



# **2013 ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY REPORT**



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF GOVERNORS



On behalf of the entire Algoma University community, we are pleased to provide you with this electronic copy of our Community Report for the academic calendar year 2012-2013.

Our institution continues to thrive, making substantial progress along the strategic paths laid out in the 2010-2015 Institutional Plan. We have set new records for student enrollment, and we are delighted that our student body is becoming one of the most diverse you'll find anywhere. Our campus continues to expand, and our finances are in excellent shape.

We take great pride in the accomplishments of our students, faculty, and staff, and we're pleased to share some of them with you in this Community Report, along with some key institutional data.

Thank you for taking the time to see what's happening at Algoma University!

Sincerely,

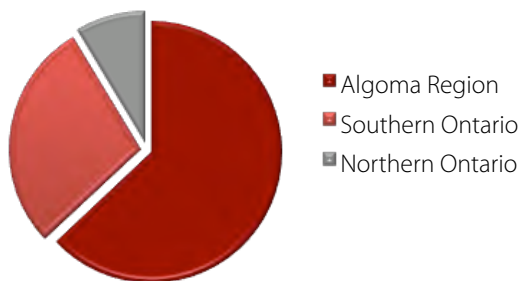
Dr. Richard Myers  
University President

Tim Lavoie  
Chair of the Board of Governors

# THE STUDENT BODY



## GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS FOR DIRECT FROM HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Algoma University's student population has grown steadily over the past few years. We are now home to 1600 students, with 1334 full-time equivalents. These figures put us a full year ahead of the ambitious growth targets set in the Institutional Plan.

Another enrollment target for the University is to have at least 25% of first-year students coming from outside the Algoma region. In September of 2012, 35.0% of our direct from high school students came here from outside of the region. Including all offsite programming – St. Thomas, Timmins, and Brampton – the figure is 41%.

Coinciding with the increase in student enrollment is an increase in the quality of our student body. This year, 45% of our incoming students had an admissions average of 80% or higher. The University handed out entrance scholarships to 65 students, up from 46 in the 2011-2012 academic calendar year. It is not surprising that more of our graduates are securing employment immediately after graduation, or are being accepted into prestigious graduate programs across the province.

*Michael Kendall graduated this June from Algoma University's Biology program, and received the prestigious Governor General's Silver medal. He scored in the top two percentile of all students writing the Medical College Admission Test, and is one of three Algoma graduates who have gone on to medical school this year. He is attending Western University's four-year medical doctor program.*





# INTERNATIONALIZATION

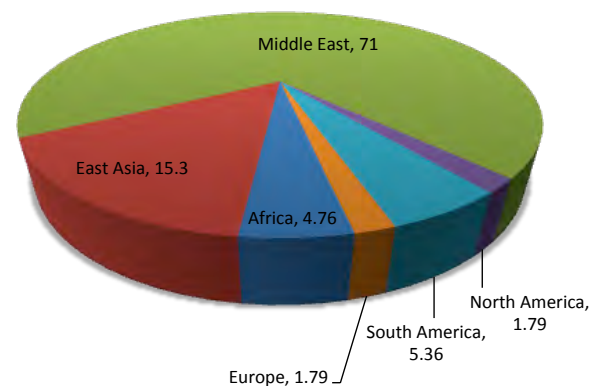
*Lucas Hernandes Nascimento, an international Music student from Curitiba, Brazil, recently landed the lead role of Marius in The Musical Comedy Guild of Sault Ste. Marie's production of Les Misérables. He credits Music professor Agnes McCarthy for his successful audition and is overwhelmed by the opportunities that exist for students at the University. "Where else would you find professors who encourage you to step outside of your comfort zone because they know you will do great and achieve success? Everything is going so well here, I cannot imagine having these opportunities anywhere else."*



Being located at what was once the Shingwauk Indian Residential School site, the University's unique setting provides the basis for a cross-cultural community in which Anishinaabe, Canadian, and international students and faculty learn from each other in a spirit of friendship and respect.

Currently, over 20% of our student body is made up of international students from 30 different countries, including Brazil, Japan, Germany, South Korea, Ghana, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. The Institutional Plan projected that international students make up between 12-20% of the student body. In this regard, we have met our target one year ahead of schedule.

To accommodate the growing population of international students on campus, the University continues to make changes so students feel more at home. This year, the University opened a Multi-faith meditation and prayer room. The University also continues to host numerous cultural dinners, such as Brazilian Night and J-Night, which showcase the cultural food, traditions, and clothing of that respective country. These evening events are some of the University's most popular activities.



