

# President's Report to the Board



November 28, 2013

## From the President

Some of you may recall that at our Convocation Gala Dinner, I customarily welcome our community guests by noting that ours is a University that is particularly grounded in its local community. We bear the name of our region, and if we have a charter, it's because the provincial government understood the exceptional educational needs of the local community.

We always have been, and always will be, extraordinarily dependent on our local community. It is therefore essential that we be good citizens of our community. An institution that always has its hand out – but never gives back – is not going to succeed.

As I reflect on some of what has transpired on campus since our last Board report, I'm pleased to note a rich array of activities that serve to strengthen our connections to the Sault Ste. Marie community. Consider the following:

- As part of our *Homecoming*, Algoma University hosted a spectacularly successful *Colour Dash*. This event had the two-fold benefit of bringing a large number of community members to our campus, while at the same time raising approximately \$4,000 for ARCH, the local cancer hospice. Congratulations to Dr. Dwayne Keough of the Psychology Department and to students Carlee Wilson and Arja-Liisa Gallo for introducing this initiative.
- On October 29<sup>th</sup>, the University hosted its annual Halloween Party for the children of staff. In past years, we have invited Big Brothers and Big Sisters to join us for this event. This year, we decided to open the doors to the entire city. To our surprise, we had approximately a thousand people come through our halls that night, and many commented that they had never been to the University before.
- We completed our institutional *United Way Campaign* last week. Donations are up by 23% and the number of people participating has increased by an even higher margin.
- Our varsity basketball teams have completed their first semester of home games. Average attendance at the four pairs of games was close to 500 and about half were people from town.
- On November 11, the Presidents of the University, of SASA, and of AUSU laid a wreath on behalf of Algoma at the Remembrance Day ceremonies at the Essar Centre.
- On Saturday November 23, the University will be participating in the annual Rotary Santa Claus Parade. The students have designed and created a 48 foot float into Santa's workshop and will feature Santa's elves sharing in the festive cheer of the 2013 holiday season while working to get the latest shipment of toys ready for the children around the world. Santa's Workshop is a fitting theme for this year's Santa Claus Parade float, since it shows off the University's hardworking yet cheerful nature, all while sharing the holiday spirit.
- This week, the University is again participating in the Sault Ste. Marie *Festival of Trees*, a high-profile event that serves as a fundraiser for the Algoma chapter of the Lung Association. Here's a photo of the Algoma tree, beautifully decorated by Nadine Landon and Joanne Nanne. The theme is "Joy to the World" and the decorations evoke the increasingly international character of our university.



This tree is a reflection of Algoma University's diversity. Students from over 30 countries around the world attend the institution, sharing knowledge, ethnicity and experiences in a multicultural environment. Titled "Joy to the World", this International tree displays 193 flags from countries worldwide and is symbol of Algoma U's commitment to "Internationalism".

Dr. Richard Myers  
November 21, 2013

# Vice President Academic and Research

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013

Dr. David Schantz

1. Research

Faculty member Dr. Gayle Broad presented a paper on social innovation at the Research Matters conference held by the Council of Ontario Universities in Hamilton. The VPAR attended representing Algoma University commitment to supporting research and the COU media campaign. The VPAR also supports the Research Matters student ambassador program and has forwarded the names of two Algoma University students to COU for consideration; one of these students will take part in an upcoming training session in Toronto.

2. Funding / Grant Opportunities

The VPAR continues to work with various agencies to ensure continued and timely agreements and / or funding for various positions and projects. In a meeting with NOHFC new information was presented on the funding available to Northern Ontario Universities, including the Northern Innovation Program and the Northern Ontario Internship Program in which eligible applicants may receive a conditional contribution (grant) of up to 90% of a recent graduate's salary to a maximum contribution of \$31,500.

