

President's Report to Senate November 19, 2019

Kudos

- Dr. Kabwe Nkongolo, a full professor in the Department of Biology and as principal investigator has been awarded \$360,000 during the last NSERC – CRD Competition along with Dr. Peter Beckett and Dr. Graeme Spiers for their project called “Monitoring Land Reclamation and Ecosystem Sustainability in the Greater Sudbury Region.” This project is co-funded by NSERC and Vale and Sudbury Integrated Nickel Operations.
- Dr. Janis Goldie launches a new book entitled “The Handmaid’s Tale: Teaching Dystopia, Feminism, and Resistance across Disciplines and Borders.”
- Megan Houle, Manager of Teaching Innovation, and Kelly Brennan, Instructional Technology Coordinator in the CAE presented at the Sudbury Catholic District School Board’s Professional Development Day (October 21st) on Teaching with technology. The session was very well attended (2 workshops of 20+ teachers). Teachers were able to leave the session with one new tool and corresponding activity specific to their teaching context. They also explored tools for facilitation the transition of secondary school students to university.
- Dr. Abdel Omri, from the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department, has been appointed member of the CIHR Awards for Pharmaceutical Sciences Panel Committee for a three-year term. Dr. Omri also recently co-authored a paper entitled Peritoneal GATA6+ macrophages function as a portal for Staphylococcus aureus dissemination published in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Investigations (doi: 10.1172/JCI127286).
- Dr. Annie Roy-Charland, of the University of Moncton, and Dr. Mélanie Perron, of Laurentian University, launched their book, *Les émotions : comment mieux les comprendre*, surrounded by more than 100 students at École publique Jeanne-Sauvé.
- Dr. Cindy Blackstock was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Laurentian University as part of fall 2019 Convocation. Dr. Blackstock is a tireless advocate for the equitable treatment of Inuit, First Nations, and Métis children.
- Tom Greco, CEO of Advance Auto Parts and Sports Administration graduate, came home to Laurentian this week to share his experiences with students at this year’s edition of the Sports Administration program’s Leadership Forum on October 10, 2019.
- Launch of Leo Gerard Legacy Fund: United Steel Workers (USW) has made a generous donation to start a student scholarship fund for students in Workplace and Labour Studies.
- Laurentian Online had 20 fully online students attend the Convocation ceremony on Saturday. Impressively, there were 42 BSIA graduates this term, 9 of which attended the ceremony.
- The head of international relations for the RIM Lab research group of IAE at the School of Management of the University of Lille in France, Dominique Besson, visited Laurentian to set up an international interdisciplinary research team on work relationships within organizations.
- Dr. Lynne Gouliquer participated in a national planning committee for LGBTQ2+ National Monument.

- Dr. Henri Pallard delivered a law and justice course at the British University in Egypt as a visiting Faculty Member.
- Dr. Arnaud Bessier (History) co-chaired the Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française congress, in Ottawa, a significant event for francophone researchers and students. This year's program put an important focus on Indigenous history and registration reached a record high with 200 participants.
- Dieter Buse and Graeme Mount (Retired History) published their book "Untold: Northeastern Ontario's Military Past."
- LUPSA/ASPUL (Laurentian University Political Science Association) held a successful all candidates Federal Debate on October 10th.
- The Student General Association celebrated the Grand Opening of their new building on October 28, 2019.

October Board of Governors

At the October Board of Governors meeting on October 25th, the Board approved the Audited Financial Report for Laurentian for the year ending April 30, 2019, and ratified a new collective agreement with CUPE for our Graduate Teaching Assistants. They also approved recommendations from the Research Ethics Board Liaison Committee and approved the appointment of Board members to the search committees for the Associate Vice President Indigenous and Academic and Dean, Faculty of Science, Engineering and Architecture.

