

# COMMUNITY REPORT 2013/14



Algoma  
UNIVERSITY







## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & THE 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 2013-2014 academic year.

The University has experienced another year of substantial progress. Enrolments are at an all-time high, and we had a record number of graduates at the 2014 Convocation. Our finances continue to be in excellent shape. We've completed our first season of competition in interuniversity varsity athletics, and work has begun on a \$5-million expansion of our fitness facilities. Most importantly, we continue to leverage the advantages of a small institution to provide our students with a great educational experience.

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,

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Richard Myers".

Dr. Richard Myers  
*University President*

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read "Tim Lavoie".

Tim Lavoie  
*Chair of the Board of Governors*



# THE STUDENT BODY

Algoma University's student population has grown steadily over the past few years. We are now home to 1600 students, with 1431 full-time equivalents. Our institution continues to thrive, making substantial progress along the strategic paths laid out in the 2010-2015 Institutional Plan. This steady increase puts us a full year ahead of the ambitious growth targets set in the Institutional Plan.

Another enrolment target for the University is to have at least 25% of first-year students coming from outside the Algoma region. In September of 2013, 36.0% of our direct from high school students came here from outside of the region.

With the steady growth in enrolment, comes the continued growth in our graduating class. At our annual June Convocation ceremony, we conferred 206 degrees, which represented our largest graduating class to date. Many of those graduates have already secured meaningful employment in their fields of study, while others are continuing with higher education, pursuing graduate studies at prestigious universities across the country.



Maggie McGoldrick

*Maggie McGoldrick graduated from Algoma U this past June, earning a four-year honours Bachelor of Arts in History, cum laude. She has been awarded with over \$18,000 in significant funding from a national research body to help fund her Master of Arts in History at the Queen's University. She is the third consecutive History graduate to earn such funding since 2011. McGoldrick has also been awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistantship valued at \$11,000, and was also elected by her peers to deliver the annual Expression of Thanks at the Convocation ceremony.*





## INTERNATIONALIZATION

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, staff, and faculty learn from each other in a spirit of friendship and respect.

Currently, 24% of our student body is made up of international students from 30 different countries, including Brazil, Japan, Germany, South Korea, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, and Iran.

Aside from hosting international students, the University has also hosted numerous international officials and researchers, who visit Algoma U to participate in the University's world-renowned programs. In October, three PhD candidates from the University of Guadalajara in Mexico worked and researched in the University's state-of-the-art Computer Games Technology and Computer Science program for one month, gaining valuable hands-on experience in Algoma U's sophisticated computer labs.

In June, ten members of Uniminuto University in Colombia took part in Algoma U's English as a Second Language (ESL) program, where they perfected their English language skills for four weeks. Their time at the University helped solidify a new exchange agreement and formed a lasting relationship between the universities.

*With more students coming to Algoma University from distant countries, it is not surprising to see more venturing abroad. Eight students participated in the University's student exchange program in the 2013-2014 year. For second-year Psychology students Deanne Riching and Jessica Ivison, who both travelled to Aalborg, Denmark in February on exchange, the experience has been eye opening: "Being on exchange has made me realize how little I know about the rest of the world. I love learning about how other people live, about different traditions and customs they have, and about their views on Canada and America. I love being in Europe, but being here [has] made me realize that I want to see more of my own country before I travel anywhere else."*



Deanne Riching & Jessica Ivison







# 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. The University is making great efforts and great strides toward improving and enhancing our cross-cultural understanding and learning.

The annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow: Honouring Life Long Learning was held in March at the George Leach Centre at Algoma U. The annual pow wow highlights and celebrates the cultural diversity and cross-cultural learning that happens on campus. Over 2,000 guests attended the event and enjoyed the traditional dress, dancing, and hand drumming of the Anishinaabe peoples, including many of our students. Gathering at the Rapids continues to be one of the largest pow wows in Northern Ontario.

In May, the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig hosted “Walking With Our Sisters” in the Shingwauk Auditorium for two weeks. “Walking With Our Sisters” is a travelling art exhibit for missing and murdered Indigenous women set to visit 31 different locations in North America over the next six years. The exhibit features 1,726 pairs of moccasin tops – or vamps – that have been created by 1,372 individuals to pay respect and honour the lives and existence of the missing and murdered Indigenous women in North America. Each pair of moccasins represents one missing or murdered woman. According to the Native Women’s Association of Canada, there are over 600 Indigenous women and girls missing and murdered in Canada over the last 20 years. The exhibit’s stop at Algoma University was particularly significant and powerful, since this was the first time the exhibit had ever been on display in a residential school.



