

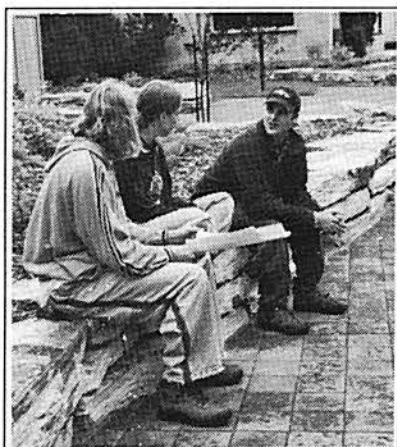
Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Agora

A NEWSLETTER FOR LAKEHEAD UNIVERSITY STAFF & FACULTY



A Pow-Wow featuring guest speakers, Aboriginal drummers, dancers, and singers was part of this year's Orientation Week activities



Landscaping improvements have added seating areas along the main campus walkway

The Changing Face of Lakehead

New landscaping, services and activities mark the beginning of the 1999-2000 academic year



Lakehead students can surf the World Wide Web 24-hours-a-day at the Internet Café in the Agora

Agora

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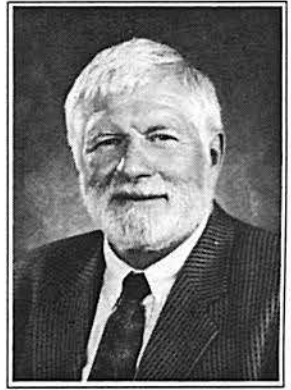
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Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

From the President's Desk

by Dr. Frederick F. Gilbert



I would like to welcome the new and returning students and new faculty and staff to campus.

For those students returning to Lakehead, some changes will be readily apparent. We have used part of the Facilities Renewal Fund to provide new walkways and a landscaped area outside the Braun Building. The deteriorating walkways were becoming a safety issue, and the landscaping is designed to improve the central focus area of campus. It should provide a pleasant space for gathering and present a positive image to visitors. Also, there have been substantial upgrades to the computing facilities. New or upgraded services are now available in the Chancellor Paterson Library, the C. J. Sanders Fieldhouse, and the Bora Laskin Building. Additionally, an Internet Café environment has been created in the Agora and the Bora Laskin Building whereby students can relax while surfing the net or e-mailing their family and friends. These facilities should help alleviate the long waits currently experienced in attempting to gain access to a computer work station. Furthermore, a number of upgraded new teaching labs will be evident, including those in Engineering, Computer Science, and Business Administration. I am very pleased with the progress we have made in upgrading Lakehead's technological environment with much of the progress attributable to student support through the new technology

enhancement fee. We expect this initiative will continue for the next few years.

As we move into the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan, I encourage faculty, staff and students to participate in the discussions and track the progress around each objective. A Strategic Plan Monitoring Group will assess progress each semester and report to the university community its findings.

I would like to commend Campus Development and, specifically, the Housekeeping and Grounds' Staff for the much-improved condition of the buildings and grounds. We can all take pride in the appearance of the campus. There will be additional cigarette butt disposal units provided, and I encourage all smokers to use these receptacles or other suitable waste containers to dispose of their butts.

I attended the Oxford Round Table on Educational Policy for a week in August and had the chance to interact with other university presidents from Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Ghana, South Africa, Poland, Germany and Estonia. While we share many concerns regarding funding and the future directions of higher education, it was apparent that each institution faced its own unique challenges. Nonetheless, there were important object lessons from the experiences at

continued on page 3

President continued from page 2

other universities that will have value and potential application at Lakehead, so the exercise was very useful. Two of these are the foundation program for black Africans at Rhodes University in South Africa and the communications' process used by the President of Oregon State University. I believe that our Native Access Programs and the usefulness of Lakehead's web site as a communication tool could profit from these experiences elsewhere. In addition, the Round Table was a valuable networking forum for us all. I would also like to express my thanks for the effort and contribution so many people have made to this year's orientation and registration process. While I have high expectations for the development of an improved registration system that makes better use of technology and requires less time for students to spend in lines, this in no way diminishes from the hard work and dedicated effort put forth by all the staff involved in registration.

If we are to fulfill the objectives of a student-centred learning environment though, progress must be made in implementing electronic registration and ensuring that we are a user-friendly organization. While students and parents have commented to me how friendly and helpful people at Lakehead have been, I also have had negative comments about our "customer" service. Staff and volunteers, many of them students, are to be congratulated for their efforts that have resulted in the positive sentiments but we must work harder to ensure these are the only type of responses we hear.