Through my first cycle of Board Committee meetings and working with the full Board, I have come away confident that we have a group of dedicated and engaged individuals that through their collective wisdom are and will continue to provide strong stewardship for Laurentian University. Over my first few months, I have also been able to meet with the majority of Board Members one-on-one. I am impressed with their engagement and commitment to Laurentian and their sincere desire to contribute to its success.

Convocation and Installation

On Saturday, October 26th, I attended my first convocation and had the honour and privilege of being installed as your 11th President and Vice Chancellor. Let me first say how impressed I was with our graduating class for the fall of 2019. The pride of achievement and hopes and dreams for the future of our graduates coming literally from around the world and in all phases of life was palpable, as was the pride of their families and supporters in the audience. As always (I understand) our Chancellor did an exceptional job of capturing their enthusiasm on hope in his remarks. I was also delighted with the award of an honorary doctorate to Dr. Cindy Blackstock who currently serves as the Executive Director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society and is a professor at McGill University's School of Social Work. Her work in advocating for child welfare and Indigenous children's rights is what has garnered her references like Canada's relentless moral voice for First Nation equality. She is truly inspiring.

As for my Installation, I wish to thank everyone in the Laurentian and Sudbury Communities for their support and best wishes during my Installation. I would also like to thank everyone in the broader academic community for their best wishes. The turnout at the community reception was exceptional and the installation ceremony itself highlighted the importance of the commitment that I am making to you over the next five years. I am truly honoured and humbled by the

opportunity. I was particularly appreciative to be presented with a medallion made by our Knowledge Carrier, Rob Spade. It was a gift from Laurentian's Indigenous community as a recognition of the commitment of Laurentian University to Truth and Reconciliation and to the success of our Indigenous students. The design and style are Anishinaabe and acts as a visual reminder of the relationship with the people of this place of which Laurentian is located.

Opening of the Student Centre

On October 28th, I was pleased to be part of the celebration by the Student General Association marking the opening of its new student centre. Owned and operated by the SGA, and financed by SGA members, the new student centre promises to strongly enhance the overall experience of our students. Communication around accessing the centre is extremely important, as it is accessible to all. It is important for all in the community to understand that SGA members have their Student Centre Membership Fee built into their SGA membership dues since 2014. All other students at Laurentian can elect to purchase a Student Centre Membership through the SGA. Additionally, the upper level of the centre is open to the entire community and houses a coffee shop, club rooms and a dental hygienist.

Open House

On November 2nd, I attended my first Laurentian University Open House. Despite early snowfall on the day before, blustery conditions on the day of, and other events in Sudbury over the same weekend that put hotel rooms at a premium, I am told that turnout was strong. There certainly was a great deal of energy across the campus and a lot of interest expressed by prospective students and their families. I was also able to meet people I had not met before and to see parts of the campus that I had yet to see.

Some great statistics that have been shared with me from the open house include:

Fall 2019 Open House - Total prospective student attendees = 422

Fall 2018 Open House (as comparison) - Total prospective student attendees = 391

Thank you to all faculty and staff who took time on a weekend to showcase Laurentian and a special thanks to all students who participated, manning booths, leading tours and directing prospective students and parents. As an anecdote, I was pleased to be able to confirm, to a tour guide taking guests up to see the view from the roof of the Parker building, that the President's Office was indeed down the hallway to the right of the elevator on the 11th floor. Later in the afternoon, I also had the opportunity to encourage our women's hockey team as they bested Windsor 3-0 at the Countryside Arena. Alas, my encouragement was less helpful on the Friday evening as our women's basketball squad lost a close game, also to Windsor.

SMA3 Update

The Provost and Vice President Administration have put together a small working group to assist with the assemble Laurentian's draft SMA3 submission. The team is reviewing the

prepopulated metrics and other aspects of the SMA. Through the COU, information is being shared on the Ministry's overall expectations.