Roxanne Martin

*Roxanne Martin is using her creativity and education to help preserve the Ojibwa language and culture. Martin graduated from Algoma U in June with a four-year honours Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a minor in Anishinaabemowin. In 2012, she launched her own business, Baby WayNa Books written in Ojibwa, which are language books for newborn to five-year-old children, which help fill the need in today's society for beginners to learn the Ojibwa language. “I grew up not knowing my true identity as a First Nations person and I don’t want my son to have the same experience. I wanted to create books where I could learn how to sew and create basic vocabulary words in Ojibwamowin for both of us to read and learn. I try to speak Ojibwa to my son on a regular basis even if I’m not fluent. I don’t want to lose the language.”*



As our student body continues to grow, so does our alumni family. We currently have over 5,000 alumni doing amazing things within our community and abroad. This year alone, we saw numerous alumni step out on the entrepreneurial stage, following their dreams by starting their own business.

#### Bachelor of Business

Administration grad Amanda Carchidi saw her high school dream come to fruition at the end of August, when she took over The Bridal Closet, a bridal boutique located in the heart of downtown Sault Ste. Marie. Carchidi graduated from Algoma U in 2011, and used her experiences in the

business program and the Northern Ontario Business Case Competition to dive into the bridal industry and overhaul the pre-existing store. From relocating the store to adding a fresh new line of merchandise to testing new marketing campaigns, Carchidi has become one of the youngest entrepreneurs in Sault Ste. Marie.

And only a few blocks down the street from Carchidi's store is Shabby Motley, another Algoma U entrepreneurial business. Political Science alumna Ashleigh Sauve opened a natural fibre store and coffee shop, which earned her recognition at Algoma U's Women's Day celebrations in Shingwauk Hall.

Cameron Dutchak, yet another Political Science grad, also earned plenty of attention in Northern Ontario after starting his own business CTD Designs, which earned him a Michaëlle Jean Foundation grant. Dutchak's business uses street art – or graffiti – to help troubled youth and others who cannot afford to participate in the realm of art, an opportunity to do so. CTD Designs is piloting a special project titled "The Black Book Project", which will help revitalize the downtown of Sault Ste. Marie and Northern Ontario, but also provide budding artists the opportunity to pursue their passion.

## ALUMNI SUCCESS



Cameron Dutchak





# CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

As the University takes in increasing numbers of students, demands on our infrastructure must be met.

In May of 2014, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne visited Algoma University to make a large funding announcement of two-million dollars to help update and drastically expand the University's athletics complex, the George Leach Centre. With a 10,000-square-foot addition, the newly expanded GLC will include new change rooms, a new weight room, and added office space. Renovations are expected to be completed for December of 2014.

Other renovations are also proceeding at Algoma University. The University recently added a library study space to accommodate group study and group work in the Wishart Library. The East

Wing corridor was also renovated, which now boasts bright red accent walls as well as modern, sleek laminate wood flooring. Plus, the stairwells in Shingwauk Hall have all been refurbished.

We continue to witness positive growth at our extension programming site in Timmins, Ontario. When programming first began in 2010, only a handful of students were registered for courses. Now, approximately 30 students are studying, earning either their Bachelor of Arts in Community Development or their Bachelor of Social Work degree. At our June Convocation ceremony, Jamie Levis, Margaret Wesley, Ellen Renaud, and Tanya Champagne were the first students to earn their degrees from Algoma U at Timmins.



COMMUNITY REPORT 2013/14



**Healthy Active Place to Study**  
Nouvel espace d'étude: vie saine







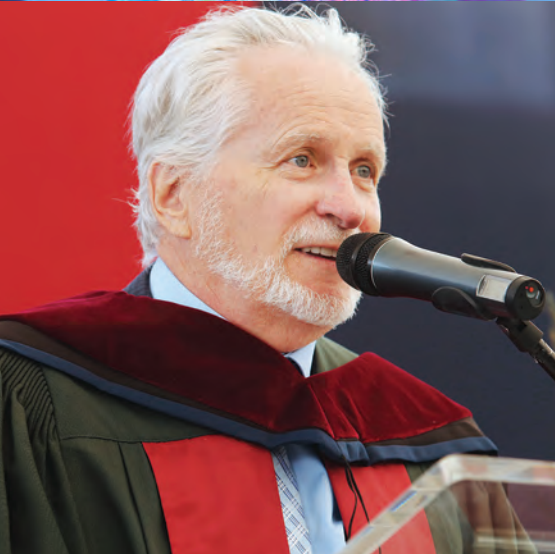
## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



To show our support for the Sault Ste. Marie and area community, Algoma University is working with local charities to help build a better and stronger community for all to enjoy. In October, the first-ever Algoma U Colour Dash was held in support of the Algoma Residential Community Hospice (ARCH), which raised \$4,000 and saw over 200 participants get splashed in colour in the exciting 2.5-kilometre fun run.