3. New Program Development through Partnerships

The VPAR has been in discussion with Lake Superior State University's President and Vice-president to deliberate program/course sharing opportunities. Discussions continue to be geared towards the promotion and marketing of co-developed programs that will benefit both Universities through international partnerships. Discussions continue with Sault College related to specific integration of environmental science programs as well as others with those being proposed at AU.

4. External Initiatives

Meetings continue with representatives from Ontario Forestry Research Institutes, Ministry of Natural Resources, Sault College and Northern School of Medicine to explore collaborative initiatives including resource sharing and new program development. Headway has been made with OFRI and MNR towards developing a common database in biology and chemistry analytical equipment and skills. Cost savings incentives that are available to all agencies involved are being discussed by way of taking advantage of a discount in purchasing of certain items or services.

5. International Student Enrollment

The VPAR has been involved in promoting the development of a new International Viewbook to attract students to SSM and other information geared towards informing International Students about the process of relocation and beginning studies at Algoma University and living in the Sault Ste. Marie area.

# Vice President Finance and Administration

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013

Sean Dwyer

### 1. Audited Financial Statements

In collaboration with the University's auditors, year-end financial statements have been produced for the Defined Benefit Pension Plan, the AU Foundation and all the University's associated entities.

The Finance Committee reviewed these sets of financial statements at the November 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 meeting and those pertaining to the Pension and Foundation are currently being recommended to the Board of Governors for approval.

### 2. 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 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. This change will not impact donors and will actually be imperceptible to most University stakeholders. All University policies will now apply to the operations of the Foundation, commingling of revenues and expenses of the two operations, distorting results, will be alleviated and there will no longer be Foundation financial statement reporting and the related fees.

The intention is to perform the transfer and dissolution on the last day of our fiscal year, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Therefore, the follow up motions above can be brought to the University Board of Governors at the February Board meeting.

### 3. 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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 will be opened last and are currently expected to be addressed on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

### 4. 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 in the first quarter of 2014, and if deemed an appropriate project based on the upcoming due diligence, a related business case will also be presented at that time.

### 5. Entrance/Renewal Scholarship analysis

The growth rate in University spending on entrance and renewal scholarships has far outpaced growth in FTEs in recent years while the awards themselves have remained constant. While there are many factors involved in this matter, one of them is certainly the increase in the average grades students who attend university are achieving in high school. Counterintuitively as first-year student registrations have been on the rise in the sector over the past 10 years, the average grades of those registering has risen almost 5%, with the 2012 figure

being 83.8% (source: Ontario University Application Centre). A project has been initiated recently whereby the University's scholarships are being compared to the sector to determine appropriateness and accessibility. The study will conclude with recommendations made to the University scholarship committee on improving access to scholarships for students with identified disabilities along with potentially raising the entrance and/or renewal requirements in general.

# Office of the Registrar

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013

David Marasco, University Registrar

### 1. Enrolment

Enrolment for the 2013 fall term as compared to the 2012 fall term increased 6 percent with a final FTE count of 636 as reported to MTCU. The largest increase is from the international demographic. Comparing spring/fall terms for both 2013 and 2012 academic years, there is 9 percent growth. We are on track to achieve our projected growth of 6 percent for the report year ending April 2014.

### 2. Office of the Registrar/Reports

The Multi-year Accountability Report has been submitted to MTCU and we are now awaiting for their approval. The MYA articulates the government's goals for the sector, and its roles and responsibilities in meeting these goals. The agreement confirms the commitments expected from each institution and the sector-wide indicators that will be used to report on the results. Other reports submitted include the annual graduate survey for the 2011 reporting year and the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE).

On the academic side, the Scholarship Committee will be submitting proposed changes to the General Regulations on Scholarships for students with a disability and students who are part of the Student Exchange program. In each case, the criteria will accommodate both groups for scholarship eligibility.

