

President's Report to Senate December 2022

Laurentian has been through uncertainty, turmoil and incredible change in 2022. Despite the challenges, with the festive season upon us, I want to take the opportunity in this, my last Interim President report to Senate, to express my gratitude.

I am grateful for faculty who continue to inspire with their dedication to teaching and research. For example, the Atrium came alive on December 6th with a live theatre performance by students in ENGL 3196 under the “direction” of Dr. Ernst Gerhardt. Dr. Susan Manitowabi continues to enrich students with “Sage Teachings” and others together with Elders and Indigenous knowledge keepers developed [Anishnaabemowin Land-Based Immersion courses](#). Furthermore the two most recent recipients of the Laurentian University [Teaching Excellence awards](#), Jean-Philippe Saucier and Michelle Reid, are nothing but inspiring. I am equally grateful for the exceptional contributions faculty make to research and discovery. Researchers with the McEwen School of Architecture are part of a [\\$8.6M SSHRC Partnership Grant](#), and the [Maamwizing Indigenous Research Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Joey-Lynn Wabie received over \\$400K in funding](#) from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Furthermore, others across the University were awarded [grants from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada](#).

I am grateful for staff who often work quietly in the background to [recruit students](#) and support [student success](#) and others out front who organize events that create a vibrant experience for students on campus. A few recent examples include, “60 Days of Activism” to bring a spotlight on prevention of Gender-Based Violence, the “long night against procrastination”, International Student Pub Night, and “[LU has Talent](#)”. I am also grateful for staff that keep our campus beautiful, safe, and culturally rich. We are privileged to have access to vaccines on campus through [Health and Wellness Services](#), we can receive Anishnaabemowin language teachings from Lorney Bob with the support of [Indigenous Student Affairs](#), and French language classes for faculty and staff have returned.

I am grateful for the students who have chosen Laurentian. Congratulations to all the students who have completed the fall term, handed in final assignments and written or preparing to write final exams. I am grateful for the Student Leaders and executive team members of the [SGA](#), [AEF](#), [GSA](#), and [Indigenous Student Circle](#). You selfishly advocate for your fellow students and volunteer your time to organize events to enrich the campus experience. I am also grateful for all the student volunteers with the [Laurentian University Campus Emergency Response Team](#). What you do makes the campus a safer place for all of us. I am also grateful for the talented group of student athletes that represent Laurentian. I encourage members of Senate to take a few minutes to review the schedule of events in 2023 and read about the [Athletes of the Week](#). Laurentian students in every Faculty and every program are making an impact in the classroom, on campus, in the community, [abroad](#), and soon [in space](#).

I am grateful for alumni and donors who continue to support Laurentian students through various contributions. This year, the Estate of Wyona Thompson [donated \\$200K](#) to support scholarships and programming in the School of Education, alumni from the School of Sports Administration (SPAD) held a [50th Anniversary](#) and raised over \$50K to support students, and Hard-Line who recently made a final \$50K donation [fulfilling their \\$250K pledge](#) to support the development of a lab to enhance learning of students in the Mechatronics program.

I am grateful for [new senior leaders](#) who have chosen Laurentian. On January 1, 2023 Dr. Sheila Embleton will assume the role of Interim President and Vice-Chancellor, and Dr. Brenda Brouwer, will take on the Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic position. Dr. Embleton is a Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics, York University, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She served as Vice-President Academic and Provost at York University (from 2000 to 2009), having previously been Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts from 1994 to 2000. Furthermore, she is the recipient of many distinctions for her academic contributions, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award. Dr. Brenda Brouwer was most recently a Senior Advisor, Academic Innovation, Queen's Health Sciences following nearly two years as Interim Dean, Smith School of Business and eight years as Vice-Provost and Dean, Graduate Studies. Moreover, Dr. Brouwer, a Professor of Rehabilitation Science and Neuroscience, has been recognized for teaching excellence and her research contributions on the control of movement following stroke. I am also grateful for volunteers who serve on the [Board of Governors](#) and look forward to working with the [four new members](#) who were recently appointed.

I am grateful for the privilege of serving as your “interim” Interim President and Vice-Chancellor. Earlier this week I was asked to add my signature to confer several degrees. A true honour. I also had the privilege to give final approval to an “Appreciation Day”. As a small gesture of appreciation, the University will close on Friday December 23 so everyone can start the annual Winter Break early.