In October, the University kicked-off its annual United Way campaign, and raised a record amount of \$19,000 through the generous donations from students, staff, and faculty. Money was raised through carnation sales, candy bag sales, a trivia day event, and the first-ever Community Hallowe'en Trick or Treat at Algoma U. Over 1,000 children visited our "spooktacular" campus dressed in costume.

In June, the annual Convocation ceremonies honoured our biggest graduating class to date, but also honoured locals who have contributed to the development and betterment of Sault Ste. Marie. Included honourees were Lester Pyette, who earned a Doctor of Letters for his achievements in Canadian journalism, and Donna Hilsinger, who was recognized as an Honorary Member of Algoma U for her entrepreneurial work and significant role in Algoma U's annual Northern Ontario Business Case Competition.



Lester Pyette

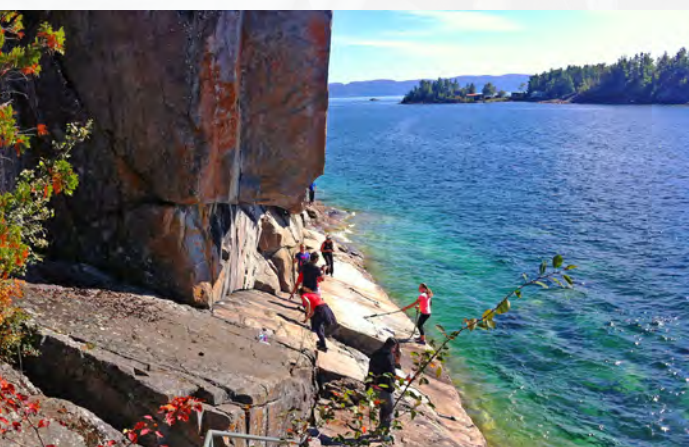




## RESEARCH ACTIVITY



Dr. István Imre



Since obtaining Tri-Council funding eligibility in 2009, Algoma University's faculty and institutes have brought in a total of \$842,839 in Tri-Council funding. This year alone, impressive research has been conducted with the help of generous Tri-Council funding, but also other governmental funding, including the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, among others.

World-renowned pianists Drs. Edward and Anne Louise-Turgeon, more commonly known as Duo Turgeon, and faculty members in the University's Music program, were awarded with a United States Department Fulbright Grant valued at \$4,000 in October to cover all of their expenses during their European concert performances and masterclasses in Chisinau, Moldova.

Dr. István Imre, Associate Professor in Biology, was one of the many faculty members to receive substantial grants to help fund his research. In January, he was awarded with \$150,018 from the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to fund his project exploring new control methods for sea lamprey, an invasive pest in the Great Lakes. The grant was awarded to Imre to investigate the concentration of several chemical alarm cues that induce the strongest avoidance response by sea lamprey and conduct studies in wild streams to evaluate the effectiveness of these alarm cues as seasonal chemical barriers.

*Dr. Gayle Broad, an Associate Professor in the Department of Community Development and Social Work, was awarded with a prestigious NSERC PromoScience grant valued at \$18,200, to help fund urban farm education science camps for youth over the duration of the next three years. The camps provide hands-on and experiential science-based learning, with an emphasis on food security and sovereignty, food safety, nutrition, and food preparation. The Urban Farm Education Camp, as it is called, includes exercises in the field, garden, computer, and science labs.*



Dr. Gayle Broad





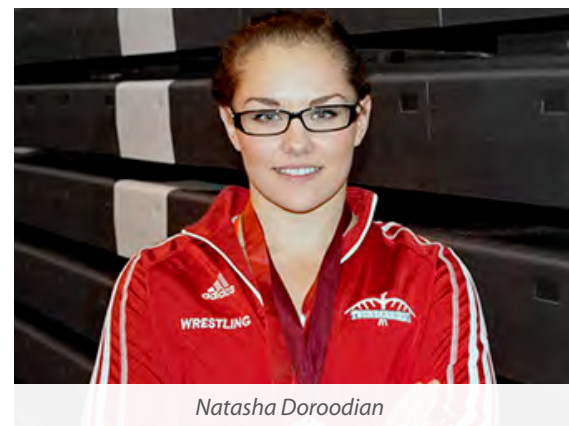
# ATHLETICS

The 2013-2014 year was an exciting year for athletics at Algoma University. Last 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, cross-country running, curling, wrestling, and Nordic skiing. Soccer recently made the big move to both the OUA and CIS in August. Our student-athletes now participate in the highest level of university sport in Canada.

