

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 VIP 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 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 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 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

Month	Day	Location	Activity
			Senate Meeting
	18	Toronto	Faculty Dinner Meeting
	19	Sudbury	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
			Council of Ontario Universities (COU): Roundtables
			President, Lakehead University
			COU Council Meeting
	21		
	22		
	24		AUCC: Business Meeting
	25	Kingston	AUCC: Membership and Board Meeting
	26	Ottawa	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
			The Royal Society of Canada Executive Council
			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)
			Dean, School of Business
			Reception to celebrate the merger of Queen's School of Religion and Queen's University
			President and Vice-President, Queen's University Faculty Association (QUFA)
			Interview with CKWS
	3	Kingston	Board of Trustees: Audit Committee
			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
			Ontario Association of International Educators (OAIE) Welcome Lunch
			Faculty/Staff/Student Advisory Committee
			Research Recognition Event
		Montreal	Alumni, Prospective Donors and Friends
		Ottawa	Official Portrait Unveiling for Peter Milliken, 34th Speaker of the House of Commons
			Teleconference with Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology) (Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario)
			Celebration of Service Annual Dinner 2012
			Glen Murray, Minister of Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities