

Principal's Written Report
Queen's University Senate
22nd May, 2012

In my report this month I would like to draw Senate's attention to some of the events that I have attended or will attend both on campus and off campus. Although these are listed among the schedule highlights appended to this report, I will mention just three of them in more detail.

Three weeks ago, I participated in judging for the inaugural Queen's 3 minute thesis competition. This initiative, launched by the School of Graduate Studies, encourages each graduate student competitor to explain their thesis without props and in terms understandable to the general public, in no more than three minutes. Along with VP Research Steven Liss, United Way Kingston President Bhavana Varma, and former Speaker of the House of Commons Peter Milliken, I was delighted to participate and hear these emerging researchers provide succinct and engaging summaries of their theses in a readily understandable fashion. The winner, Jennifer Campbell, a doctoral candidate in Engineering Physics, spoke with lucidity about "Nanocantilevers: a new tool for medical diagnostics" and drew the audience in with a reference to her childhood fear of injections. This research that spans engineering, physics and health sciences is a wonderful example of the power of interdisciplinarity.

The Town Gown Association of Ontario held its annual symposium in Kingston this year with the theme 'Cities for People: Creative Town and Gown Communities'. The opening reception in the Agnes Etherington Art Centre provided an opportunity to showcase this premier university art gallery to representatives from university towns across the province. I was able to speak with the Minister of Training Colleges and Universities, Glen Murray, about the important role that we play in the community and region and to provide examples of how we can increase university-city engagement to the benefit of all.

On May 17th, I will participate in a one-day conference which will explore new ideas to create healthy campuses to support students with mental-health challenges. The conference, 'Focus on Mental Health', is sponsored by COU and Colleges Ontario along with the College Student Alliance and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance. Keynote speakers include the Hon. Michael Wilson, a tireless advocate for youth mental health, and the Chair of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, Dr. David Goldblum. Queen's recently appointed Bell Chair in Mental Health and Anti-Stigma, Dr. Heather Stuart, will be part of a panel on eliminating stigma and removing barriers. I will be participating in a wrap-up armchair session on next steps and will have an opportunity to share some of the wisdom from the Principal's Commission on Mental Health that has been chaired by Dr. David Walker. The issues surrounding the mental well-being of young people and students in particular have resonated nationwide over the past couple of years and the AUCC's Working Group on Campus Mental Health of which I was a member has developed a number of online tools for use by universities and colleges in their own initiatives to promote mental health awareness.

May 14th, 2012

Principal Daniel Woolf: Schedule Highlights April 17, 2012 - May 22, 2012			
Month	Day	Location	Activity
April	17	Kingston	Senate Meeting Faculty Dinner Meeting
	18	Toronto	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
	19	Sudbury	<i>Council of Ontario Universities</i> (COU): Roundtables
	20	Sudbury	President, Lakehead University COU Council Meeting
	21	Cambridge	<i>Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada</i> (AUCC): Board Retreat
	22		
	23	Guelph	AUCC: Business Meeting
	24		AUCC: Membership and Board Meeting
	25	Kingston	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
	26	Ottawa	The Royal Society of Canada Executive Council
	27	Kingston	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends The Donald Gow Memorial Lecture John Baird, Minister of Foreign Affairs
	30	Kingston	School of Graduate Studies 3MT (Three Minute Thesis Competition)
May	1	Kingston	Dean, School of Business Reception to celebrate the merger of Queen's School of Religion and Queen's University
	2	Kingston	President and Vice-President, <i>Queen's University Faculty Association</i> (QUFA) Interview with CKWS
	3	Kingston	Board of Trustees: Audit Committee
	4	Kingston	Board of Trustees: Governance & Nominating Committee Board of Trustees: Campus Planning and Development Committee Board of Trustees: Finance Committee Board of Trustees: Advancement Committee Board of Trustees Meeting
	5	Kingston	University Council Meeting
	6	Kingston	U15 (Canadian Research Intensive Universities Group) Teleconference
	7	Kingston	CFRC-FM Live Radio Session
	8	Kingston	<i>Ontario Association of International Educators</i> (OAIE) Welcome Lunch Faculty/Staff/Student Advisory Committee Research Recognition Event
	9	Montreal Ottawa	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends Official Portrait Unveiling for Peter Milliken, 34th Speaker of the House of Commons
	10	Kingston	Teleconference with Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) (Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario) Celebration of Service Annual Dinner 2012
	13	Kingston	Glen Murray, Minister of <i>Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities</i> (MTCU) <i>Town-Gown Association of Ontario</i> (TGAO) Welcome Reception
	15	Vancouver	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
	16	Vancouver	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
	17	Toronto	COU Mental Health Summit
	18	Kingston	U15 Teleconference
	22	Kingston	The Royal Society of Canada Executive Committee Teleconference Senate Meeting