Well, it is the beginning of a new academic year, orientation is over, and classes have begun. I trust that it will be a good year for all.



Campus News

Dignam and Hecnar receive Premier's Research Excellence Awards

Two Lakehead University faculty have been awarded funding under the Premier's Research Excellence Awards (PREA) intended to help researchers attract and retain talented graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and research associates.

Dr. Marc Dignam (Physics) was awarded \$95,000 to undertake theoretical investigations in semiconductor nanostructures. Dignam is an outstanding computational physicist in addition to being an excellent analytical theorist. His research will add basic knowledge to the field of semiconductor and optical physics and will further our understanding of the dynamical response of semiconductors to light.

Dr. Stephen Hecnar (Biology) was awarded \$100,000 to undertake research on amphibian populations in northern and southern Ontario that will provide valuable insights into biodiversity while strengthening Lakehead's emerging focus in conservation biology.

"Dr. Dignam and Dr. Hecnar's success in the PREA competition is a testament to their outstanding research accomplishments and we congratulate them on their achievements. The fact that Lakehead University was awarded two Premier's Awards speaks to the quality of our research programs and the training being provided at the graduate level," says Dr. Mark Howe, dean of graduate studies and research.

Lakehead University will be contributing a total of \$97,500 towards the two awards.

Di Matteo and O'Connor awarded SSHRC Research Grants

The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) recently announced awards for two Lakehead University faculty members.

Dr. Livio Di Matteo (Economics) is to receive \$48,506 over three years for his project entitled: "Late 19th and Early 20th Century Wealth and Economic Development in Ontario."

Dr. Brian P. O'Connor (Psychology) will receive \$36,850 over three years for his research project entitled: "Interpersonal Rigidity, Hostility and Complementarity: Associations With Psychopathy, Relationship Quality and Attachment History."

Dr. Di Matteo and Dr. O'Connor are to be commended," says Dr. Mark Howe, dean of graduate studies and research. "Obtaining SSHRC funds is a significant attainment given the highly challenging nature of SSHRC's national competition; SSHRC's success rate in the 1999-2000 competition was 42.8 per cent."

Grad Student wins Whittaker Award

Carl D. Goodwin, a master's student in kinesiology and a technician in the Department of Chemical Engineering, received the Whittaker Award for Biomedical Engineering students consisting of \$450 (US), membership in the American Society of Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO) valued at \$500 (US), and a reduced ASAIO conference fee valued at \$350 (US).

Goodwin attended the ASAIO conference June 2-7, 1999 in San Diego, where he and his thesis advisor, Dr. Laurie Garred, presented two papers resulting from the data collection for his master's thesis: "Dialysis Adequacy Assessment Based on Conductivity Measurement of Spent Dialysate" and "Vascular Refilling During Hemodialysis: Determination By Blood Volume Monitoring."

Superior Science

by Heather Roy, Co-director Superior Science

Unusual sounds filled the halls of Lakehead University during two weeks in August. Children in blue T-shirts and instructors in yellow were seen on campus, and the sounds of their laughter and excitement prompted the curiosity of staff and students.

"This camp makes science fun!" exclaims a child as she bounces out of the Braun Building with green slime oozing through her fingers. This young girl, along with 67 youngsters ages 8 to 13, experienced Superior Science.

Superior Science is a program allowing children to explore science, engineering and technology at Lakehead University.

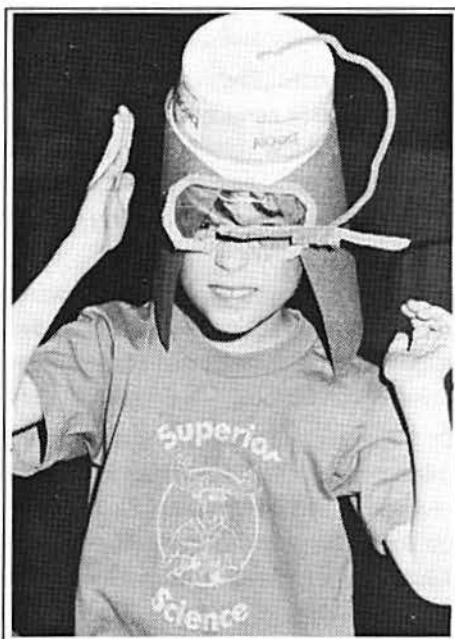
"The goal is to stimulate children's interest in the fields of science, engineering and technology through hands-on activities," says Karen Kleihauer, director of Superior Science. "We give children an opportunity to build and test their own projects, participate in interactive tours, and perform dazzling scientific experiments."

The children this summer experimented with simple household products to make baking soda rockets and slime for chemistry activities. Concepts of biology were introduced with a crayfish dissection, followed by a trip to the McIntyre River to look for live aquatic specimens. Aspects of engineering were explored through interactive tours and hands-on design and construction projects. Some of the favorite engineering projects were balloon-powered race cars and bridge building. Computer time and building speakers were special technology activities.

"My favorite Superior Science activity was our inventions," explains a camper on his last day of camp. "Also I enjoyed making slime and balloon racers...Oh yeah, and taking apart the crayfish. My least favorite activity was nothing because they were all fun and interesting." The boy smiles and waves good-bye to his instructors.

"We are hoping to offer this program again next summer -- for seven weeks, rather than two," says Kleihauer when asked about the future of Superior Science. "We would like to run programs for children entering grades 5 and 6, and another program for children entering grades 7 and 8. This would increase enrolment to 308 children. This year we enrolled 68 youngsters and we had a waiting list of children wanting to get into the program." Superior Science would also like to run workshops at Thunder Bay and area elementary schools in the Spring of 2000. "The purpose of the workshops," says Kleihauer as she picks up a LEGO bridge built by a camper, "would be to incorporate the new science and technology curriculum with hands-on activities."

If you would like to find out more about Superior Science, please call 343-8201 and leave a message.



Herbicide Training in exchange for a new Computer

The Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment is pleased to recognize a recent collaboration with Broland Enterprises which resulted in the addition of a Pentium computer to the Forestry student microcomputer room.

Earlier in the spring, Broland was seeking qualified expertise to deliver a course in herbicide application for their existing and potential employees.

Since the introduction of a new licensing system by the Ministry of the Environment, several agencies in southern Ontario have begun to offer such courses -- for a substantial fee.

Nancy Luckai, assistant professor, introduced Renee Johnstone, Broland vice-president, to Lynne Sevean, a senior technologist with the Faculty.

Sevean has provided herbicide training to Lakehead students for many years as part of his extracurricular, volunteer activities.

It was agreed that in exchange for delivering a course, a computer would be donated for the use of forestry students.

In this case, the networking and cooperation benefited all parties. An excellent microcomputer lab was expanded by one up-to-date unit. All the students who took the course passed the provincial exams and a local employer learned that Lakehead houses expertise which rivals that of our colleagues to the south!

-- Nancy Luckai

Second World Congress on Allelopathy

Critical Analysis & Future Prospects

by Stacie VanEvery

The Second World Congress on Allelopathy was held at Lakehead University August 8-13, 1999 and was attended by over 200 people representing 34 countries. This prestigious gathering represented scientists from abroad working on various aspects of allelopathy.

Allelopathy concerns the chemical interactions among plants through the release of organic chemicals into the environment. This little-known field of ecology is making significant progress in solving many environmental problems of our society.

According to Dr. Azim Mallik, a professor in the Department of Biology and chair of the Second World Congress, the purpose of the gathering was to provide a forum to discuss recent progress on allelopathy from an ecosystem perspective. "The allelochemicals released from plants affect other plants as well as the soil environment, so it is essential to approach allelopathy from an ecological perspective," he says.

This field has captured the attention of many scientists, and during the final day of the Congress, a crossfire discussion allowed a panel of experts to address controversial issues in allelopathy.

One of the main issues discussed was the need to establish a clearer definition of allelopathy as well as to highlight the success stories in allelopathic research.

Currently the most talked about and well-funded project in allelopathy is one that aims to develop allelopathic rice. Several Asiatic rice varieties are found to have natural allelopathic properties that protect them from weed interference. The gene responsible for this weed-suppressing effect has already been



identified. The graduate student involved in this research, L. Bach Jensen, presented her talk at the Lakehead Congress and was awarded the Rice Award (named after Dr. E.L. Rice, one of the most influential researchers in the field of allelopathy) for "best student presentation."

Allelopathy can help solve some of the many environmental problems of our time by producing environmentally safe biological control agents, which may reduce herbicide and pesticide use in agriculture and forestry.

One participant from the United States, Roselee Harmon, said she felt that the conference was a good time to do collaborative work.

Another, Dr. Udo Blum, professor of botany at North Carolina State University, was one of the many participants to write to Azim Mallik after the conference to compliment him on the success of the Lakehead Congress. In his e-mail he said: "Great weather, excellent food, a fine facility ... excellent opportunities for exchanging ideas about allelopathy and natural products...."