### 3. College Transfers

Algoma University continues to work with the colleges to enhance/promote college pathways. We have signed an exceptional transfer agreement with Sault College. Students in the Natural Environment Technician, Forest Conservation Technician and Fish/Wildlife Technician programs can articulate to AU's Geography program with additional course recognition. Work on a course equivalency database continues with the province. The project is intended to help institutions to develop and maintain course equivalencies for credit transfers. For students, the database will provide a searchable tool for course equivalency for both colleges and universities.

### 4. International Recruitment, ESL@algoma

Languages Canada will be visiting Algoma University as part of the certification process – the site visit is planned for November 27th. LC certification will allow ESL@algoma to be readily promoted in international markets.

This fall, we are aggressively promoting the Student Exchange program to our students hoping that more students will find study abroad appealing as part of their educational experience. AU is committed to enhancing the opportunity for students to be part of a multicultural and global perspective.

International recruitment for the winter 2014 term includes visits to the Middle East, Mexico, China, and Africa.

## **Anishinaabe Initiatives Division**

### **Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013**

Judy Syrette, Director

#### **1. Cross-Cultural/Anishinaabe Speaker Series**

- a) There were approximately 60 people in attendance at the screening of “3<sup>rd</sup> World Canada” on Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Doc Brown Lounge. Andrée Cazabon, speaker and filmmaker, was accompanied by Faith, a young woman, from K.I. who has turned her life around and plans on attending Trent University in January. This film offered a glimpse of the inequalities experienced by this First Nation community followed by a discussion with the audience on their reaction to the film and possible actions to get this message out to all Canadians.
- b) Dr. Sheila Cote-Meek, Associate VP - Academic & Indigenous Programs, and Dr. Taima Moeke-Pickering, Associate Professor in the School of Native Human Services, from Laurentian University offered the following presentations:
  - i) *Understanding Social Work Practice with Aboriginal Peoples: Decolonization and the ‘Helping Professions* to the students in SWRK 4206 – Northern and Rural Social Work Practice in EW205 from 2:30 – 4:00 pm;
  - ii) *Combining Theories and Experiences to use Counselling/Social Work Approaches: Centering a Maori Perspective* to the students in SWRK 3806 – Family and Child Welfare in BT203 from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Open to AU community.
  - iii) *Transformative Approaches to Supporting Indigenous Education* to the AU community and the general public in EW206 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm. There were approximately 25 attendees at the evening presentation.

#### **2. Anishinaabe Self-Identification Project**

The Anishinaabe Self-Identification project was rolled out on November 13, 2013 and to date there are less than 40 Anishinaabe students identified. The setup for the Voluntary Aboriginal Student Self Identification form can be accessed at: <http://my.algomau.ca/>. Students enter their student username and password to complete the form. A follow-up campaign is being developed to encourage more students to participate in this initiative. New students will be provided this information in their orientation packages at each new intake – September, January and May.

#### **3. Anishinaabe Community at Algoma University**

Olivia Whetung, Anishinaabe Research Assistant, has been working on planning, designing and creating a mock-up for the printing of a publication on the Anishinaabe community at Algoma University. This publication will be used in the orientation of new faculty and staff as well as an information piece in our outreach activities.



## Extension Programming

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013 Brock Olive, Operations Director

#### 1. Algoma @ St. Thomas

As students in second year in St. Thomas are preparing for their transition to the main campus in Sault Ste. Marie or to other institutions, significant effort and attention is being made to support this transition, and to ensure students are comfortable and well prepared.

Efforts have been undertaken with academic department heads in English, History, Sociology, Geography, and Psychology to explore ways to refine academic operations, including peer review processes, hiring, and orientation and training for faculty new to the block style of course delivery.

Enrollment and revenues in St. Thomas to date are in line with budget projections.

#### 2. Brampton Programming

The Brampton Programming operation has begun to mature, and systems and processes there have become familiar and generally work well for students, staff and faculty.

Updates to operations since September are limited, but include the expansion of our internet capacity from two small business class connections to a single enterprise level 100 Mbps dedicated fiber optic connection, and the addition of additional computer workstation capacity in the new student lounge.

