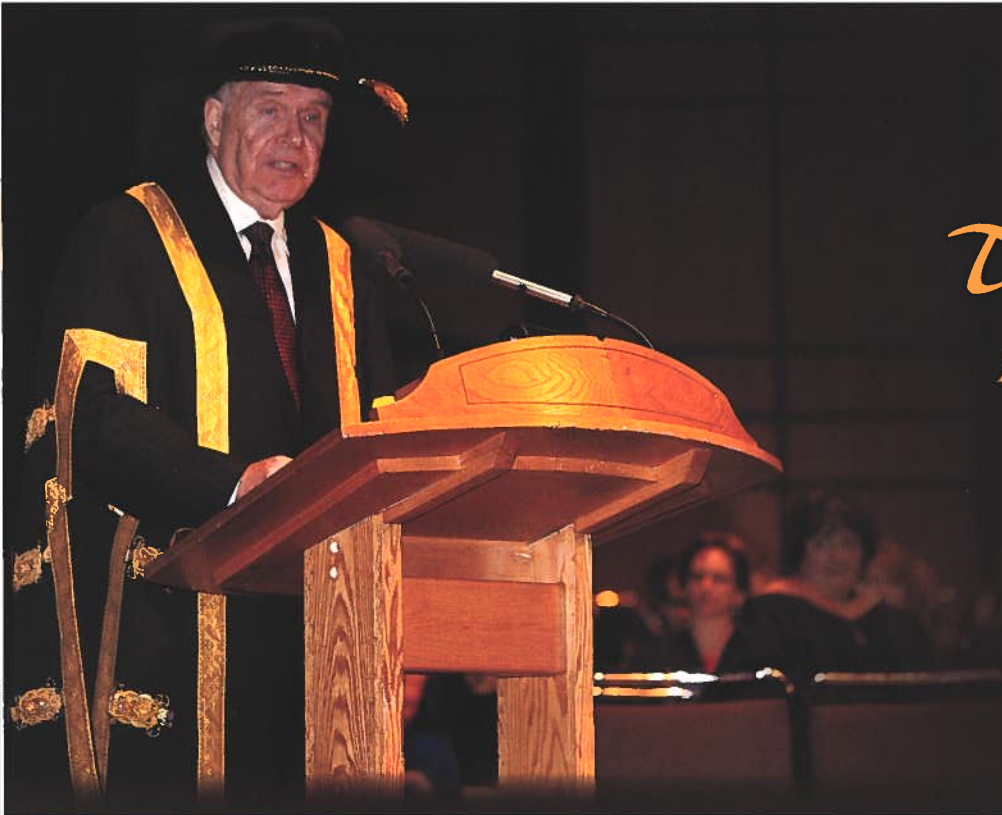
Naveen (BEng'13)
Engineer

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Chancellor
Derek Burney
An Uncommon
Canadian

by
Tracey Skehan

Derek Burney addresses Convocation after being installed as Lakehead's Chancellor on May 31, 2013

Derek Burney is a man who loves a challenge. Canada's former ambassador to the United States has not only seen the world, he has helped shape it.

Today, corporate executives and government officials seek the insights he has gained in a half-century career as a diplomat, political gatekeeper, business leader, and, currently, senior strategic advisor to the law firm Norton Rose Fulbright.

Despite this unrelenting schedule, Derek Burney has made room for another commitment: "representing Lakehead University as a beacon of

"I have a passion for education because I believe that it is the best foundation for a successful and satisfying life."

— Chancellor Derek Burney

academic excellence in my hometown." In May, Burney became Lakehead's eighth chancellor in a special convocation ceremony.

He took on this role because he knows firsthand the transformative power of universities. "I have a passion for education because I believe that it is the best foundation for a successful and satisfying life – a major reason why a young fellow from Thunder Bay was able to become ambassador to the U.S.A.," he explains. "Merit not lineage counts in Canada."

Burney was born and raised in Fort William (later Thunder Bay) and absorbed the unconventional spirit of this rugged Northwestern Ontario metropolis.