In addition to five days of intense discussion and presentations, participants were also treated to a field trip to discuss the impact of forest fire and harvesting on competition and allelopathy in the Boreal Forest. This was followed by a tour and dinner at Old Fort William.

Mallik, who is also president-elect of the International Allelopathy Society, says that historically, allelopathy has been playing a major role in sustainable agriculture in the developing countries through crop rotation, cover plant cropping and mulching. Biochemical research in allelopathy has already resulted in the production and marketing of environmentally safe biological herbicides in Japan, New Zealand and the USA. According to Mallik, new breakthroughs in biochemical and ecological genetics of allelopathy will play a significant role in shaping our agricultural and forestry practices in the 21st century. The next congress of allelopathy will be held in Japan in 2002.

Stacie VanEvery is one of several students participating in a student writing program sponsored by The Chronicle-Journal.



Lakehead

VS

University of Minnesota Duluth

by Denise Bruley, Communications Officer

A Minnesota fan called it "a very Canadian conclusion" alluding to the diplomatic result of the hockey game between Lakehead University and UMD held on Saturday, August 28, 1999.

"We had to be gracious guests in Minnesota," said Dr. Fred Gilbert, Lakehead University president.

Although the first Lakehead goal was scored by Dr. Margaret Johnston, Lakehead's new director of the School of Outdoor Recreation, Parks and Tourism, UMD came back quickly and made the score 3 to 1.

Lakehead played well, fighting back and making it 4 to 3 in their favour. In the end however, UMD managed to tie the game. After much debate over whether a five-minute overtime period would be played, it was decided that instead there would be a rematch in late September in Thunder Bay.

"It was a heck of a hockey game," said Dr. Gilbert, "but we won't be so gracious on our own turf."

The Lakehead Team included:

Goal:

Wes Thom

Defense:

Bruce Muirhead, Chris Southcott,

Bill Montelpare, Len Meyer

Forward:

Tom Warden, Fred Gilbert, Doug Thom,

Peter Viitala, Rob Zuback, Margaret Johnston,

Donna Newhouse, Ian Newhouse, Walter Epp

CENTRE FOR HEALTH CARE ETHICS

by Louisa Pedri, Office Manager

Lakehead University is pleased to announce the establishment of a Centre for Health Care Ethics now operating from an office in the Avila Centre.

The mission of the Centre is to enhance the ethical quality of health care within the Thunder Bay region and society in general by creating a forum for dialogue and collaborative action on ethical issues in the delivery of health care.

The establishment of the Centre for Health Care Ethics was the result of a year's work by a small team of dedicated volunteers who were engaged in the workings of the Thunder Bay Bioethics Interest Group, an organization started in March 1996 by Dr. Jaro Kotalik.

The Centre is hoping to create a regional program in health care ethics that will include education, consultation and research.

In the fulfilment of its educational mandate, the Centre for Health Care Ethics will be presenting a monthly forum of speakers which could take the form of debates, workshops or roundtables presented to a variety of audiences.

The Centre will strive to meet the needs of four major groups: postsecondary students and university faculty and staff, regional health care institutions and their professionals, community health organizations and interest groups, and the community-at-large of Northwestern Ontario.

Individual and institutional membership in the Centre is open to those who through their personal philosophy or career orientation agree with the mission statement and can support and promote the goals of the Centre for Health Care Ethics.

If you are interested in becoming a member or simply knowing more about the Centre, contact its director, Dr. J. Kotalik, by E-mail at (chce@lakeheadu.ca) or call the office (Room 123B at the Avila Centre) at phone/fax 343-8126.

Mission

To enhance the ethical quality of health care within the Thunder Bay Region and society in general by creating a forum for dialogue and collaborative action on ethical issues in the delivery of health care

What's Happening in the Library . . .

A NEW LIBRARY WEB PAGE

<http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~librwww/home.html>

Check out the Library's new web page! Connect to this page by typing in the URL as above or click on LIBRARY from the Lakehead University main page. From this new page you can access many library resources such as electronic indexes, electronic journals, and Internet subject guides for subjects taught at Lakehead University.

