

President's Report to the Board



April 28-2014

From the President

The primary agenda item at our April meeting is the budget. Once again, I am pleased to be able to forward to the Board a proposal for a budget that shows a modest surplus as well as a modest level of growth. We continue to maintain a reasonable balance between academic and non-academic expenditures. One point worth noting is that the total amount of tuition revenue derived from international students now equals the total amount of tuition revenue we take in from domestic students. While this new reality is a testament to the success of our internationalization strategy (and to the role our international students play in the success of the institution), it should also ring a note of caution. Because international recruitment markets are more volatile than domestic markets, we have to be careful not to find ourselves over-exposed by becoming too dependent on international student revenues.

As has been the case each year during my presidency, much of the work on the budget proposal has been carried out by the *President's Budget Advisory Panel*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of this year's panel for the long hours they have spent on their task and the excellent product that has emerged. The members of the PBAP are:

Sean Dwyer (Chair)
Jenn Reid (Staff)
Dwayne Keough (Faculty)
Ed Turgeon (Faculty)
Kevin Hemsworth (Administration)
Adam Ruekwald (Student)
Maria Murtha (Support)

Please allow me to provide you with a few words about several other noteworthy matters.

1. Decanal Search

The term of our Academic Dean, Dr. Arthur Perlini, will expire at the end of this calendar year. A search is underway to appoint a new Academic Dean for January 1.

2. GLC Renovations

The Premier was on campus earlier this month to announce a grant of \$2million in support of our project to renovate and expand the George Leach Centre.

3. Administration Unit Reviews

We have begun the process of conducting external reviews of our administrative units that mirror the reviews we conduct of academic units. The process is being piloted by the Domestic Student Recruitment Unit. External experts from Acadia University in Nova Scotia and Northern Michigan University in Marquette will be on campus April 24-25 to review our practices and provide advice.

4. Strategic Mandate Agreement

The Province has prepared a draft agreement for Algoma University that follows closely on the submission we made in December. The Province has asked that we keep the text of the draft agreement confidential until the agreements are in place for all twenty universities.

5. Business Incubator

The Province has made it a high priority for universities and colleges to host business incubators to encourage student entrepreneurship. Algoma is collaborating with Sault College and the the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre to obtain funding to create a student business incubator here.

6. Departing Employees

Two valued members of our staff will be leaving the University to take positions in other cities. Brock Olive is moving to Edmonton to manage extension programming for the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. Michael Young is moving to Toronto to take a position at the head office of OSSTF. We thank both of them for their contributions to Algoma and wish them well in their new positions.

Dr. Richard Myers
President

Vice President Academic and Research

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since Feb 2014

Dr. David Schantz

1. Research

With the endorsement of the Research Advisory Committee, Pedro Antunes is selected as Algoma University's choice for Canada Research Chair (CRC), a program designed to attract and retain outstanding scholars and scientists. The VPAR office is working with Dr. Antunes to prepare his material for submission. With CRC funding, Dr. Antunes will continue to work as the Research Chair for the Invasive Species Research Institute. In securing Dr. Antunes as a CRC, the institution is able to build on its growing reputation as an effective teaching institution where world class research is ongoing and student involvement is encouraged.

2. Funding / Grant Opportunities

Two grant projects funded through the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' Productivity and Improvement Fund concluded at the end of March. Highlights of the projects are provided below.

- Building Organizational Capacity in Data Mining and Data Analysis: AU hosted visitors from the University of Regina (Brian Christie) and Campus Strategies (Dr. Larry Goldstein) in March to review current information on data collection and consumption as well as report back on common sector needs and decision processes. Software was secured as part of this grant to promote efficient data analysis and report generation. The visit and open workshop / discussion regarding the NSSE tool by Dr. Jillian Kinzie from the National Survey of Student Engagement organization were also supported.
- First Year Experience for Non-Traditional Students: A mini-conference entitled "International Education in a North American Context: Building for Success" was widely attended by faculty and staff from Algoma University and Sault College as well as others from the region. Committee members continued to gather data and conduct assessments of current AU practices and work to implement best practices. Data collection and assessment and curriculum design activities as well as meetings with universities / representatives with advanced expertise in this area were part of the project. Completion of the foundations reports and participation in the recommendation formulation are now underway.