Both the men's basketball team and the Algoma wrestlers made headlines across Canada in their debut year. For the men's basketball squad, the team notched five big wins against storied teams, including the Waterloo Warriors, the Brock Badgers, the Lakehead Thunderwolves, Queen's Gaels, and Toronto Varsity Blues. For the wrestlers, the team brought home a combined total of five medals, including one gold and silver, and three bronze.



*First-year Law and Justice student Natasha Doroodian, graduate of Korah Collegiate and Vocational School and member of the Algoma wrestlers, earned the title of Female Student-Athlete of the Year for the 2013-2014 season after her stunning performance on the mats. Bringing home three medals (one gold, silver, and bronze) for the Algoma Wrestlers, Doroodian just missed the podium at the CIS Championship in Fredericton, New Brunswick, after placing fourth in the 63-kilogram weight class. Doroodian went 1-2 at the CIS Championship, and was the most decorated Algoma U athlete for the 2013-2014 season. She is the first-ever Algoma U student-athlete to represent our University at a national CIS championship.*



Natasha Doroodian





## 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 three staff positions, including a Health and Safety Officer, a Senior Application Developer, and an Administrative Assistant. These three new positions bring the University to a total of 174 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.

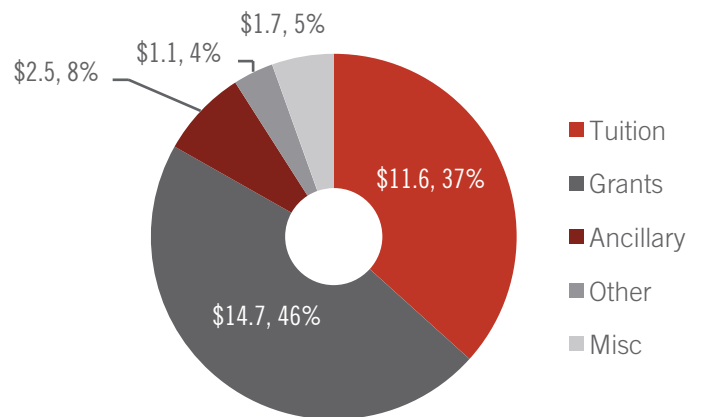


# FINANCES

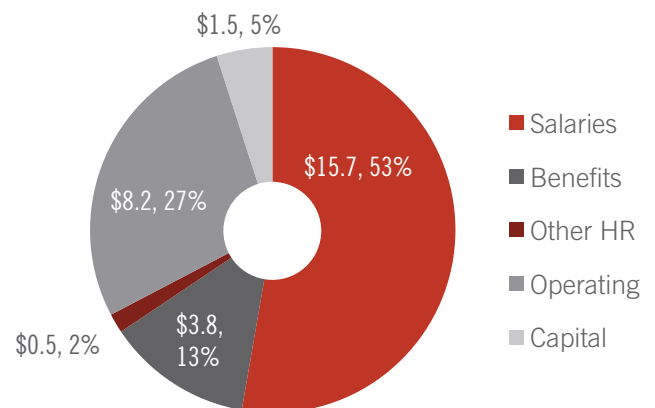
Algoma University continues to manage its steady growth and resources prudently. The University's operating budget has increased from over \$30 million in the 2013-14 fiscal year to over \$32 million in the 2014-15 year. The University continues to run a healthy operating surplus, as required in our Institutional Plan. Our surplus each year has been put towards debt servicing and campus renewal. With a steady growing operating budget and growth in enrolment, employment at the University has also increased. Locally, the University has injected \$38 million of capital spending into the economy over the past four years, including \$5 million in 2013-14.

Given our steady growth, we have also managed to keep our tuition and residence fees among the lowest in the province. Tuition fees for domestic students in 2013-14 were \$5,622. 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.