Laurentian's first meeting with the Ministry of College and Universities is scheduled for November 22nd. Over the coming months, additional input will be sought and I expect that we will hold a community engagement session in the new year, to share information and hear your input on the development of the SMA3 Agreement. You can also expect additional consultations with Senate and the Board of Governors prior to finalization of Laurentians SMA3 agreement in March 2020.

Additional detail on SMA3 expectations will be presented orally by the Provost and VP Administration to Senators, with a slide deck attached to this report.

New Executive Director for the Goodman School of Mines and President and CEO of Mirarco

Early on as Laurentian's President, I saw first hand the important role that Laurentian University plays in the mining industry. Educating its future leaders, providing research to solve industry challenges, providing our students with valuable experiential learning opportunities and being the go-to university for everything related to mining education and research.

Vacancies left by the Founding Executive Director of the Goodman School of Mines and the President of MIRARCO, provided an opportunity to create synergies and eliminate duplication by having one person lead both organizations. This change will take advantage of synergies between the two entities, which will help position Laurentian University as Canada's Mining University.

As Laurentian builds its position as Canada's Mining University and expands its reach internationally, it was looking for a passionate industry innovator, with global connections who can be a bridge between industry and the university. We have found a leader who can bring people from across campus together and help ensure we are preparing graduates to transition successfully into careers and vibrantly contribute to the innovation that will help move the mining sector forward.

Jennifer Abols grew up in Sudbury, graduated from Laurentian University with a Bachelor of Engineering in Extractive Metallurgy, and obtained her MBA from Wilfrid Laurier University with a focus on marketing and international strategy. Abols is a bilingual, professional engineer with over 20 years' experience in the mining and minerals sector. Her wealth of experience across the mining cycle made her the perfect candidate to build Laurentian's reputation as Canada's Mining University.

<https://goodmanschoolofmines.laurentian.ca/jenniferabols-canadasmininguniversity/>

Maclean's rankings Rankings Update

As promised at October Senate, I will be providing an oral report on our 2020 Maclean's rankings during my remarks and slides are available with this report.

For the additional information of Senators and the community, the following is excerpted from my recent President's Report to our Board of Governors.

An important driver of external perception of Laurentian and of student perceptions in particular are external rankings. Despite inherent flaws in various rankings methodologies, they do purport to reflect expectations for the relative quality of a university educational experience. The Maclean's annual Universities Rankings have grown to have a particularly strong influence in the decision-making of future high school graduates and their parents in choosing a university that will provide them with the best academic and cultural experience.

Historically, Laurentian has appeared in the Maclean's rankings in the Primarily Undergraduate Universities category and the long-term trend has Laurentian ranking near the midpoint of the Category. This year's rankings place Laurentian in 12th place within our category, a decline of one position from last year, but consistent with past annual variations.

Within the categories that comprise the overall ranking, Laurentian continues to rank #1 for research. Indeed, of all Universities, Laurentian is the 21st most research intensive in Canada and #8 in Ontario. We also perform strongly in the student satisfaction categories for Indigenous student visibility (#4) and residence living (#6), as well as indicators of student/full-time faculty ratio, operating budget per student (both #5), and library acquisitions (#7). We experience the biggest challenges in overall Student Satisfaction (#19) and Reputational Survey and Social Sciences and Humanities Grants (both #15).

These individual rankings point to areas where we need to work to improve, and many of these areas have been identified as Outcomes in our Strategic Plan. In particular, in the area of student satisfaction, the roll out of the new self-serve student registration and academic planning on-line system (Outcome #11) will allow students to track and plan for courses across all four years of their curriculum. We expect that this will positively impact our student satisfaction rankings.

It should be noted that we have seen improvement in some of our weaker areas including Social Sciences and Humanities grants, citations and overall library expenses, while we have seen a decline in indicators that reflect the challenges in our current provincial funding environment, including library acquisitions, operating budget per student and student faculty ratio. We also showed a strong advance in the citations of our work (#9 up from #12).