Algoma University was also awarded funding from ONCAT (the Ontario Council for Articulation and Transfer). The two new grants were secured by a partnership between Algoma University and Sault College. Both proposals were developed with knowledge and preliminary support from relevant faculty. The first is a bridge from a Bachelor of Arts in English from Algoma University to a Public Relations and Event Management Graduate Certificate from Sault College (\$48,225.00). The second is a pathway from Sault College Diploma Programs in Natural Environment and Outdoor Studies to a Bachelor of Science from Algoma University (\$64,394.00).

3. Outreach / Partnerships

Discussions were held with the leadership of Algoma Public Health (APH) regarding a range of mutual interests with the intent of extending academic and professional connections between Algoma University and APH. Other outreach with healthcare instructors in the region is also underway.

The VPAR is participating in the Digital Gaming Task Force, a partnership between the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC), Sault College, private industry and government. This consortium supports the development of the gaming industry and has potential to develop opportunities for students and faculty members across a range of departments while supporting economic development in the region.

Vice President Finance and Administration

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014

Sean Dwyer

1. Part-Time Faculty Collective Bargaining Negotiations

The University Administration began negotiations with the Algoma University Faculty Association regarding the PT Collective Agreement in July 2013 as per the contract expiring as of June 30th 2013. The Administration Bargaining Team was prepared with all articles to be opened and discussed in advance of the first session and are continuing to work through the agreement at the bargaining table. The articles that relate to monetary items are currently being negotiated with the assistance of a Ministry of Labour appointed conciliator.

2. Operating Budget Development

The largest focus since February of 2014 has been the development of the 2014-15 operating budget. The results of which are included in the open session board package.

3. GLC Expansion

Further to the details provided in the Physical Plant Director's report, work on the related financing plan has been moving forward in parallel. An update on the RFP process will be provided when available.

4. Dissolution of the Foundation / Transfer of Assets

Dissolving the AU Foundation is a practical step for the University to take as it promotes better financial controls, allows for more efficient and improved reporting and cuts down on unnecessary professional fees. The intention is to perform the transfer of assets and dissolution of the Foundation on the last day of our fiscal year, April 30th, 2014. The Foundation will still exist exactly as it does in its current form, however it will simply become a department of the University as opposed to a stand-alone entity. The related motions are included in the Board package.

5. Back Office Efficiencies

Automated document flow solutions are currently being explored. The intention is to use the purchase order to bill payment process as a pilot case but to later implement the solution across numerous back office, paper intensive processes.

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014

Judy Syrette, Director

1. The Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow 2014 – March 1 & 2, 2014

The Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 1 & 2, 2014. This event continues to grow in attendance and this year there were four (4) sponsored dance competitions in addition to the regularly scheduled competitions. Ninety-three (93) dancers registered to compete in the dance competitions with additional 30-40 dancers in attendance. There were two host drums and seven additional drums from across Ontario and Michigan.

2. Grade Six Education Day

The grade six education day was held on Friday, March 19th, 2014 during Study Week which allowed the use of all the available classrooms at AU for presentations. There were approximately 550 elementary school students in attendance from the Algoma District School Board, the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board and the French Public School Board. The response to this annual event has been overwhelming and there were well over 150 students on a waiting list to attend. The outlying schools were not able to attend due to the weather so the total number of students could have exceeded 800 elementary students.

3. Love Your Language Day

On March 19, 2014, Algoma University and Sault College co-hosted the Love Your Language Day event with a dinner to acknowledge and recognize the contributions of our Native Language Teachers in sustaining and maintaining the Ojibwe language at the local school boards, post-secondary institutions and community programs on both sides of the international border. There were approximately 35 people in attendance.