# ANISHINAABE INITIATIVES

The University values its relations with Anishinaabe students, Anishinaabe partners, and its historic location. Algoma University is committed to enhancing these relations in a variety of ways. As set out in the Institutional Plan, the University is making great efforts to improve and enhance cross-cultural understanding and learning.

To help foster cross-cultural understanding, all new students and staff are provided with orientation on the special mission of the University and on the history of the site. Professor Don Jackson offers tours of the historic site frequently throughout the year for both the public and University community. Anishinaabemowin is also being added to key external signage. Currently, we have 12 faculty members who self-identify as Anishinaabe, as well as five members of staff, and two members of administration.

The University has also financed the appointment of a new position, a full-time Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre archives. Jonathan Dewar has been instrumental in securing approximately \$500,000 in new funding for the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, which will go towards funding both core and research activities.

Each year, the University and the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division host numerous events to help foster greater interest in post-secondary education among potential Anishinaabe students. The Gathering at the Rapids Pow-wow is one of the most successful events held on campus. The Pow-wow draws in crowds of upwards of 2000 people, in a celebration that highlights Anishinaabe culture. The University's Outreach programs, which include Grade Six Education Day and the Binesi Summer Camps, welcome Anishinaabe and non-Anishinaabe elementary students from both school boards in the Algoma district, providing them with opportunities to experience culture and positive learning on campus.



Photo courtesy of Cassidi Webkamigad

*Heritage, culture, and family are central to Elizabeth Edgar-Webkamigad. Over the course of her three years of studies in Anishinaabemowin, to celebrate her background, she has taken part in a variety of ceremonies, including the annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow-wow, which allows her to embrace her dancing background. "I come from a dancing family, so it is extremely important to me that I get to dance, and share my dancing with others."*

# CLASS SIZE

The Algoma University advantage continues to be its profound commitment to personal attention. It is now University policy to have no classes larger than 65 students, and that gives us a unique edge in this province. It guarantees that instructors will know their students by name and that Algoma University will continue to provide the personalised education for which it is known, even as our overall enrollment grows.

First and second year classes currently have 27.5 students per class, while upper year courses have just 17. The overall average enrolment per course is 24 students.

In order to maintain our favourable student to faculty ratio, the University has made a number of new full-time tenure-track appointments this year, including Dr. Aaron Gordon, Business Administration; Dr. Linda Turner, Social Work; Dr. Chunhua Zhang, Geography; and Dr. Miguel Ruiz, Computer Science.

## CREDITS OFFERED SINCE 2009

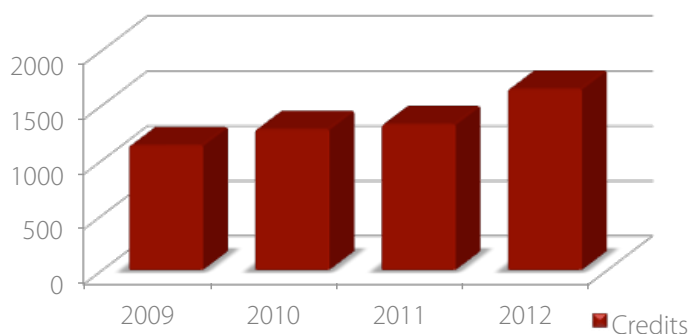




Photo courtesy of © Gary McGuffin 2013

# EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING & DIFFERENTIATED DELIVERY

Professors in programs across the disciplines have made great efforts to offer experiential and differentiated learning to students.

Many of our professors have begun to place greater emphasis on hands-on experience. Students enrolled in the Business Administration program have the opportunity to work with business professionals and entrepreneurs at the annual Business Case Competition. At the Business Case Competition, students develop strategies for business cases in two-hours, before presenting their ideas to a panel of experts from the Algoma region.

This year's competition featured Northern Ontario universities, including Laurentian University and Lakehead University, and CBC personality Evan Solomon.

In their third year Art History course, students in Fine Arts venture up the Algoma Central Railway for a weekend of rugged backpacking and camping in the heart of Algoma country, where they are given the opportunity to see first-hand the places the Group of Seven had painted and sketched years before. Students study the Group of Seven by painting the picturesque landscape before them.

In their fourth year thesis class, these students also have the opportunity to curate their own art exhibit at the Art Gallery of Algoma, gaining valuable knowledge and experience of museum and curatorial studies.

Algoma University has also been successful at offering differentiated delivery models at our extension operations in St. Thomas and Timmins, which includes a block model delivery method and videoconferencing, respectively.