FALL 1999 LIBRARY ORIENTATION AND INSTRUCTION LINEUP

Take advantage of The Chancellor Paterson Library's Orientation and Instruction Program for your fall classes. The Library is once again offering a wide variety of library instruction sessions for students and faculty. These sessions are designed to acquaint students and faculty with the services and resources of the library and to assist in the development of research skills. These sessions are outlined below:

1. Library Orientation Program for Students

During the months of September and October the Library offers a series of pre-scheduled tours and sessions for students who want to learn more about the library and its resources. A brochure which outlines these sessions is available at the Library's Circulation and Reference Desks. Information on dates and times are also available on the Library's Web Page at <http://www.lakeheadu.ca/~librwww/libtour.html>. These sessions are general in nature. Students must pre-register in person at the Reference Desk.

2. Course-Specific Library Instruction

This type of session can be arranged as requested by a faculty member and will be individually designed for the specific needs of his or her students. A session can be scheduled in or out of class time, in the library or in the classroom. A session may include any of the following aspects of library research: topic selection and search strategy development, database selection and use, journal vs magazine use, primary vs secondary source selection, finding, evaluating and citing print and/or Internet sources. To make arrangements for this type of course specific session, call extension 8211.

3. Library Instruction for Faculty

At any time during the year you can arrange for one-to-one instruction of a specific source or sources, or a "refresher" tour of the Library. To make arrangements for a library tour call extension 8211.

4. Finding Statistics Using CANSIM

Learn to use CANSIM, Statistics Canada's computerized database and information retrieval service containing very valuable statistical information in time series. Pre-registration is necessary and limited to 30.

Monday, October 25 at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 27 at 11 a.m.

5. Learn to Use the 1996 Census:

During this 50-minute session you will learn to find statistics on Canadian cities and towns gathered during the 1996 Census. Both CD-ROM and Internet methods of access will be highlighted.

Pre-registration is necessary and limited to 30.

Monday, October 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 20 at 11:00 a.m.

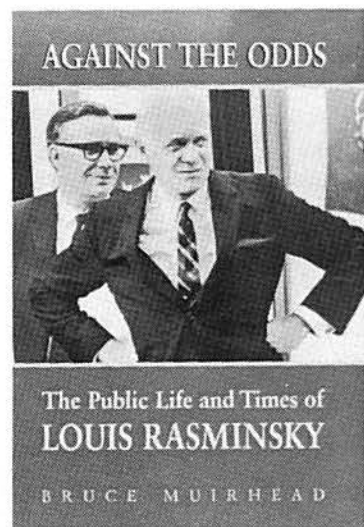
Watch for announcements of upcoming sessions on other electronic sources!

Dr. Bruce Muirhead (History) has written *Against The Odds -- The Public Life and Times of Louis Rasminsky*, the story of the governor of the Bank of Canada from 1961 to 1973 who was one of only two Jewish senior civil servants in Canada when he was appointed.

This authorized biography of Rasminsky's professional life will enlighten anyone interested in the formation of Canadian economic and monetary policy after World War II. It is the tale of an extraordinary figure in Canadian history.

Against The Odds is published by University of Toronto Press and copies are available at the Lakehead University Alumni Bookstore.

-- Denise Bruley



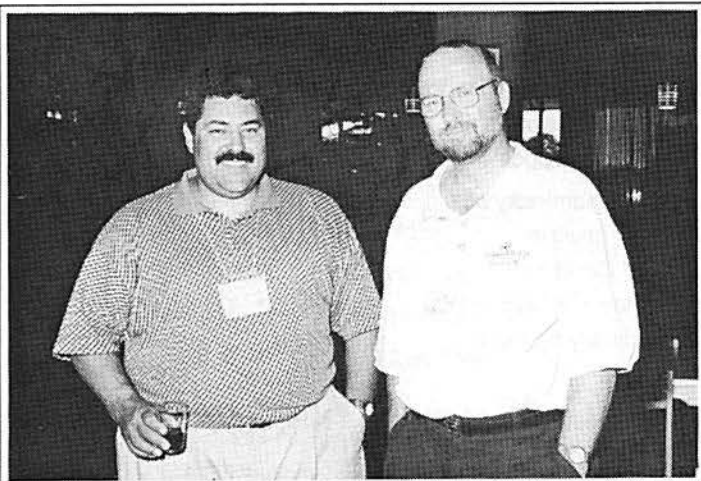
Welcome Back!

During the summer Lakehead hosted a reunion for residence assistants and dons. More than 40 people turned out for the August long weekend to enjoy dinners, campus tours and trips to Old Fort William, Terry Fox Monument and Kakabeka Falls.

Videos taken during the weekend are available at a cost of \$20. To order your copy contact Norma Jean Newbold, Residence Life Coordinator, at (807) 343-8622.