4. AID Projects

- a) AID has collaborated with the Anishinaabekwe of the North Shore local of the Ontario Women's Association in preparing a funding submission to the Anglican Healing and Reconciliation Fund to host a Native Language Teachers Gathering at Algoma University in August 2014.
- b) AID is partnering with the Geography/Geology Department to host a symposium in September 2014 in order to bring awareness of and promotion of Land, resource and environmental management and planning in the Anishinaabe communities of northern Ontario. An Anishinaabe Advisory Committee to this project is currently being created to ensure the focus of the symposium addresses the needs of the First Nation and other communities of northern Ontario.
- c) AID is sponsoring a Research Assistant to assist the BFA program in a literature review and updating the resources for reading lists for three Aboriginal banked course offerings in the Fine Arts program.
- d) AID is funding the Research Assistant position that is preparing the ethics application, community consultation and reporting on a Northern Social Work Perspective of the Métis People. An external Métis Advisory Committee has been established to oversee this project to its conclusion.
- e) AID is planning and preparing for the 2014 Binesi Summer Camps at Algoma University and will include a one week camp on Food Safety sponsored by NORDIK.
- f) An introductory meeting was held on Monday, March 24th to solicit information and interest from the AU community for the development of an Archival Certificate at Algoma University.
- g) AID co-hosted a workshop with Mark Nadjiwon, Advisor, Aboriginal Liaison Program, Central Region of Statistics Canada on Friday, March 28th, 2014 at the Indian Friendship Centre. This workshop presented the statistical information from the Aboriginal Peoples in Canada: First Nations People, Métis and Inuit and findings from the 2011 National Household Survey and as well as the initial findings from the 2012 Aboriginal Peoples Survey. There were approximately 24 participants from both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community agencies | Sault Ste. Marie.

Marketing and Communications

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2014

1. Visual Identity Study

Creative concepts were presented to the President and the Director prior to the Christmas break. Refinements were done in January, and after gathering feedback from the Visual Identity Task Force, we began working on showing the selected logos in context (on an array of printed materials). We are meeting with Zone 5 on April 24th to discuss next steps, which will include exploring variations of the selected mark (including a 50th Anniversary mark), a colour palette for the identity, fonts, and establishing usage guidelines.

2. Website

Michael Young, E-Marketing Officer (who was responsible for all website updates) has left Algoma University to take a position with OSSTF in Toronto. We are in the process of hiring a new Web Content/Digital Media Officer, and are optimistic that we will have someone in place by early May. In the meantime, we are taking the opportunity to audit the existing website and make some improvements to both the site as well as to the process by which updates occur. These are in addition to the updates mentioned to the Board in the January 2014 report.

3. Anti-Spam Legislation

As of July 1, 2014, the Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation comes into force. The Director has sought advice from contacts at the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and met with the Director of IT Services to discuss how this affects the university sector, and specifically Algoma University. We have identified potential issues with the way we communicate with both Prospective Students and Alumni under these new regulations. We are convening a working group that will identify issues and work to ensure that we are compliant with the new legislation.

4. Research Matters – Curiosity Shop

As part of the Research Matters campaign, designed to create awareness about the value of university research, the “Curiosity Shop” booth made a stop at Algoma University earlier in April. The interactive booth gave participants an opportunity to ask questions of university researchers and have their photos taken with their questions. The questions are then distributed to university research department for answers by the researchers, which are posted to the Research Matters website.

Human Resources

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2014

Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

1. Recruitment

Student Services Advisor (temporary) – filled with internal applicant

Web Content/Digital Media Officer – filled with external applicant

Anishinaabe Student Services Advisor (temporary) – internal recruitment in progress

Operations Director, Extension Operations (temporary) – filled with internal applicant

ESL Internship Coordinator (PT – OTTM) – filled with internal applicant

2. Health and Safety

The HR Director and representatives from the University attended the Public Services Health and Safety Association presentation on Behaviour Based Safety. Four representatives of the University also attended the two-day Health and Safety Conference held at the Comfort Inn Suites. In following best practice and the applicable Collective Agreements, return to work and/or accommodation meetings were held with Staff and Faculty members.

3. Payroll

The semi-monthly payroll audits continue prior to the final processing of the pay and after the pay is processed to ensure that any errors or omissions are identified as early as possible in the process. All Staff and Administration have received instructions to sign up to have their payroll information available electronically (including electronic pay stubs). There are still a few that have to complete the process and when finalized, the Faculty Association will be provided with information and access instructions. The majority of student assistants and employees have moved to direct deposit. The electronic timesheets will be launched to the new Student Assistants starting in May. The Payroll and Benefits Officer has continued with the purge of previous employees from the payroll system with the goal to have this complete by the end of June 2014. This will also help with the streamlined payroll process and automating some of the processes and reducing the amount of manual work.

4. Human Resources Information System

The next phase of the implementation of the HRIS continues with the review and documentation of all processes used in the system. The attendance management reporting process has started by department and information communicated to the department. Other reporting of the system will continue to be reviewed, including the standard reporting being provided by the system and to identify additional reporting that will benefit the HR Department and other Administrative departments of the University.

5. Training and Development

Training was provided by HR Downloads to HR staff on computer based training (CBT) modules for staff and faculty that will address the mandatory training requirements, such as WHMIS, Workplace Violence and AODA. Training was provided on using the system to create a database of training information including all employees and what has been completed to date giving us the required documentation.

6. Service Excellence

The Service Excellence Committee has been formed and has met for a total of four meetings including an intensive five-hour planning session held offsite. The committee has developed the service excellence standards to be in place by September 2014. An official launch is planned for the latter part of May and the departmental rollout will take place in June, July and August.

Information Technology

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2014

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

1. EnrollmentRX

As part of the Productivity and Innovation funds, the purchase of EnrollmentRX was made in the month of March which will see a new recruiting and admissions platform installed for our recruiters and the admissions office. We are planning to have the recruitment portion of this system running for August when the next cycle begins, and the admissions portion online later in the year.

2. Infrastructure Upgrades

Several areas on campus will receive upgrades over the summer. EW201 and BT201 will be fitted with our standard classroom IT equipment (podium, projector, PC, audio system, etc).

All full-time faculty will receive new laptops or desktops (based on their choice), and all computer labs and classrooms across main campus and our remote sites will receive new hardware.

3. Business Continuity

Our analysis of creating a disaster recovery site in the event of major hardware failure or disaster in our data center is continuing. Our backup capacity has doubled within the last month, and we are now finalizing details of placing a new set of servers at our remote site.

4. Internet Bandwidth

Internet Bandwidth on campus continues to increase. Last fall our connection was upgraded from 10Mbps to 100Mbps, and within the next few months the bandwidth on main campus will be upgraded from 100Mbps to 200Mbps.

5. GLC IT Plans

IT plans for the GLC were drafted and included in the tender specifications. It calls for 48 additional data ports, 20 phone ports, 20 cable television ports, 7 wireless access points, 11 IP surveillance cameras, 25 swipe access controlled doors, and exterior door security.

6. Heartbleed Bug

Our campus systems were reviewed and patched from the “Heartbleed” bug (www.heartbleed.com) within 24 hours of being announced. While we have no reason to believe that anyone took advantage of this bug, we have been strongly recommending that users change their AlgomaU passwords.

Physical Plant

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2014 Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

1. George Leach Center Ontario Universities Athletics Expansion

The GLC Expansion tender documents have been completed and the project is currently out to tender. Caughill Consulting along with the Sault Ste. Marie Construction Association are handling the document distribution. Along with the SSMCA and local media, the project has been advertised on the MERX website, which is Canada's largest e-based tendering service. The tender closes on May 8, 2014. The scheduled completion date is November 30, 2014.

2. Arthur A. Wishart Library Reroofing

Tender drawings and specifications are complete. Tendering will begin the week of May 5th, with work to be completed over the summer. Maverick and Son Exteriors is continuing to monitor and repair the roofing as required.

3. Essar Convergence Centre

The former AGFH space is currently being redesigned to accommodate a large classroom with configurable furniture to allow various teaching methods. This renovation will occur over the summer and be ready for the fall term.

4. Facility Renewal Program (FRP)

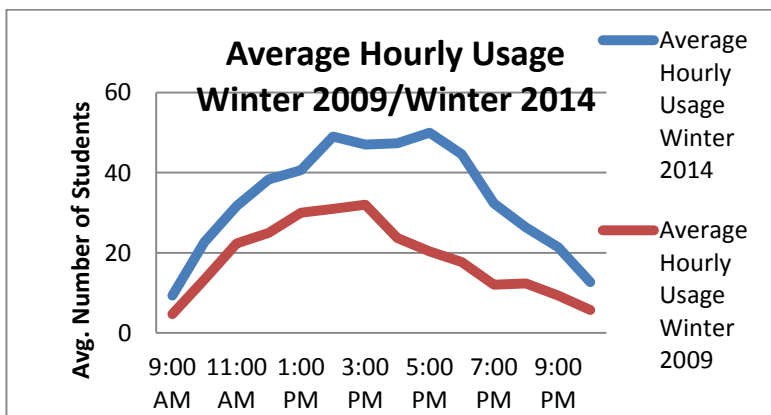
As part of the FRP grant Algoma University receives from MTCU, we are currently completing a refresh of the stairwells in Shingwauk Hall. The stairwells are being completely repainted, new flooring, new window trim, and new energy efficient LED lighting is being installed. We are replacing the flooring in classroom SH510 and music study room SH216. Additionally we are replacing several HVAC units throughout the main building that are past life expectancy. These new units are far more efficient than existing and will provide improved building comfort levels. This work is currently underway and will be completed in the next few weeks.