Growing up he participated in drama productions in high school and played hockey, baseball, football, and basketball. During summers, he worked at the Royal Edward Hotel, the Canadian Grain Commission, and the Great Lakes Paper Mill. This energetic young man also drove a taxi for his mother's firm.

After high school, Burney went to Queen's University. "For me personally, the discipline of completing a graduate thesis was probably the most riveting and useful experience of my time at university," Burney says. "Habits formed in that endeavour underpinned much of what I subsequently accomplished."

His university sojourn was also life-changing because it was there that he met his future wife, Joan Peden. Joan, coincidentally, was from Port Arthur – Fort William's neighbouring city. The couple, who have four sons and 17 grandchildren, have since shared countless adventures.

Around the World

Burney joined Canada's Foreign Service in 1963. "The appeal," he says, "was variety – in terms of environment, of functions and of the people you would work with." What began as a two-year posting in Japan turned into a seven-year hitch (including two years on an intensive Japanese-language course).

After a stint back at the external affairs department's headquarters in Ottawa, Burney was named ambassador to South Korea in 1978 at the relatively young age of 38. He had decided early in his diplomatic career to be more than a generalist. The posting to Seoul broadened him as an Asia specialist while adding trade policy to his skill set. His most dramatic moment in Seoul, however, was political.

On his farewell visit to President Chun, Doo-hwan in late 1980, Burney (on instructions from Ottawa) pleaded for the life of opposition leader Kim, Dae-jung, who awaited execution on charges of sedition and conspiracy. Chun "didn't take kindly" to the intercession, and the courtesy call turned into a diplomatic dust-up. But Kim survived.

Back in Ottawa, Burney organized the 1981 G-7 Summit in Montebello, Quebec, the first time Canada had played host to the diplomatic extravaganza. Later that year, he headed External's Bureau of Trade Policy and General Economic Affairs. In that job, he led an inter-departmental trade policy review which eventually culminated in the Canada-U.S. Free Trade initiative.

He moved up to assistant deputy minister for U.S.A. affairs and then associate undersecretary during the mid-eighties. In those positions, he impressed Brian Mulroney, who had become prime minister in 1984, with a promise to enhance Canada's relations with the U.S. In 1987, the PM asked Burney to become his chief of staff.

"Derek was knowledgeable, decisive, and determined to get solutions," says Mulroney. "I learned that he was pretty tough. He could crack the whip and make things happen." When Burney demurred that he was not a political strategist, the PM replied that he needed someone to organize the prime minister's office and make sure multiple officials weren't giving him conflicting counsel.

Mulroney credits Burney for his role "in some of the most important files that the Government of Canada has handled since the Second World War." These included the adoption of the Goods and Services Tax and the Commonwealth push to sanction apartheid South Africa. "Derek was very effective and very important to the process and the result."

That was especially so in the protracted negotiation of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. As the talks teetered on collapse, Mulroney recalls that Burney and U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker saved the day. "Those were the two indispensable players at the end who made it happen."

Later, Mulroney appointed Burney ambassador to the U.S., where he played a crucial part in concluding the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the Acid Rain Accord.

In 1993, Burney shifted his formidable ability to get things done to the private sector. He became chair and CEO of Bell Canada International (BCI), leading its telecom expansion into the U.K., the U.S., Asia, and Latin America. On a business trip to South Korea, he was warmly welcomed by Kim, Dae-jung, the former dissident whose life he had helped to save and who had become president. ■



Ambassador Derek Burney (far right) sits in during an Oval Office meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney c. 1987

From 1999 to 2004, Burney was president and CEO of Canadian Aviation Electronics Ltd. (known by its acronym, CAE Inc.). When he came on board, CAE was a holding company with multiple profit centres that manufactured advanced simulation and controls equipment. He redefined it by focusing on three core businesses and turning CAE into a global provider of integrated training solutions for civilian and military air crews.

In 2006 PM-elect Stephen Harper tapped Burney to head his transition team. The prime minister's transition was "the best I've seen," Arthur Kroeger, one of the most respected former mandarins, told the Hill Times. "There were no burps, hiccups, or leaks," agreed Burney.

Following the changeover, Burney joined the Ottawa office of Norton Rose Fulbright (then Ogilvy Renault). His position with the firm gives Burney the flexibility to accept outside assignments.

"He has a lot of relationships and networks," says Norman Steinberg, global chair of Norton Rose Fulbright. "He's been a fantastic 'rainmaker' for us. He also helps with our existing relationships. Key clients approach us with business issues and ask for his strategic advice. He can apply himself to almost any industry. And he has lots of stamina."

Hometown Hero

Burney's stamina will come in handy as he dives into his new role at Lakehead. "I'm going to get into a dialogue with President Stevenson and the Board of Governors to develop some ideas on how I can help. I'm available to do what they want me to do, when they want me to do it," he says.

"He will not be just a figurehead," concurs Deb Comuzzi, Lakehead's vice-president of external relations, "he will be helping us implement our Strategic Plan for 2013-18."

Burney, whose connection with Lakehead University goes back to 1990 when he received an Honorary Doctor of Laws, is the ideal person to cultivate the regional, national, and international ties necessary to boost the University's profile and resources. "We will demonstrate that we are tailoring our programs to the skills needed for the country," Burney explains. "Corporate donations should flow from that."

The chancellor is excited about Lakehead's approach to postsecondary education. "I am particularly keen to support the new Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Mining and Exploration (CESME), which I believe can bolster the enormous potential of Northwestern Ontario."

The model of learning that CESME embodies is part of Lakehead's push to "emphasize excellence at all levels and to educate students with the skills and qualities Canada will need in what is an increasingly turbulent and competitive world," says Burney.

And Chancellor Burney's legendary talents as a statesman couldn't have come at a better moment. "As Lakehead is leading up to its 50th anniversary in 2015, the breadth of experience he will bring to Lakehead is enormous," says Comuzzi. "He will open doors that we have never been able to open before."

When asked to boil down what he wants to achieve as chancellor, Burney replies, "Mostly I will try to inspire Lakehead University graduates whenever I can to make the most from what they have learned."

"Education provides the opportunity but individual effort is the key to success."

Derek Burney has held his own with superpowers, stood up for human rights, and helped usher in an era of economic prosperity for Canada – Lakehead is proud to welcome this bold thinker as chancellor. ■



A visit to the PM's Office: Joan Burney, Rev. Russ Peden (Joan's father), Prime Minister Mulroney, Harriet Peden (Joan's mother), and Derek Burney

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Lakehead University
graduates whenever I can
to make the most from
what they have learned."
– Chancellor Derek Burney

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Making Your Universe More Connected

Mark Tilbury Director

Joining Alumni & Community Relations is the natural extension of Mark's 22-year relationship with Lakehead. This Honours Bachelor of Commerce grad has served with Lakehead's Board of Governors and the Alumni Association Board. In spite of all the growth he's seen, Mark says Lakehead still has that special welcoming vibe. He's now putting his MA in Philanthropy and Development from St. Mary's University (Minnesota) to work "to bring alumni new opportunities for engagement and to create lasting relationships."

Amanda Gerow Associate

This spring, Amanda became one of Lakehead's newest grads when she obtained her Bachelor of Administration degree. She accomplished this while working full-time, taking courses part-time, and planning a wedding. Working in the Alumni Office has allowed her to go back to school as well as enabled her to get out in the community more. "Choosing Lakehead opened so many doors, personally and professionally. I love constantly meeting new people, connecting graduates with business professionals, and seeing them secure jobs."

Meghan Hanbury Associate

Meghan has always believed strongly in giving back to her community, so working in the non-profit sector makes sense to this active volunteer. She has an Honours Bachelor of Arts in English and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Lakehead and is thrilled to be part of this new team. "To boil it down to the core, I know that when I come in to the office each day I am ultimately working to help our students achieve a postsecondary education and our alumni achieve their goals after graduating."

