



School of Liberal Education Newsletter

Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing and caring for this land, as well as all the Aboriginal peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.

Welcome

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The School of Liberal Education was established in 2017 to enhance the University of Lethbridge's commitment to liberal education.

Our four-pillar approach emphasizes breadth of knowledge and viewpoints, connections across disciplines, critical thinking skills, and engaged participation in our communities. These skills enable a more empathetic approach to those around us, and

helps our students become global citizens prepared to act in ways that better the world around them.



Dr. Shelly Wismath was appointed as the first dean of the School of Liberal Education in 2017.

She has a distinguished career in Mathematics and is an award-winning teacher. Under her leadership the University has reaffirmed its commitment to Liberal Education as the our foundational teaching and learning philosophy.

Turtle Logo



In the Blackfoot culture the turtle is considered to be a symbol of creation and mother earth. There are a number of turtle effigies or geoglyphs in Blackfoot Traditional Territory, including one in

west Lethbridge near the University.

Blackfoot Elders and Traditional Experts determined that the turtle is a fitting symbol for the School of Liberal Education at the University of Lethbridge. The visual shown here was created by Blackfoot artist Tyler Soop.

"To Blackfoot people, the turtle is patient, wise, knowledgeable and long-lived," says Mike Oka, consultation manager, Blood Tribe and External Affairs. "The Blackfoot saying, Iikakimat mookakiit, meaning be wise and

preserve, can be used to describe a turtle's characteristics. These characteristics fit well with the University's liberal education philosophy." (July 2017)

Upcoming Events

- Lib Ed Living Room presentation on February 2, 2021 (9:00 a.m.)
- Lib Ed Living Room presentation on March 23, 2021 (9:00 a.m.)

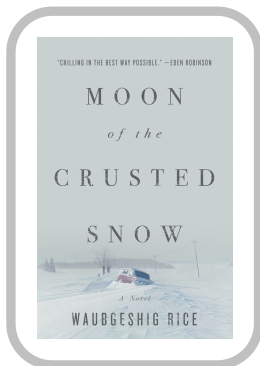
Check out our website for more details - [School of Liberal Education | University of Lethbridge \(uleth.ca\)](https://www.sle.uleth.ca)

Faculty member changes in the School of Lib Ed.

Ms. Allona Harker joined the School of Liberal Education in August 2020 as an Instructor. Loni is completing her Ph.D in Neuroscience at the U of L, and teaches an exciting new course on the Core Brain Story.

Dr. Alex Kizuk retired at the end of December, after 30 years of service at University of Lethbridge. Alex was in the English Department for many years, before coming to the Liberal Education Program and later the School of Liberal Education. We thank Dr. Kizuk for his many contributions to Liberal Education and wish him well in his retirement.

Common Book Project



This project, now in its fourth year at U of L, encourages all students, faculty, staff, alumni and interested community members to read a book chosen for current relevance. This year's book choice is *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, by Waubgeshig Rice.

Work is underway now to choose a new book for 2021-22, and an announcement will be made by March 2021.

Waubgeshig Rice is an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation.



Sara de Waal (UBC) wins first Bridge Prize



The Bridge Prize celebrates excellence in short story fiction writing at the post-secondary level in Canada.

Housed in the School of Liberal Education, this biennial prize awards a main prize of \$7500 and three runner up prizes of \$1000, to inspire and

motivate the next generation of Canadian literary artists as they transition to careers as professional writers. Bridge Prize founder and lead donor Terry Whitehead is a Vancouver-based alumnus of the U of L.

Sara de Waal from the University of British Columbia was our 2020 Bridge Prize winner for her submission *Cecilia and Richard*.

Featured Liberal Education (LBED) courses

We offer 20 courses across a variety of disciplines, from first to fourth year, as well as Independent and Applied Studys opportunities. For Spring 2021, we would like to highlight two recently-introduced courses.

LBED 1850: *Conversational Indigenization: Reconciling Reconciliation*. Developed and taught by Don McIntyre (DSB at U of L), this course introduces students to important terminology, background and discussions on Indigenous issues in Canada. It is open to community members too, through Open Studies at U of L.

LBED 2850: *The Core Brain Story*. Taught by Allona Harker from SLE, this course introduces students to research and best practices around enhancing brain development and executive function at key stages, including preventing or recovering from trauma. The course is ideal for current or future teachers, social workers, health care workers, or anyone who will deal with (or raise!) children. NOTE: This course will be offered online in Summer Sessions in 2021. Contact us at liberal-ed@uleth.ca if you are interested!

Easing the transition from high school to university: The Lib Ed Early Start Experience

The Early Start Experience (ESE) is a condensed and enhanced offering of our LBED 1500 course, *The First Year Experience*.

Offered in the last two weeks of summer, ESE is designed to promote student success and to ease the social and academic transition from high school to university.

Students complete a full 3-credit course, build social networks with a diverse

group of incoming students, and develop the skills and resources needed to be successful.

In 2021, ESE will run from August 23 to Sept. 3, daily from 9 am to 4 pm.

Contact Dr. Shelly Wismath (wismaths@uleth.ca) for more information.

Liberal education is "an education that is 'liberal' in that it liberates the mind from the bondage of habit and custom, producing people who can function with sensitivity and alertness as citizens of the whole world."

Martha C. Nussbaum, Cultivating Humanity, 1997.

School of Lib Ed Events

Our Lib Ed Living Room series hosts regular talks open to the university and local communities.

In September every year we host a Lib Ed

Symposium, with a keynote speaker or panel on a current topic followed by a wide variety of speaker sessions. The 4th annual Symposium in Sept. 2020 attracted about 120 participants, even in the online format.

Be sure to check out our School of Liberal Education website at uleth.ca/liberal-education for updates on Living Room talks for Spring 2021 and for the September 2021 Symposium!