Arthur A. Wishart Library

Summary of Major Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014

Ken Hernden, University Librarian

1. Student Group Study Room: Despite only using a “soft-launch”, sixty-seven student groups have booked the groups for a total of 190 hours between February 4 and April 7, 2014. Each group typically uses the room for 2.8 hours.
2. Special Projects:
 - a. The Library was approved for two Financial Aid Office funded full-time summer students. Under the supervision of Dr. Michelle Atkin, Helen Pereira and Carol Wright, these students will engage in the Library’s second round of resource de-selection this summer. The student assistants will also provide much need desk coverage to permit staff to take their summer vacations.
 - b. The university archives are working with the Anglican Diocese of Algoma to assist the Diocese in its obligations to provide access to its documents that relate to the Residential and Day Schools formerly run by the Diocese and Government of Canada. This will provide a small but steady revenue stream for the Library and the work will do “double-duty” by causing us to digitize materials, which we would have wished to digitize at some point for researchers to use.
 - c. The Library has engaged in very exciting, preliminary conversations with the Humanities Division, Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre, and Anishinaabe Initiatives Division to introduce undergraduate courses in “Archival Studies” which will harness the university’s internal, relevant talent and strong archival collections.
 - d. The Library is providing support to the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division to produce a professional, online journal: *Bawheting Journal of Indigenous Knowledge*. This support includes using Simon Fraser University’s/ the Public Knowledge Project’s open source Open Journals System software running on Scholars Portal’s infrastructure. This will guarantee long-term digital preservation and instant visibility/exposure to the other Ontario universities.
3. University Sector Engagement: The University Librarian and faculty librarians continue to play provincial roles in the Ontario Council of University Libraries’ new governance structure. This gives Algoma University an equal, ongoing voice in shared infrastructure and content development at OCUL’s \$4 million/per year Scholars Portal services.
4. Internal Engagement: Online and in-person use of the Library and its services continues to grow. Below is a comparison between winter 2009 and winter 2014 of average hourly usage. There are peak times midweek where the library is seeing over seventy students working at a time.



Student Recruitment: International

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014

Joanne Elvy, Director, International Recruitment

1. 2 + 2 Agreements in China (Student Mobility initiatives)

Algoma University is at the latter stages of finalizing an in-depth agreement with North University of China (Taiyuan) whereby Chinese students will start their studies in their home institution, to then finish the final two years at Algoma, thus receiving a dual degree. This type of initiative remains attractive to Chinese students who can then gather valuable work experience in Canada as post-graduates. While the model itself is not new, Chinese institutions tend to favour such partnerships with outside universities who have already established such connections in China. To this end, Jinan University, Qujing Normal University and Yunnan University, upon learning of the success of Algoma at North University, wish to pursue a similar arrangement with Algoma.

2. Agent & school visits – Bangladesh, Korea (March 2014)

Face-to-face meetings with potential students at our agency in Bangladesh -- as well as two first-time university site visits in Dhaka to initiate 2 + 2 agreements -- has since initiated applications for fall 2014. Agent meetings in Seoul, Korea (together with a presentation at the Canadian Embassy in Seoul, an international educational fair in Pusan and three university visits) intended to generate more meaningful projects (pending results).

3. New programming initiatives in China and Mexico

With the assistance of the Canadian Consulate in Chongqing, China, Algoma University has established a significant contact with the International Department at Sichuan International Studies University (SISU / Chongqing) to establish a 2 + 2 global studies initiative to support student mobility, expand programming and increase outreach. A similar initiative was successfully presented to the Rector (President) of University of Colima (Mexico) in February 2014. A start date of September 2015 has been proposed

4. Showcasing Algoma University to WEIBO in China

In China, Algoma University has initiated a site on Weibo, a twitter-like social media tool. One of our Chinese students will oversee the postings over the next few months. Currently, AlgomaU Weibo has around 400 'friends' in China forwarding our postings to over 70 universities in the country; and the site has stepped out to befriend 830 Chinese institutions, groups and individuals, who also receive our posted updates, either directly or indirectly. As universities and educational institutions in China tend to work more closely with foreign institutions who are connected internally, this site was set up as a proactive measure to counteract fraudulent sites and postings about Algoma that have surfaced in China over the past two years, ones that would leave the reputation of the University vulnerable to scrupulous agents and subagents in the country if not addressed.