On the staffing front, we are sorry to announce that our Support Service Coordinator in Brampton, Carrie Andrews, will be leaving the University at the end of January. An integral part of the AU @ Brampton team, Carrie has done much to support the development of our operations in Brampton over the past few years that she has been with us. Carrie's Husband has taken a work transfer requiring them to re-locate.

#### 3. Timmins Programming

We are excited to see enrollment up significantly in Timmins, and are on track to generate a healthy surplus from operations in Timmins this fiscal year, a first for this program.

Sights are now set on ensuring we can continue to see enrollment growth in a sustainable fashion over the long term.

## Marketing and Communications

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since October 2013

Kevin Hemsworth, Director Marketing and Communications

1. 2013-2014 Marketing/Recruitment Campaign

The recruitment marketing campaign continues up to the January 15<sup>th</sup> application deadline. Our online advertising is in full swing, and midway through the campaign we have served over 4 million ads, generating almost 17,000 clicks through to our website. As predicted, search and mobile click-through rates are the highest of the online channels. We continue to monitor the ads and adjust the campaign for better ROI.

2. Athletics Promotion

Due in no small part to the efforts of Meaghan Smith, our writer/sports information officer, we have seen great interest in our varsity athletics events so far in our inaugural season in the OUA. What is perhaps more encouraging is that our efforts to engage our local sports media personnel have been rewarded with increased coverage of our teams, and attendance at our events. Representatives from Sootoday.com, Sault This Week, Local 2, and Saultsports.com have attended, and we have been in discussions with the Sault Star to work on increasing their coverage as well.

3. Visual Identity Study

We have convened a Visual Identity Task Force, with representation from Admin, Faculty, Staff, Students, and Alumni in attendance. Ray Witkowski from our agency (Zone 5) was at Algoma last week to meet with various constituents, including the Task Force, and a summary meeting with Dr. Myers has Zone 5 in a position to deliver us a creative brief. After we approve on the content of the brief Zone 5 will present creative to us prior to the holiday break, as scheduled.

4. Social Media

More attention is being given to social media in an effort to increase engagement with both current and prospective students, as well as the community. The #ChooseAlgomaU contest just ended, in which we asked students and alumni to tell us via Twitter why they chose Algoma. The competition reached prospective students in Kingston, Ottawa, New Brunswick, and Mexico. We are currently wrapping up a photo contest for the Geography department for Geography Awareness Week, which has resulted in almost 200 photos submitted of our campus and the Algoma region. Overall, our main accounts have over 1000 more followers on Facebook (an almost 40% increase) and over 500 more on Twitter (an almost 25% increase) since February 2013. Facebook remains the predominant social media outlet among the target demographic (86% of undergrads on FB vs. 27% on Twitter).

## Human Resources

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since October 2013

Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

#### 1. Recruitment

*New appointments:*

**Accounts Receivable Officer** position – filled with an external applicant

**Senior Application Developer** position – filled with an external applicant

#### 2. Human Rights and Equity Office

Three informal complaints were brought forward by students that did not wish to proceed to the formal complaint stage. Two informal complaints were also brought forward by Faculty members that did not wish to proceed to the formal complaint stage at this time.

The Ombudsperson Committee consisting of Administration, Staff, Faculty and AUSU representatives has met on three occasions. For the balance of 2013/2014, the committee has made the decision to move meetings to quarterly. The responsibilities of the committee will be to review and make any required changes to the Terms of Reference, determine a systematic approach in dealing with issues outlined in the Ombudsperson's report and to present to the Administrative group an outline of issues that have identified a consistent issue or issues that must be addressed.

#### 3. Labour Relations

Three Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Meetings were held with the Staff Association during this period to address concerns brought forward from the University and the Union. Two Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) Meetings were held with the Faculty Association. Any disciplinary matters are considered confidential and were addressed separately. The HR Director also continues to meet monthly with the President of the Staff Association to discuss items of concern of a more confidential nature not brought forward at the JCC Meeting.