Furthermore, **I am grateful for the opportunity to work with all** of you in 2023 as we embark on Strategic Planning and continue with operational and governance transformation. This work will be challenging, it will take time, and to be successful, we will all need to contribute and we will all need to work together. I am confident we can succeed. The Laurentian “roots” are strong. Our windswept pine on the hill is still standing. In fact, it is on our campus outside the Parker Building for all to see thanks to the students of Laurentian who [gifted this sculpture](#) to the Laurentian community. For this I am also grateful.

Finally, **I am grateful for the Laurentian community.** Despite all the challenges faced over the last year, we have come together. We have started a new tradition this year. The Board of Governors, the President's Office, LUSU, LUFA, CUPE and LUAPSA, with support from the student leaders have come together to invite all faculty, staff and students to a *Community Get-Together* to Launch the Holiday Season on Thursday December the 15th from 3-5 PM in the atrium of the Parker Building.

In closing, I invite you to read the kudos section that follows– I think you will agree, we all have much to be grateful for.

Kudos

1. I would like to begin by congratulating all members of the Laurentian community on a successful Fall semester. The collective efforts of so many who are passionate about our institution, are appreciated. With Fall semester classes having ended on December 6th, and the Fall examination period having begun on December 8th, I would like to extend my thanks to all those who continue to support our students.

2. With ongoing demands on Occupational Health and Safety and the Health and Wellness clinic I want to acknowledge all who contribute to keeping our campus safe. Services continue to be offered including:
 - The COVID-19 Assessment Centre remains operational from Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 4:30 PM for Testing of Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Individuals
 - Bivalent Moderna and Pfizer Booster Vaccine administered weekly, every Wednesday, from 9 AM to 4:30 PM by appointment by emailing vaccineclinic@laurentian.ca.
 - Influenza vaccines are administered daily at the LU Health & Wellness services without appointments (walk-ins). Over 260 Influenza vaccines have been administered, thus far.
3. As Laurentian welcomes new senior leaders I would like to thank individuals who recently stepped into roles of leadership on interim bases. Thank you Dr. Céline Larivière who agreed to serve as Interim Provost and Vice-President, Academic. Thank you Dr. Patrice Milewski who served as Interim Dean of Education and Health while maintaining his role as Associate Dean.
4. Kudos to Michel Lapointe, Biomolecular Science Ph.D. student who is working in collaboration with NASA to spearhead cutting-edge research, I would like to bring attention to his study that involves launching yeast samples into outer space to address questions regarding biological effects of radiation that cause potential health concerns in human space flight.
5. Congratulations are also in order for the Harquail School of Earth Sciences who recently announced the launch of a new Geology course, “An Introduction to Gemology,” available for registration and scheduled to begin in January 2023.
6. I also commend the Orthophonie and Education programs. Students enrolled can complete the B.Sc.S.Orthophonie while taking courses to meet the requirements for entry into the Professional Year (5th year) of either the Éducation Concurrent or Concurrent Education program.
7. Kudos is also in order for the Faculty of Management who worked in collaboration with Desjardins to invite Laurentian University international students for a visit to learn about the Credit Union. This event was engaging, educational, and helped give our students another opportunity to build relationships with our local business community.
8. Kudos to faculty, students and alumni who participated in the 15th annual SPAD Game Day. The event was hosted on November 25th and saw over a dozen industry professionals collaborate directly with 50+ students to recreate the professional sales environment. Many Laurentian graduates were included in the industry professionals which saw participants from companies such as: Toronto Blue Jays, NHL, PepsiCo, RBC Golf and many others.
9. Kudos to the Residence Life team who organized the annual LU’s Got Talent on November 18th. Since its inaugural event in 2002, they have donated \$54,715 to Easter Seals Ontario. Well done to all participants, including Restoration Biology student and highland dancer, Olivia Kyle, who was named the top performer. Second place went to Behavioural Neuroscience student, Heidi Dunbar, who impressed the audience with her vocal talents. Third place was awarded to Bryan Ribey, Psychology student, for his vocal and pianist talents.

10. Laurentian University's Environmental Sustainability team consisting of Dr. John Gunn, Director of VLWLC, Avery Morin (president SGA) Anastacia Chartrand (Chair ESC)) have been invited to represent LU, Sudbury, and Canada within the Canada Pavilion at the COP 15 UN Montreal meeting to showcase the Sudbury Story to world leaders. The presentation will showcase contributions of many partners, including industry, government, and Indigenous communities.
11. Congratulations are extended to Andrew Morgan, LU Science Communication graduate, 2014 is one of the new host of the Nature of Things. Morgan has hosted science programs for years — including for Discovery Channel, the CBC and Vice — and is the creative director of Science Everywhere, a science education startup and media company.