(l-r) Sarah Simson (1996-98), Francy Gertsch (1995-97), Norma Jean Newbold, Shawn Hannah (1995-98)



Heads of Residence past and present: Ron Spina 1982-91 (left) and David Hare (1991-present)

Did You Know?

-- Prettie Residence is named after the late **Robert J. Prettie**, a former chancellor of Lakehead University. Prettie was a member of the Board of Governors who chaired the University's first Building Fund drive and served as chair of the Board of Governors from 1971-73. The Prettie Residence was established in 1962 and was commonly referred to as the "Women's Residence." It became co-ed in 1966.

-- In the 1980s, Residence consisted of 10 houses in the Bartley complex and two houses in the Prettie complex. The Bartley Residence is named after the late **Dr. M.W. Bartley**, who served as Principal of Lakehead Technical Institute from 1948-52 and was Chair of the Lakehead University Board of Governors from 1965-69.

-- Between 1988-1995, the **final three phases of town house style residences** were completed, housing some 414 Lakehead students in addition to providing 16 beds for Health Sciences North.

-- In 1994, Lakehead acquired the **Avila Centre** from the Sisters of St. Joseph, which provided accommodation to 77 upper-level female students.

-- Today Lakehead can accommodate approximately **1100 students** in Residence. The cost of sharing a double room is \$5,071 with a full meal plan.

-- Residence activities are coordinated by a staff of nine including Department Manager **David Hare**, Residence Life Co-ordinator **Norma Jean Newbold**, Secretary Residence Administration **Margaret Starcok**, Residence Accounts/Admissions, **Shirley Richter**, Residence Admissions/Accounts **Vicki Cano**, Conference Services Coordinator **Karen Caljouw**, Facilities Supervisor **Pat Kanary**, Bartley Front Desk, **Tina Maenpaa**, and Residence Maintenance, **Ken Sundell**.

They are assisted by students hired part-time such as Resident Assistants and a Residence Programmer who is concerned primarily with the social aspects of Residence life. -- *Compiled with the help of Shirley Richter, Residence Admissions/Accounts*

Coming Up

in the Fall/Winter issue of the *Nor'Wester*

A Profile on Diane Schoemperlen,
this year's Alumni Honour Award Recipient

LAKEHEAD TEAM TO STUDY FACTORS AFFECTING THE PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN NORTHERN FIRST NATIONS RESEARCH

A Lakehead-led research team is one of sixteen from across Canada which was successful in the 1999 Open Grants Competition of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF). Bruce Minore, research director of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (Lakehead site) and Margaret Boone, associate professor in the School of Nursing, together with Mae Katt, Ontario's regional director, and Peggy Kinch, senior policy analyst for Medical Services Branch (MSB), Health Canada, and Stephen Birch, of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) at McMaster University are joint recipients of the grant.

The \$86,085 study will document the health impacts and costs (to the system and patients) of a lack of continuity in the delivery of oncology, diabetes and mental health services to the people of three Shibogama First Nations in Northwestern Ontario. The objective is to provide MSB, the federal department that is responsible for ensuring the delivery of health care to First Nation people on reserve, with an evidentiary basis for intervention and allocation of resources to improve both systemic and pathology-specific factors affecting continuity of care. Data will be collected through a five-year retrospective audit of 135 randomly selected patient records (stratified by diagnoses), and in-depth interviews with all resident and visiting health care providers. Because patients must access tertiary care outside the communities, similar interviews will be done with providers at the relevant referral agencies in Sioux Lookout and Thunder Bay. As well, financial data from MSB and the Shibogama Health Program will be used to generate a program-specific system costs analysis. The results will help MSB establish a baseline for community services, revise clinical decision-making protocols and, in partnership with the communities, set direction for expanding the continuum of care.

CHSRF supports applied health systems research that provides policy makers and health systems managers in Canada with evidence on which to base decisions. In order to ensure that research is timely, relevant and important to decision-makers -- and likely to be applied -- at least two-thirds of the cost of funded projects must be provided by sponsoring agencies. In the present case, the total cost will be shared by MSB and the Ontario Health Services Research Co-Sponsorship Fund.

By providing comparative data on mental health and diabetes clients, as well as oncology patients, the new study will

compliment and significantly extend the research on continuity of cancer care in northern First Nations, for which four members of the team (Katt, Kinch, Boone and Minore) together with Helen Cromarty and Michael Power received a combined grant of \$50,142 from the Senator Norman M. Paterson Foundation and the Northern Cancer Research Foundation, announced last March.