Since the last report in September, no formal grievance was filed by the Staff Association. The Faculty Association filed one complaint since the last report. Out of the eleven complaints/grievances filed to date; four complaints have progressed to the formal grievance stage (one proceeding to arbitration); three complaints have been resolved and four complaints are still being addressed at the JCC meeting.

#### 4. Payroll Audit

An additional component was added to the semi-monthly payroll audit prior to the final processing of the pay. This is to ensure that any errors or omissions are identified as early as possible in the process and prior to the actual pay date.

Select groups of employees and departments have been provided with instructions on how to sign up to have their payroll information available electronically (including electronic pay stubs). By the end of December 2013, all employees will be provided with the information and access instructions.

5. OSSTF - Position Evaluation

The HR Director continues to review all positions and job descriptions in the Staff association to ensure internal equity is being maintained. There is also an obligation as per the Collective Agreement to review all positions for significant changes in the job duties. If there are significant changes in the position identified by HR with the Management Officer input and there has not been an evaluation in five years, the position will be submitted to the Joint Job Classification Committee (JJCC) for re-evaluation. The Physical Plant Department has been provided with education on job evaluation. This same education session will be provided to all staff over the coming months to ensure all employees have an understanding of the job evaluation system used at Algoma University.

6. Health and Safety

The HR Director has been working with the President of the Staff Association and Faculty Association in the development and implementation of a Workplace Violence Policy and Prevention Program. This information will be communicated to all staff and faculty in December 2013.

7. Human Resources Information System

The audit of information in the SAGE HRIS system has been completed and the required changes made to the system. With this functionality now in place, HR is able to proceed to next phase and that is to ensure the system is being used to its full capability. This phase will be a review and documentation of all processes when using the system.

8. Communication

Work is partially completed on changes and additions to the Human Resources portion of the external AlgomaU website. This is being done in order to ensure that current employees and prospective employees are able to access the required information related to their employment or possible future employment at the University. A Payroll section of the website will be added, as well as an update to the Health and Safety and Health and Wellness sections.

# Information Technology

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since October 2013

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

### 1. Staffing

The IT department recently hired an “Application Developer” on a 12-month contract using external funding to assist with a back-log of programming tasks.

In the months of September and October, the IT staff collectively resolved 1651 IT support tickets. These range in complexity from rudimentary 5 minute tasks to larger multi-hour initiatives.

### 2. Faculty Evaluation System

Under the direction of the faculty, we are designing and building a new system for students to evaluate their instructors at the end of each course. The new system will be integrated into my.algomau.ca, and allow faculty to add custom questions and see their historical results over time. We expect the better visibility in the system will increase response rates.

### 3. Brampton 100Mbps Upgrade

Our Brampton site has recently upgraded their Internet connection from 10Mbps to 100Mbps due to the increasing demand from that location. The upgrade was relatively seamless, and students are reporting much better Internet bandwidth on their devices.

### 4. Server Infrastructure Upgrades

With continued growth on campus, our server infrastructure is being stretched to the limit. From the end-user point of view there are few noticeable effects, but without action we would see increasingly more negative effects over coming months. A new Storage Area Network device with approximately quadruple the capacity has been ordered and will be installed as soon as possible.

### 5. Access Control Upgrades

The migration of our new access control system (for swipe cards) is going well with hardware replacement being done internally outside of business hours. Currently 50 of our 120 doors have been migrated to the new system, and more will continue to be migrated monthly.

## Physical Plant

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since October 2013 Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

#### 1. Windsor Park

The re-roofing and alterations project is currently underway. The removals and demolition of the kitchen interior is complete. The library roofing is currently underway. The roofing was originally scheduled to be complete by the end of October, however with the high amount of rain we have experienced the roofers had to push back the start of roofing. It is scheduled to be complete by the end of November – weather dependent.