Jasmin Fisher Intern

Jasmin, a music enthusiast and avid supporter of the creative arts, grew up in Thunder Bay and graduated from Western University with a Bachelor of Arts in 2012. She recently completed Western's Digital Communications post-graduate diploma and has a strong background in social media management. She's looking forward to applying these skills at Lakehead where she'll focus on communication, database implementation, and volunteer coordination for Lakehead's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Alumni Award Winners ~ 2013

Orillia Campus

Alumni Honour Award
Linda Rodenburg
Professor, Orillia

Young Alumni Honour Award
Crystal Luchkiw
Family Medicine Resident

Young Alumni Honour Award
Michael Thorn
PhD Candidate, University of Western Ontario

Alumni Volunteer Award
Diane Thompson

Young Alumni Honour Award
Mehdi Dashiban
Researcher and Postdoctoral Fellow



Thunder Bay Campus

Alumni Honour Award
Dolores Wawia
Professor of Aboriginal Education

Alumni Honour Award
Arnold Park
Former CEO, McCain Foods

Young Alumni Honour Award
Deanna Burgart
Aboriginal Mentor, Speaker, and Engineer



Faculty Profile

Professor **Sandra Jeppesen**

Media Studies for Social Change

by Tracey Skehan



For Sandra Jeppesen, joining Lakehead Orillia in 2010 to design and coordinate the Media Studies program presented an exciting way to encourage greater social justice across the globe.

“But my background is probably not what you’d expect,” this activist and Interdisciplinary Studies professor says. “I have an undergraduate degree in Systems Design Engineering from the University of Waterloo.” Jeppesen studied biomedical engineering, a new field when she graduated in the late 80s. “I had the idea that technology and science could have a positive impact on people’s lives.”

She worked as an engineer for six years before deciding to become a writer to explore a more creative relationship to life and, perhaps, leave a more lasting cultural legacy. She returned to university to complete a master’s degree in Creative Writing at Concordia University followed by a PhD in English Literature at York University.

Although creative writing may seem like a surprising graduate degree for an engineer, Jeppesen was composing poetry by the time she was eight years old and has always believed in the power of words. Her new focus brought her into the orbit of artists, writers, and social activists. She soon branched into spoken word performances and explorations of media produced by grassroots movements

as forms of political self-expression, community organizing, and protest mobilization.

**“We are the only undergraduate Media Studies for Social Change program in Canada.”
— Sandra Jeppesen**

By the time Jeppesen began her PhD, activism, including anti-globalization and anti-poverty initiatives, took centre stage. She was making punk zines (small pamphlets) with artist friends critiquing disparities caused by contemporary capitalism. She also came to be a proponent of anarchism, a political system that attempts to eliminate economic, gender, racial, sexual, geographic, and other inequalities.

Jeppesen had finished her doctorate and was teaching Communications Studies at Concordia when she learned that Lakehead University Orillia was developing a Media Studies program – it was an opportunity she couldn’t pass up.

“There are only a few Canadian programs that combine critical media literacy skills with media production,” Jeppesen says. “We are the only undergraduate Media

Studies for Social Change program in Canada.”

Students learn how to decode media biases and become more engaged with media production. “Media is so pervasive that you need to understand it in order to understand the world,” Jeppesen declares.

“I use teaching approaches that empower students and facilitate the complex analysis of power relations in society, from local to national to global.”

The other part, she explains, is that with the explosion of social media like Facebook and Twitter, media literacy has become an indispensable requirement for many jobs. Lakehead students are mastering this new arena by producing everything from digital and media arts to print media, videos, websites, and photography.

The program also offers two media production internships in media outlets, non-profits, or non-governmental organizations. “We are not merely teaching the students good skills and critical thinking and then hoping for the best,” Jeppesen says. “The internships give students work experience and connect them with potential employers.”