Shades of Summer



Janet Stewart, Dale Dubiowsky, Kevin Dunning and Cheryl Berst made a formidable team at the 11th Annual Maintenance Choice Golf Tournament held at Centennial Golf Course in June.

They were just a few of the 72 staff, faculty and friends who took part in the annual best ball tournament organized by the Campus Development Department.

As is the custom every year, proceeds from the event went towards funding a student bursary.

This year the Maintenance Choice Golf Classic Trophy was awarded to Rob Kucher, Terry Griffin, Joe Gosselin and Scarlett Squirers.

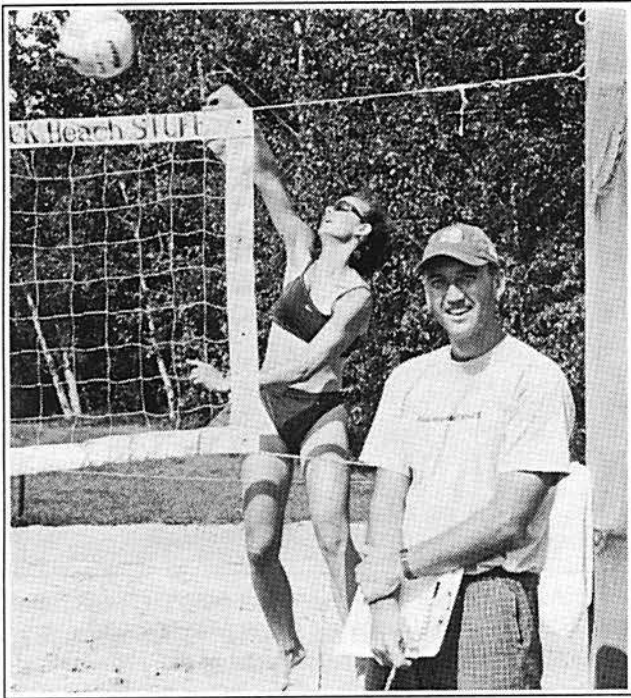
Special thanks to the organizing committee, the staff in the Campus Development Department, Aramark, and especially Karen Anderson who did a superb job of collecting prizes.

-- Joe Gosselin, Campus Development

My Pan American Experience

by Jayson Gard

Jayson Gard is coach of the Lakehead University Women's Volleyball team and a former national volleyball team member. This summer he served as an official for the sport of beach volleyball, which for the first time, was included in the line-up of the Pan American Games



If you have ever officiated at a televised event, you can appreciate how difficult it is when they put a microphone on your shirt and an ear plug in one ear so they can direct the proceedings from a truck parked behind the stadium

As I left Thunder Bay and began the 700-kilometre drive to Winnipeg, I tried to imagine what my experience as a beach volleyball official at the 1999 Pan American Games would be like. I soon realized that I had no expectations. I had travelled all over the world playing volleyball for my country and had never taken the time to think about the big picture. All that had ever mattered to me was that my team was prepared to play -- we rarely got to meet any of the volunteers who organized the event or to enjoy any of the festivities.

One of the first things you're taught as an official is that your best match is the one where nobody even realizes you are there. I decided that I was going to achieve that goal and take in as much of the Pan Am experience as possible.

I arrived at the beach volleyball venue which was set up at the Winnipeg Stadium, the home of the Blue Bombers.

I had been to a test event there in June and a wind gust had practically destroyed the whole playing area, but the venue looked to be in great shape.

As I walked through, the first thing that struck me was the number of volunteers: you could sense this was going to be a big event.

As I headed toward the meeting room I ran into Miguel Ramirez, a Mexican with whom I had officiated at a volleyball event in Toronto run by the Federation of International Volleyball. He had never been to Winnipeg before and seemed to be quite amused to see a beach placed in the middle of a 27,000-seat stadium. If he had known he was going to be the first beach official ever to officiate the men's gold medal match at the Pan American Games, I'm sure he would have taken more pictures!

I was assigned as a "Reserve Official" for the first beach volleyball match, which meant I could enjoy the sun from the best seat in the house and have an opportunity to watch some high calibre beach volleyball.

The Brazilians won easily and it looked as if they might be the team to beat. As they left the playing area and we prepared for the next match, the tension mounted. It was show time!

If you have ever officiated at a televised event, you can appreciate how difficult it is when they put a microphone on your shirt and an ear plug in one ear so they can direct the proceedings from a truck parked behind the stadium.

All the time they keep repeating to you that anything you say will be heard by millions of people. And, when they tell you to "hold your whistle," you must wait until they give you the go ahead before restarting the match.