#### 2. Arthur A. Wishart Library Reroofing

As previously noted the roofing repairs are been put on hold until spring. We have hired a consultant and the library roofing design will be complete in time to be put out for tender for the Spring Construction season. We currently have Maverick and Son Exteriors monitoring and repairing the roofing as required.

#### 3. Essar Convergence Centre Expansion

We are continuing with the preliminary explorations of an expansion of the Essar Convergence Center (ECC) to accommodate the shortage of full time faculty offices, classrooms and the planned addition of an engineering program. We have been working with David Ellis, the architect of the original phase of the ECC, to determine the best layout and designs that would accommodate our current and future needs.

#### 4. George Leach Center Ontario Universities Athletics Expansion

A GLC Expansion Committee has been formed which includes several student, faculty, staff and admin members as well as and public GLC users. The purpose of this committee is to develop design ideas for the “larger expansion” option for the GLC that both address the commitment made when joining the OUA and also address other facility needs. This committee has created a desired floor plan, which has been given to our professional Architectural Design team for review. There will be follow up meetings scheduled in the next few weeks so that the architect can meet with the GLC Expansion Committee to review and discuss the designs. Tender documents will follow that will be put out for pricing at the beginning of the New Year.

## Arthur A. Wishart Library

Summary of Major Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013.  
Ken Hernden, University Librarian

### 1. Planning/Space

1. A student group study room has been installed recently in the Library. This is the number one demand for new types of space in the Library from students. Signage, furniture and audio-visual equipment have been ordered.
2. On Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm, the University Librarian checked the Library during the height of the recent storm, which has caused so much damage in the region. There are now additional leaks in the roof beyond those addressed in September.
3. The Library management team is reviewing the Library's annual plan to prepare for the 2014-2015 budget priorities.

### 2. Collections

From the Diocese of Algoma, received the archival records of:

1. Archbishop William Lockridge Wright, Metropolitan of Ontario:  
<http://archives.algomau.ca/main/node/19859>;
2. Margaret Clare Wright, the Archbishop's wife: <http://archives.algomau.ca/main/node/29805>;
3. The Anglican Church Women, Diocese of Algoma: <http://archives.algomau.ca/main/node/19869>;
4. The original letter books (5 bound volumes) of the correspondence written by the Rev. E. F. Wilson from the Shingwauk Home (now the site of Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig) from ca. 1878 to 1893. Scholars have had limited access to these in the past. We look forward to digitizing these important papers under the Algoma University name. These letters document the very founding of our university campus.
  - a. One Algoma University 4<sup>th</sup> year student and an external graduate student have expressed interest in using these letters in their original research.

## **Student Recruitment: Domestic**

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives, Operations since October 2013 Brent Krmpotich, Director of Student Recruitment – Domestic

#### 1. Ontario Universities Fair (OUF)

Led by the Recruitment Department, Algoma sent a contingent of close to 20 people to Toronto to represent the university at the Ontario Universities Fair. The event was well attended, over 120 000 people over the course of three days. We achieved our goal of establishing more contacts with prospective students than the previous year. This year we collected contact information from close to 600 prospective students.

#### 2. Provincial High School Visits

Recruitment staff visited over 300 Ontario high schools between September 15<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>. This level of visits enables us to have contact with students from approximately half of the province's high schools. Recruiters continue to see mixed results from these visits. The message that we present to students, "Small University, Big Education" seems to resonate. Our biggest challenge is drawing an audience when students are forced to choose between our presentation and those of better known universities.

#### 3. Virtual Open House

This year Algoma University held a virtual open house for the first time. The goal was to reach students and parents who have not had a chance to hear from us in person. The event featured presentations on student life/residence, financial aid and scholarships, academic programs and a general information session. The event was well received, 47 students registered. We will host another virtual open house in the spring and are researching purchasing our own webcasting software so that we can offer this type of event on a more regular basis.