4. "Emerging Leaders in the Americas" – Latin American scholarship initiative (Mexico, Brazil)

Algoma University will submit three applications for federally funded scholarships to support student applications to Fine Arts, CESD and Economics for fall 2014. This reflects well in our Latin American recruiting, as Algoma University receives critical attention for participating in federally-funded projects. Two applications are from institutions who have already expressed an interest in more meaningful arrangements with AU.

Student Recruitment: Domestic

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014 Brent Krmpotich, Director, Domestic Recruitment

1. Application Update

Algoma has continued to receive applications since the January 15th application deadline. As of the last OUAC application report (April 3) Algoma's direct from high school applications (101) were up 10.5% compared to last year. Algoma's applications from college, university and mature students (105) are down 8.5% compared to last year. Applications to the Sault Ste. Marie campus have been strong; most of the decline in 105 applications can be attributed to dramatic declines in applications to Algoma's Brampton and St. Thomas campuses.

2. March Break Open House

Algoma University hosted approximately 100 applicants and parents on the March Break. The guests were a mix of local and out of region students. During the Open House guests were greeted by Dr. Myers, attended a lecture in their subject area, toured campus and met with faculty and students. In the evening the group went to the Soo Curling Club where they received lessons from Algoma's curling coaches. The Open House was very well organized and ran very efficiently. We are looking at making changes to the format that may allow more applicants to participate in the future.

3. Enrollment Rx

I participated in a task force including the Director of IT Services, Director of Extension Programming and Registrar to select a new CRM system for the university. After sitting through presentations from several vendors we made the decision to purchase Enrollment RX. This system will replace our current system OASIS as the software used to manage relationships with prospective students and applicants. The implementation process has begun, we anticipate the new system to be fully functional by the end of September. Enrollment RX will allow us to improve on follow up processes currently in place as well as speed up the application processing time.

4. Recruitment Self-Study

The Recruitment Department is the first administrative unit at Algoma University to participate in an external review. The review is set for April 25th with reviewers coming from Northern Michigan University and Acadia University. Leading up to the review I had to complete a thorough assessment of the activities the department undertakes. The self-study also examines how the Recruitment Department interacts with other administrative units at the university. The preliminary work has been completed and the department is looking forward to the review on April 25th.

Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre & Special Advisor to the President for the Residential Schools Legacy

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014

Jonathan Dewar, Director

1. Archive and Centre

Development of the Centre's archive, both physical and digital, is ongoing. The database of Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) project reporting records was finalized in May 2013; the integration of the material into the Centre's holdings is underway. This material will be a very significant addition to the current holdings and will be the centrepiece of a specialized program of research.

The Centre is thrilled to bring the nationally and internationally renowned memorial exhibit *Walking With Our Sisters* (<http://walkingwithoursisters.ca>) to Sault Ste. Marie. It will be exhibited in the Shingwauk Auditorium May 5-18 with numerous ceremonies and parallel events still being planned.

The Centre entered into a formal partnership with the Art Gallery of Algoma and together, the Centre and the AGA are hosting Cheryl L'Hirondelle's *Why the Caged Bird Sings: Here I Am* (from the critically acclaimed "Ghost Dance: Activism. Resistance. Art." exhibit) Feb. 26 – April 26 (www.artgalleryofalgoma.com/education-gallery-exhibitions.html). This body of work was developed during the summer 2013 artist residency *Reconsidering Reconciliation* held at Thompson Rivers University in partnership with the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre and Centre for Innovation in Culture and the Arts in Canada. Two other artists from that residency will also be coming to Sault Ste. Marie as part of the Centre's ongoing *Healing and Reconciliation through Education* programing: Ayumi Goto's written, visual, and performance-based response to the "Journey of Nishiyuu" – *in sonorous shadows of Nishiyuu* – will be performed/installed in the Shingwauk RS Centre April 26 in conjunction with a performance called *escape stories 1 through 8* by Peter Morin art the AGA; this piece is a response to L'Hirondelle's *Why the Caged Bird Sings: Here I Am* to mark the end of its run at the AGA. Each of these works grew out of symposia and artist residencies hosted or sponsored by the Centre over the past 18 months.