*Six students from Algoma U's Political Science program travelled to Toronto this past February to partake in the annual North American Model United Nations (NAMUN), giving students the opportunity to get a glimpse of real-world diplomacy and strategic decision-making.*





# CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

As the University takes in increasing numbers of students, demands on our infrastructure must be met. In 2011, the Essar Convergence Centre was opened, which houses state-of-the-art equipment for our science programs and the other institutes. Thanks to a \$1 million donation from Essar Steel Algoma, the building was named in September of 2012 at a special dedication ceremony attended by Governor General David Johnston.

September 2012 also saw the opening of the New Dormitory, located beside the George Leach Centre and across from the Essar Convergence Centre. The New Dormitory is a 96-bed residence, which boasts private rooms and single-shared bathrooms for students.

We also began programming at our newest offsite facility in St. Thomas, Ontario. Students studying in St. Thomas can earn the first two years of their Bachelor of Arts degree before relocating to Sault Ste. Marie to finish their degree. Class sizes are small in St. Thomas, never having more than 30 students in a class.

Our Brampton extension program has also seen solid growth over the past year. Students in Brampton with prior educational experience can earn a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in less than two years, with minors available in Marketing, Human Resources Management, and Accounting. Last fall, our first 20 students graduated from the program in a special convocation ceremony attended by Brampton resident and former Ontario Premier Bill Davis.



As part of the five-year Institutional Plan, the Arthur A. Wishart Library has been committed to increasing substantially its instructional, reference, and promotional services. Public Services & Collections Librarian, Dr. Michelle Atkin, has been instrumental in shifting our focus to electronic-first materials, allowing students and faculty 24/7 access to materials and re-purposing former shelf space. E-Services Librarian Robin Isard has lead efforts to build award-winning digital infrastructures for the Library's collections, besides contributing faculty research in the Digital Humanities.

This year, the Wishart Library and Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC) shared the prestigious 2013 Archives Association of Ontario's Institutional Award for their integrated approach to the archival endeavour, archival science, and archival enterprise from 2010-12. They also were the 2013 SSMart Innovation Project of the Year winners. From 2010-12, both the Wishart Library's archives and SRSC underwent a process of professionalisation, digitisation, and expansion.

Over 27,000 descriptive records were identified and created; over 27,000 photos and texts were digitised and made available online; and over 330 Residential School Survivors were newly identified through the digital archives platform, who had not been previously identified. This work has been featured provincially and nationally, as well as internationally through EIFL-UNESCO.

Through a community partnership with the 49th Field Artillery Regiment, Royal Canada Artillery, the Wishart Library launched the "Lest We Forget" Remembrance and Military Library, a special collection of books focusing on Canada's military history and peacekeeping activities.

## LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT



*University Librarian and University Archivist Ken Hernden and Researcher/Curator with the SRSC Krista McCracken represented both institutions in Ottawa, Ontario at the presentation ceremony for the AAO Award. "Krista and I were deeply honoured to accept the award on behalf of the many, many Survivors, individuals and organizations who have worked for over thirty years on collecting the documents, photographs, oral histories, videos, and other materials for the purposes of healing, sharing, and learning," said Hernden.*



# RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Since obtaining Tri-Council funding eligibility in 2009, Algoma University's faculty and institutes have brought in a total of \$5,652,273 in research grants. This year alone, impressive research has been conducted with the help of generous government funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and many more.

Dr. Isabel Molina, Assistant Professor and Research Chair in Natural Products Biochemistry, is one of 13 faculty members who has been awarded substantial grants to help fund her research. In 2013, she was awarded with both an NSERC grant, valued at \$39,135, and a CFI Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF) grant valued at \$84,754 for her research in plant biochemistry. These grants will help pay for new infrastructure in her lab at the University's Essar Convergence Centre, and help foster collaborations with government organisations.

The Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC) was awarded numerous grants from the Legacy of Hope Foundation, SSHRC, and the Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF).

Many of our students are also receiving grants to continue on with graduate studies. This year, Broderick Causley and Michael Kendall were both awarded NSERC grants, valued at \$17,500, while Stacey Devlin received a SSHRC scholarship, for the same amount. Shawna Partridge was awarded an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS), valued at \$15,000. Debra Pine received a generous fellowship from the University of Toronto, valued at \$23,000, to help fund her Master's in Human Geography.



*Last January, Dr. Michael DiSanto of the English Department was named co-winner of the Adam Gillon Book Award in Conrad Studies, for his book Under Conrad's Eyes: The Novel as Criticism. The award, presented every four years, is given to authors of book-length critical or biographical studies about the life and/or works of Joseph Conrad. DiSanto's book is an analysis of the works of Conrad as conversations with his literary predecessors.*





# ATHLETICS

2013 is an exciting year in athletics for Algoma University. This fall, our Thunderbirds varsity teams began playing in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) conferences in the sports of Basketball, Soccer, Cross-Country Running, Curling, Wrestling, and Nordic Skiing. Coaches have been hired in each of the new sports, and Ryan Vetrie, OCAA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year in 2012, has been retained as the full-time Head Coach. The University is also in the process of significantly improving and expanding our athletic facilities.