She hopes that these future communications specialists, teachers, artists, and advocates will graduate with a strong belief in creating a world where everyone is able to live a life of dignity and mutual respect. ■

Chancellor Arthur Mauro's Legacy

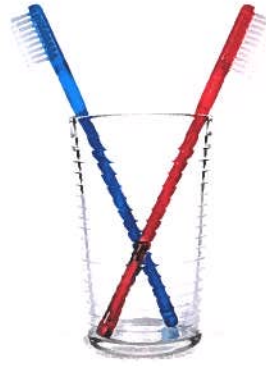
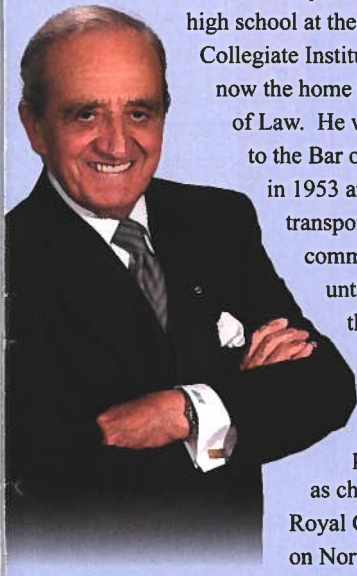
At a special reception this spring, Lakehead President Brian Stevenson thanked Dr. Arthur Mauro for serving as the University's seventh chancellor from 2010 to 2012.

Dr. Mauro, a respected philanthropist, lawyer, businessman, and Officer of the Order of Canada, played a leadership role in establishing Lakehead's Faculty of Law and has made both the University and Northwestern Ontario better places through his dedicated service.

When Dr. Mauro was first announced as chancellor, he explained that "I am proud not only to support Lakehead in this capacity but also to represent its character and the excellence it embodies."

Dr. Mauro grew up on Secord Street in Thunder Bay and went to high school at the Port Arthur Collegiate Institute which is now the home of the Faculty of Law. He was called to the Bar of Manitoba in 1953 and practiced transportation and communication law until 1969. He then moved into the public and business sectors in positions such as chairman of the Royal Commission on Northern Transportation and president, CEO, and chairman of the Investors Group.

Acting as chancellor was not Dr. Mauro's first association with Lakehead. He received an Honorary Doctor of Commerce degree in 1997 and in 2007 he created the Arthur Mauro Challenge to successfully raise \$300,000 for the construction of Lakehead's Advanced Technology and Academic Centre (ATAC). Dr. Arthur Mauro's lasting contributions to Lakehead University will never be forgotten. ■