Breakfast with the President and Presidential Drop In

I was pleased to meet with a number of members of our community at my first Breakfast with the President on Friday, November 1st. I truly enjoyed an engaged conversation with the small group comprised of full-time faculty, a sessional instructor, a graduate student and undergraduate students including international students. The passion for Laurentian in the room was inspiring, while the conversation was frank and covered our strengths, challenges and where we could be doing better. I was particularly pleased to see email addresses and phone numbers being exchanged at the end of the breakfast. On Monday, November 4th, I met individually with a number of Laurentian Community members in my first Presidential Drop in session. Again, the passion is clear in everyone that I have met, and I am committed to supporting you, the incredible people who are making Laurentian great.

Both the Presidential Breakfast and Drop in sessions for December are fully booked, but I encourage students, staff and faculty that would like to participate in a future session to respond to the upcoming announcement of the times for January.

Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program

Laurentian has recently submitted two applications for Federal and Provincial Funding under the Community, Culture and Recreation Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program cost. The Community, Culture and Recreation stream supports projects that improve access to and / or quality of community, cultural, and recreation priority infrastructure projects. Priority is given to projects that are community-oriented, non-commercial and open to the public. Projects that focus on vulnerable populations (e.g., low-income persons) and projects that support facilities that align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action are assessed more considerably.

After consultation with relevant staff and faculty members due to tight deadlines, the following two projects have been identified and approved for application:

1) Under the Multi-Purpose Category which focuses on larger projects would be the Modernization of the Laurentian Multipurpose Recreational Complex with an estimated budget of \$20 million. This project would address significant deferred maintenance needs as well as accessibility, gender neutrality and will ultimately provide an up-to-date pool and athletic field for use by the students, and the larger local and regional communities. This project aligns with Outcomes 1, 3, 7, more specifically, Outcome 22 in our strategic plan to enhance the spaces for recreational activities on our campus. It would also address the needs for our facilities in the Greater Sudbury community and Northeastern Ontario region, particularly with respect to our widely used Olympic sized pool and indoor recreation facilities. Community engagement is ongoing and wide support has been identified.

2) In the Rehabilitation and Renovation Category would be the Maamwizing Centre with an estimated budget of \$5 million. Proposed renovations would be to the Alphonse Raymond Gymnasium, re-establishing its use to support the reconciliatory work of our Maamwizing Institute. In following with Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, the Maamwizing Centre will be a focal point for culturally appropriate research, Indigenous language revitalization and the respectful integration of Indigenous perspectives into teaching and learning. It will provide a platform for Indigenous leaders, scholars, Elders, educators and learners with the opportunity to lead or participate in culturally-relevant and community-engaged activities, research and programming.

This project also will address deferred maintenance needs in this building and aligns with Strategic Plan Outcomes 1, 4, 8, 14, 16, 21 and 23. Engagement with Laurentian's Indigenous community members and the wider Indigenous communities in the region is ongoing and support has been expressed as such.

VPR and Provost

The job profile for the search for Vice President Research is now complete and out to market. I would like to thank the members of the search committee and all members of the community that commented on the final draft of the profile that was circulated recently. The committee and I look forward to a successful search for a dynamic individual that will lead our research, scholarship and associated creative activities to new heights over the coming years.

For the position of Vice-President Academic and Provost, the community survey has been completed and the search committee will be meeting shortly to discuss the results and assemble the profile. Boyden Executive Search has been retained as a consultant for this search.

Registration Update

A fall registration update will be provided next month when the final numbers are available.

Festive Gathering

Lastly, I am pleased to continue the tradition of a festive gathering at our home at 179 John Street. Johanne and I will be pleased to receive members of the community on the afternoon of December 8th for some festive cheer from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Due to limited parking around the house, there will be a shuttle bus service from the York Street municipal parking lot for the event. We look forward to welcoming you into our home and getting to know you better over some festive cheer.

Robert Haché, Ph.D.
President and Vice-Chancellor
Laurentian University