On December 7, 2013, in partnership with local gallery 180 Projects, the Centre presented a local unveiling of "Children to Children." This piece by elder and Shingwauk Indian Residential School and Algoma University alumna Shirley Horn, BFA, with fellow BFA graduates Shelly Fletcher and Zenith Lillie-Eakett, was commissioned by the Centre and made possible by a \$33,500 grant from Project of Heart. This large installation piece will be permanently installed at AU (date TBD). Its permanent installation in East Wing is currently underway and will be formally unveiled in August 2014 at this year's Shingwauk Gathering & Conference.

2. Research

The 2-year \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* awarded by the AHF in August 2012 wrapped up March 31, 2014.

Under that grant a formal program of research, which includes a focus on the archival collections, and related programming has been developed, along with a specialized "sharing, healing and learning" publishing platform for the Centre, which includes a specialized imprint (or press) and a scholarly and creative journal. There are four titles in the imprint queue, scheduled for 2014 releases, and the inaugural issue of the journal will be launched August 2014.

SRSC Director Dewar is a co-investigator on a SSHRC *Insight Grant* called "'Beyond Reconciliation': Indigenous Arts, Public Engagement, and the Aftermath of Residential Schools" (\$499,371, University of Alberta, to 2017). A cornerstone of this grant is "to support the creation of summer institute programming, research capacity, and a new publication imprint at the Shingwauk Residential School Centre (Algoma University). While there will be programming over five years at University of Alberta, Thompson Rivers University, and University of Regina as well, the Centre now has the principal funding for Summer Institute programming through summer 2017. This will include a Shingwauk Gathering & Conference under the theme of "Art and Archives."

Director Dewar is also a co-investigator on a newly awarded SSHRC *Partnership Development Grant* called “Embodying empathy: fostering historical knowledge and caring through a virtual Indian residential school” (\$195,657, University of Manitoba, to 2016).

3. Budget and Staffing

The Centre has been staffed since spring 2013 by an Archives Technician and a Researcher/Curator, a position made possible through the 2-year, \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* from the AHF. With the grant’s wind up both positions are under review at this time with the hope that funding will be secured to retain at least one position into the 2014/15 fiscal year. This grant also provided opportunities to contract student and professional research assistants, researchers, and consultants. Again, new funding opportunities have been sought to continue such work.

Student Services

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2014 Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

1. Student Services

- The Student Services area hosted a number of successful ski nights at Searchmont with well over 100 students taking part. Our relationship with the ski resort continues to strengthen with our event planning and student membership program.
- Dr. Barbeau's office has relocated to the Doctors building at 170 East St. Current staff and students who are registered with Dr. Barbeau will continue to have access to medical services until September. It is our intent to ensure students will have continued access to medical services after this date with a suitable provider in the community.
- The International Student Ambassador Program (ASAP) completed its first year of implementation with a total of 32 mentees and 21 mentors taking part. Led by ESL Coop student Megumi Matsumoto, the program has been successful and provided solid foundation for future growth.
- The Annual Student Services Satisfaction Survey was conducted with 242 students taking part. The results will be used to assist in improving services to students as well as enhancements to student life. Also the data collected from the Prospective Student Survey will be used for planning purposes. This survey (215 responses) was conducted by the Recruitment Team and asked students about their expectations regarding the transition to university.

2. Residence

- Ninety students attended the Annual Residence Awards on March 28th. Several awards were given out to students who positively contributed to residence life. Thishanth Arumugam, a BA3 JURI student from Markham ON, won the top honours as the Residence Student of the Year.
- The Annual Residence Town Hall meeting was held on March 21st. The event, annually hosted by Residence Council, provides an opportunity to discuss residence operations and review the Residence Student Satisfaction survey results (62 respondents).
- As a final activity of the year, thirty four students took part in a trip to St Joseph's Island for a tour of the historical Gilbertson's maple syrup facility and dine at the family restaurant.

3. Varsity

- The Athletics department hosted its annual Athletic Banquet Awards night on Friday March 21st. This was the first ever banquet as an OUA member and fittingly recognized many firsts, including our first ever athlete representing Algoma University at a National Championship. Natasha Doroodian wrestled at the CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) and had an impressive 4th place finish.
- At the banquet, dozens of team and academic awards were given out, highlighted by Brett Zufelt (Men's Basketball) and Doroodian as the Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

4. Ancillaries

- A Food Services Selection Committee has been established and given the task to make a recommendation on the next food services provider here at Algoma. The current provider's contract is set to expire in Aug 2014. The committee of six, made up of students, staff and administrators have surveyed users, consulted other institutions and have begun preparation of the Request for Proposal.