In preparation for the move to the OUA and CIS, varsity athletics has undergone both rebranding and expansion. Recently, the Algoma Thunderbirds unveiled their new logo and website, [www.algomathunderbirds.ca](http://www.algomathunderbirds.ca).

The logo, which was developed in the Marketing and Communications Department, retains the important features of the old logo, but places greater emphasis on the Thunderbird in a more contemporary and visually appealing way. The new website is the online face of the program, and provides fans with all the latest information on teams, coaches, and sporting events.

This past spring, Algoma University and the Algoma Thunderbirds hosted the sixth annual OUA Women's Basketball All-Star Game, which showcased the elite talent of university student-athletes from across the province. The OUA is interested in having us play host to a number of additional events in the coming years.



*Rookie Samy Mohamed set the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association record for three-point shots made in a single game by hitting 14 shots from beyond the arc. Kobe Bryant and Donyell Marshall share that record in the NBA, with 12.*



# EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

The Institutional Plan challenged us to make Algoma University one of the 10 largest employers in Sault Ste. Marie and set an overall employment target of 170 full-time employees by 2014-15.

In addition to its new faculty appointments, the University has added nine staff positions, including a Researcher/Curator for the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC), a Human Resources Assistant, a Varsity Sports Coordinator, and a Maintenance Tradesperson. These nine new positions bring the University to a total of 171 full-time employees. An additional seven positions have been approved for hire in 2013-2014, bringing the total to 180 full-time employees. This surpasses the target set out in the Institutional Plan, and according to the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation (SSMEDC), makes Algoma University the eighth largest employer in the city.



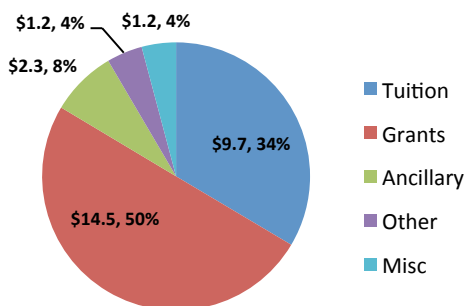


# FINANCES

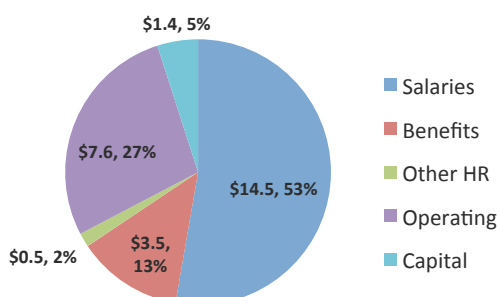
Algoma University continues to manage its steady growth and resources prudently. The University's operating budget has increased from over \$26 million in the 2012-13 fiscal year to over \$30 million in the 2013-14 year. The University continues to run a healthy operating surplus, as required in our Institutional Plan. Our surplus each year has been put towards debt servicing and campus renewal. With a steady growing operating budget and growth in enrollment, employment at the University has also increased. Locally, the University has injected \$37 million of capital spending into the economy over the past four years, including \$8 million in 2012-2013.

Given our steady growth, we have also managed to keep our tuition and residence fees amongst the lowest in the province. Tuition fees for Canadian students in 2012-13 were \$5,458. It is estimated that the total cost of tuition, ancillary fees and room and board is approximately \$1,500 below the provincial average, meaning a student in a four-year program can save up to \$6,000 over the course of a degree.

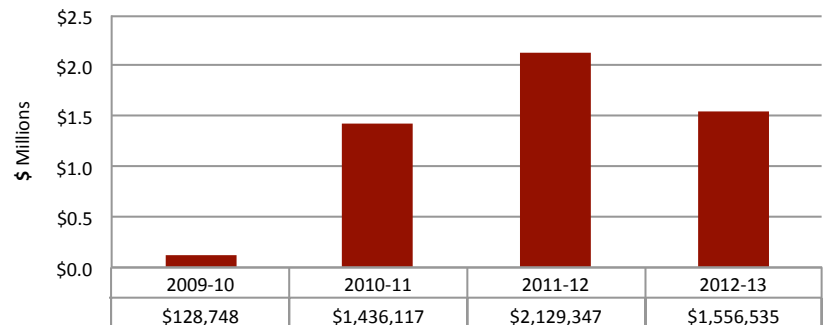
**2012-13 Revenues (\$m)**



**2012-13 Expenses (\$m)**



**OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)**





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