Meanwhile, the fans are wondering why the play has not been initiated when the players have been ready for what seems like an eternity!

I have often wondered how far we are willing to go with our sport, or any other, in order to gain the huge TV revenues that the NFL or NBA enjoy. At this point I realized that I am quite happy

coaching at the University level where the amateur athlete is still somewhat alive.

*For a moment I thought of
what could have been if I
hadn't had the knee problems...
then I quickly realized that I
had plenty of opportunities left
in my life ...*

I had the evening session off and decided to take in the women's indoor final volleyball game featuring Brazil and Cuba. The arena was buzzing even though the Canadian women's squad had not advanced to the final. Winnipeg is a volleyball town and the crowd knew they were about to see two of the top teams in the world do battle. Watching the Cubans warm up was like something most people had never seen before. They are not only big jumpers (over 40-inch verticals) but can hit the ball like some university men's teams.

The Brazilians won in five games and the fans left with an excitement that would carry over to the men's bronze medal match which featured Canada vs Argentina.

Having grown up in the Winnipeg volleyball system I knew many of the volunteers at the venue and quickly had a seat, front row centre, alongside John Blancher, the men's team co-ordinator with whom I had played at the University of Manitoba for a couple of seasons.

As the warm-up began, I watched a few players who were there when I played and a couple of players who were in the first year of university when I was finishing up at the University of Manitoba.

For a moment I thought of what could have been if I hadn't had the knee problems that ended my career as a professional volleyball player. Then I realised that I had plenty of opportunities left in my life and that by giving it all when I was younger I had paved the way for my current involvement with the sport as an official and a coach.

The match had begun and the Canadians lost the first set rather quickly and things were not looking good. The second set wasn't much better and the Canadians were quickly behind and facing defeat as the score was 24 to 19 in a rally point game to 25. All the Argentinians had to do was "side out" and the match was in their grasp.

The Canadians scored a couple of quick points and before long the crowd had come alive. The excitement, built up from the night before, was electrifying and the team was responding to the cheers. As they closed the gap the arena was deafening. And when the Canadians scored the final point to take the set in a miraculous come-from-behind win, I nearly touched the ceiling as I jumped out of my seat along with John and 8,000 other Canadian fans.

The Canadian team finished off the Argentinian team by winning the next two games and the place exploded. They had done what no other men's volleyball team had been able to do -- win a bronze medal at the Pan Ams.

...

As circumstances would have it, I had to miss the beach volleyball finals due to a death of a close member of my family.

The success of the Canadian men's beach volleyball team (advancing to the finals) meant that as a Canadian official I was unable to officiate for any games involving my home country. Nevertheless, I came away with some much-needed experience and new friends from Germany, Brazil, Puerto Rico, and the United States.

As I drove back to Thunder Bay I couldn't help but think of the finals I had missed and I was feeling a little upset; then it hit me right between the eyes.

I had spent most of my life preparing and sacrificing for my team, my country, or my job and had missed out on many family gatherings. I had often put the team before everything else. But I had finally realized that my family and friends are my team. My presence at the funeral meant more to me and my family than any volleyball game.

I had received a lot of support from my fellow officials and it didn't matter what language they spoke or what colour they were: they all understood the importance of family.

Amidst the politics, drug scandals and million-dollar deals that tend to dominate media coverage of athletic events like the Pan Am Games, the one thing that I will always have are the friendships I had developed. They will be there long after I have forgotten who was even in the final match of the tournament!

Editor's Note: The Canadian men's beach volleyball team of Jody Holden and Conrad Linneman won the gold medal while Brazilian teams took home the silver and the bronze.

Jayson Gard is looking forward to strengthening beach volleyball at Lakehead and to building on the success of last year's women's varsity volleyball team.

The Thunderwolves' first home volleyball game is set for November 12-13 in the C.J.Sanders Fieldhouse.

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October 5

Penelope Clarke, flute;

Joy Fahrenbruck, piano

October 26

Vilma Vitols, mezzo-soprano (1999 Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition Winner); Tara Morton, piano

November 7

Jennifer Orchanian, piano

Note: 2 p.m.

November 24

Marc-André Hamelin, piano

Note: 8 p.m., St. Paul's United Church

Canadian Federation of University Women

Interested in Joining Our Club?

The Canadian Federation of University Women, Thunder Bay Club (CFUW) is extending a special invitation to all women who hold a degree and are interested in joining the club. Contact Louisa 345-1808 or Jean at 344-3851 for further information.

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