## 2013-14 Revenues (\$31.6m)



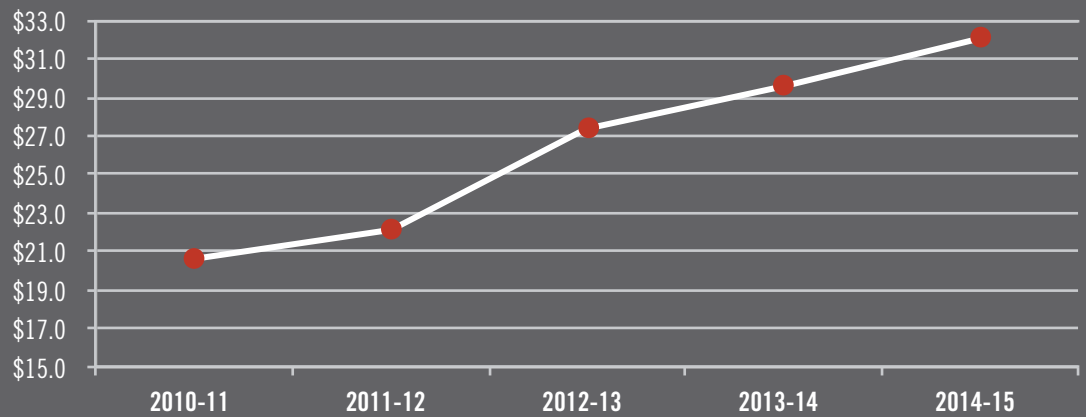
## 2013-14 Expenses (\$29.7m)



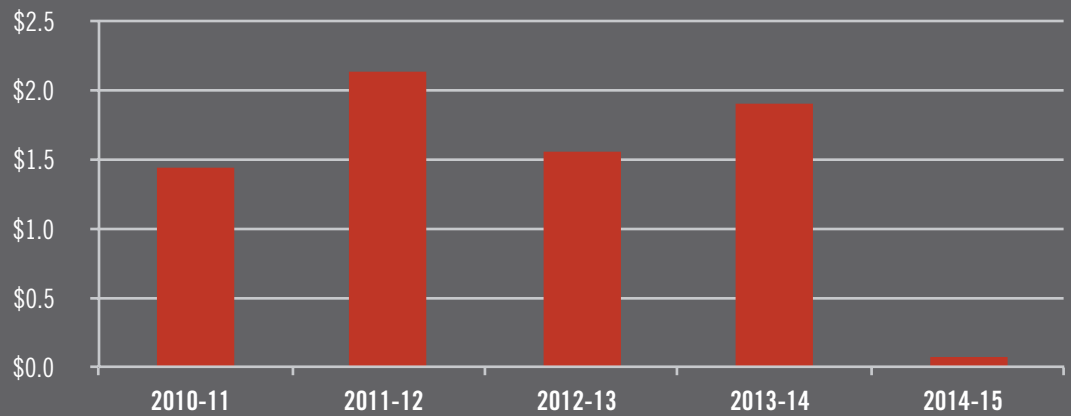


# FINANCES

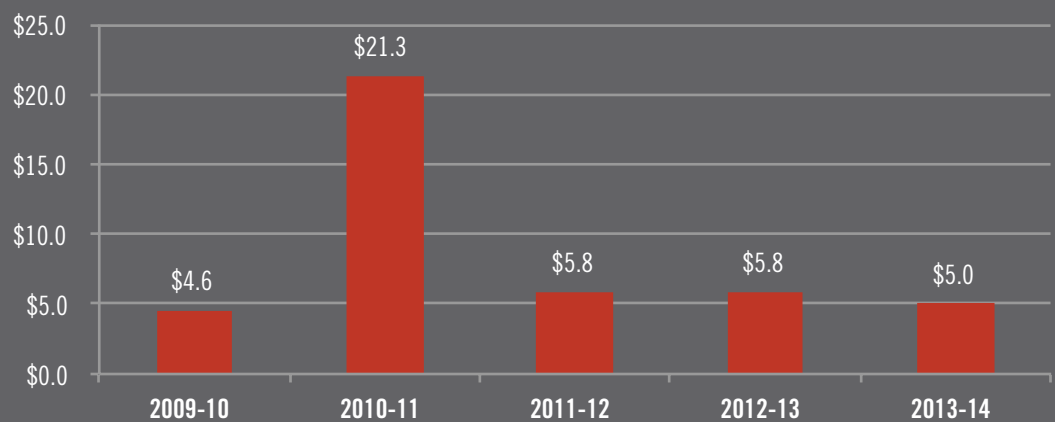
## AU Operating Budget (\$m)



## AU Operating Surplus (\$m)



## AU Capital Spending (\$m)







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