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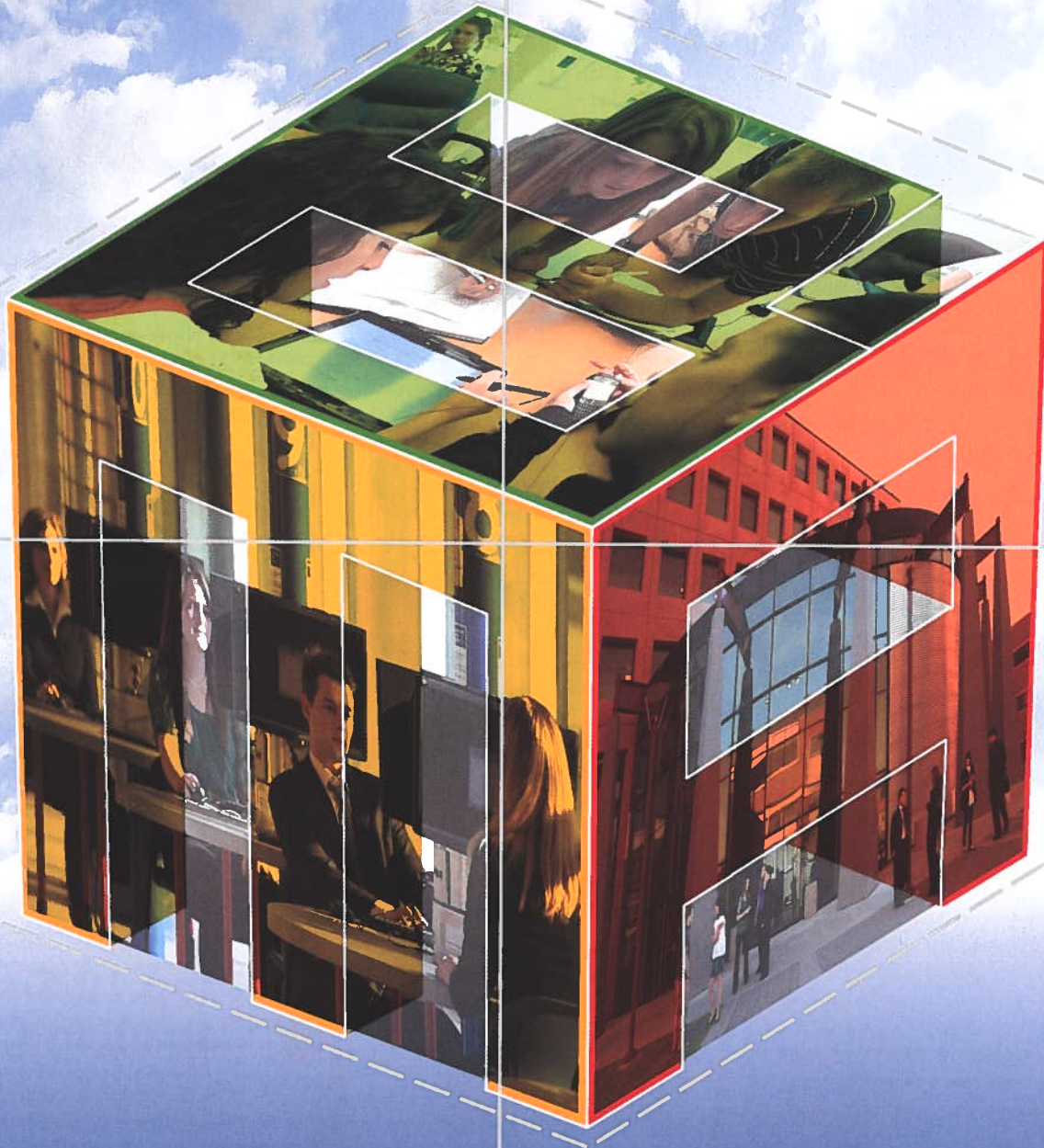
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Great Grads

Breanna Lawlor-MacDonald has always loved to learn.

Fueled by this enthusiasm, and armed with an Advanced Diploma in Fine Arts from Fanshawe College, she began exploring how she could foster this passion for knowledge in others.

She decided to become a teacher. “Lakehead University in Orillia opened just after the birth of my daughter,” says Lawlor-MacDonald. “I investigated its concurrent education program and thought it would be a great fit, especially because of the family support I have in Orillia.”

With small classes and engaging professors, Lawlor-MacDonald found the academic setting challenging and welcoming. She graduated in 2011 with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences and Bachelor of Education degrees.

During her studies, Lawlor-MacDonald discovered that she wanted to venture outside the realm of traditional teaching. So she was excited when she landed the position of education program director with the Orillia Museum of Art and History.

“This position is perfect for me and takes advantage of all the education I have attained,” she says of her unique role which includes equal components of education, history, and art. “Part of my job is to develop educational programs for school children who come to the Museum and to coordinate outreach education programs.”

While most of the programming focuses on students in junior kindergarten through Grade 8, the Museum also targets adult students at local learning centres and prepares students in Georgian College’s Early Childhood Education program to teach art.

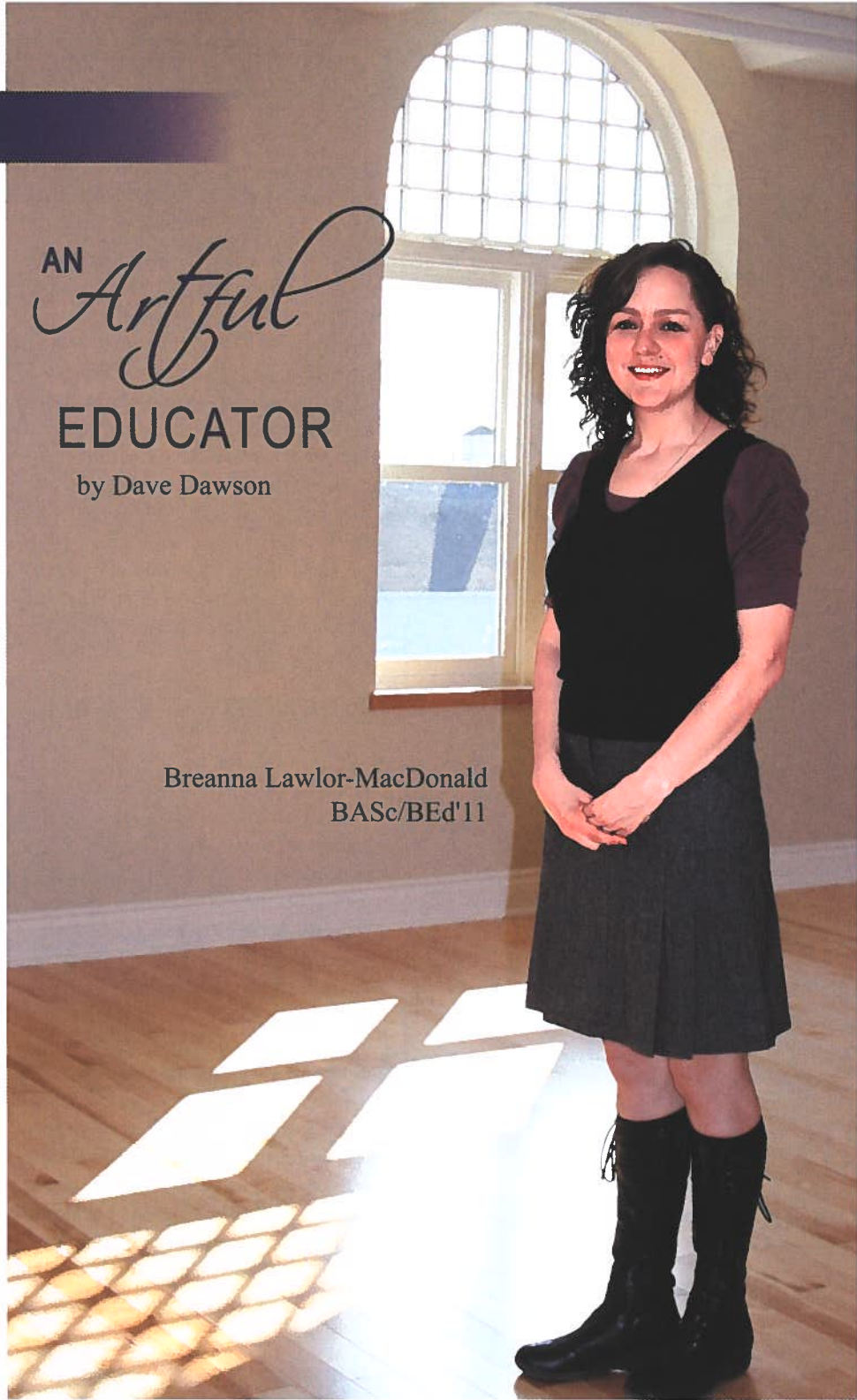
Lawlor-MacDonald’s job not only allows her to live and work in her home community, it has also reignited her educational ambitions. She is now considering pursuing a master’s degree.

“I was inspired by my history professor Daphne Bonar, a great lecturer who was just so passionate,” says Lawlor-MacDonald.

AN *Artful* EDUCATOR

by Dave Dawson

Breanna Lawlor-MacDonald
BASc/BEEd'11

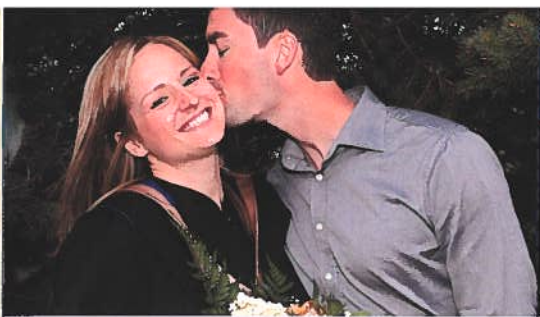


“Bonar and Linda Rodenburg, an English professor, really expected their students to think more, to want to learn more... and that’s something I am doing – in my career and my life.”

A major renovation and restoration of the Museum is expanding her professional experience. “I’ve had the opportunity to be

involved and learn about every step of the project,” Lawlor-MacDonald says, “and I’ve found it fascinating.”

This Lakehead grad has a busy summer ahead of her as she prepares for the Museum’s grand re-opening and new programming, but she wouldn’t have it any other way. ■



Class Notes

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- I do not wish to receive ANY materials advertising Lakehead University affinity programs.

1960s

Dr. David Magee (BA'68) was awarded the Order of Canada for his work in physical therapy. David, a professor with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, has a BA in History and Political Science from Lakehead. He is a world-renowned physical therapist who has helped professional athletes succeed at the highest level. He received three Stanley Cup rings and a Grey Cup ring for his work. David has been a faculty member in the University of Alberta's Physical Therapy department since 1972. He was also chair of the Physical Therapy department from 1980-1993 and the associate dean in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine from 2003 to 2011.

1980s

Brunina Morrow (née Ariganello) (BA'89, BEd'89) teaches with the Thunder Bay Catholic District School Board and has been married to Michael Morrow for almost 21 years. Her son Jonathan just graduated from high school and will be entering Lakehead University's Civil Engineering program in September 2013. Micaela, her 11-year-old, finished Grade 6 this year.

Sheila Southon (BA'80) is a guidance counsellor with the Pierrefonds Comprehensive High School in Beaconsfield, Quebec, where she has worked for more than 20 years. After majoring in Psychology at Lakehead, Sheila went on to complete an M.Ed in Counselling Psychology at McGill University and is certified to teach for the Chopra Center. She remembers Lakehead fondly and offers best thoughts to all current students and grads.

1990s

Tracy Buckler (BScN'99) has been honoured with a 2013 *Influential Women of Northern Ontario Award*. Tracy, who has been the president and CEO of the St. Joseph's Care Group in Thunder Bay since 2005, was named *Executive of the Year*. She grew up in Wawa and moved to Thunder Bay in 1985 where she found a job as a clinical nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital. Tracy moved into increasingly senior positions and is now responsible for 1,700

employees, a \$130-million operating budget, and a capital planning and redevelopment fund of more than \$150 million.

Madge Chan (BA'98) is the 2013 winner of Lakehead University's *Award to Staff for Outstanding Performance and/or Contributions*. Madge, an administrative assistant, was recognized for her many contributions to the Lakehead community, including the time she devotes to guiding and supporting our students and athletes and for embodying the spirit of the learner-centred student experience. Lakehead President Brian Stevenson presented the award at a reception on May 15.

2010s

Kyle Christian (HBCom'11) successfully completed the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' 2012 Uniform Evaluation and is now working for the Thunder Bay office of MNP, one of the largest chartered accountancy and business consulting firms in Canada.

Robyn Goral (HBCom'11) successfully completed the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' 2012 Uniform Evaluation and is now working for the Thunder Bay office of the national accountancy and business consulting firm MNP.

Kristie Sinclair (née Roy) (HBCom'10) also successfully completed the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants' 2012 Uniform Evaluation and is now working for the Thunder Bay office of MNP.

Zachary White (BEng'10) received a 2013 Professional Engineers Ontario (PEO) *G. Gordon M. Sterling Engineering Intern Award*. Zachary, who studied Civil Engineering, is a structural engineering intern in Thunder Bay with Genivar Inc. He has been engaged in several large-scale projects in Canada and the United States and was recently chosen as the semi-lead on a structural project for a progressive bio-energy plant. Zachary is also an active member of PEO's Lakehead Chapter and volunteers with the Engineer-in-Residence program to promote math and science in local elementary schools. ■



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