#### 4. Explore Algoma U Open House

Algoma held its annual fall open house on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 people attended from across Ontario. Three quarters of the attendees travelled from outside of Sault Ste. Marie to attend the event, the other quarter were local. Participating students were treated to a campus tour, faculty led program information sessions and a mock lecture. In the evening around half of the students attended the men's and women's basketball games.

#### 5. Applications

This year we received our first high school application on October 30<sup>th</sup>. High school applications currently sit at 48, slightly ahead of last year's count. The deadline for high school students to apply is January 15<sup>th</sup> so we expect to be busy in the next two months. Our applications from college and university transfers are down slightly compared to last year.



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

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since June 2013

Jonathan Dewar, Director

### 1. Archive and Centre

The Centre underwent an extensive physical renovation, completed August 1, 2013, with AU installing new floors and the Centre renovating walls to better serve its art and artifact display activities, with the addition of “gallery” zones within the space. The furniture donated by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation now forms the central focus of the “library” component of the Centre. This multi-use space can now host classes, visiting artists and researchers, art and educational exhibits, performances, and large meetings.

The Centre hosted the exhibition of original artworks by artist R. G. Miller: “Serving Time at The Mush Hole: Visual Testimony of R. G. Miller-Lahiaaks (Mohawk, Six Nations) — Selected works from Mush Hole Remembered (2008),” Sept. 12 - Oct. 12. The Centre is currently hosting the exhibition “Journey Women: Aboriginal Women’s Healing Experiences,” and hosted three of the project leaders for talks and response art activities Nov. 18-20.

### 2. Research

Under the 2-year \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* awarded by the AHF in August 2012, a formal program of research, which includes a focus on the archival collections, and related programming is being developed, along with a specialized “sharing, healing and learning” publishing platform for the Centre, which includes a specialized imprint (or press), a scholarly and creative journal, and various online presences. There are three titles in the imprint queue, scheduled for 2014 releases, and the inaugural issue of the journal will be launched June 2014.

The Centre was recently featured in *Canadian Art* magazine – an Algoma University first – in November 2013. The article highlights our central, leading role in national efforts to explore the legacy of Residential Schools, truth, and reconciliation through art: <http://www.canadianart.ca/features/2013/11/14/art-and-reconciliation/>.

SRSC Director Dewar is a co-investigator on a SSHRC *Insight Grant*: “‘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.

SRSC Director Dewar is a co-investigator on a CIHR *Operating Grant - PA*: “Applying the ‘Two-eyed Seeing’ model to Aboriginal Health: *Kitinikewin misiwanacihisowin*: Researching arts-based wellness promotion for suicide prevention among Aboriginal youth” (\$553,556, University of Regina, to 2016).

SRSC Director Dewar is a collaborator and advisor on a SSHRC *Insight Grant*, “Trading Routes: Grease Trails, Oil Futures” (\$310,803, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, to 2017).

SRSC Director Dewar is a co-investigator on a CIHR *Population Health Intervention Research Grant*: “Understanding the impact of adapting and implementing an evidence-based mental health promotion program: The Mental Health First Aid-First Nations initiative” (\$198,481, University of Western Ontario, to 2015).

SRSC Director Dewar has completed the following research publications that include and/or meet elements of the Centre mandate: 1) Accepted for publication: “Reconciliation? *Reciprocity*: A Conversation with Maria Campbell.” Taking Aesthetic Action: Artistic and Sensory Participations Beyond Reconciliation. Eds. Keavy Martin and Dylan Robinson. Wilfred Laurier University Press; 2) Accepted for publication: “Adrian Stimson: A Critical Dialogue” (working title). Reconciliation – Work(s) in Progress: Creative / Critical Dialogues. Eds. Gabrielle Hill and Sophie McCall, publisher to be determined; 3) Commissioned: Chapter on “Aboriginal Writing and Reconciliation” (working title) commissioned for The Oxford Handbook of Canadian Literature, Ed. Cynthia Sugars, Oxford University Press; 4) Commissioned: Chapter on “Decolonizing Trauma: Theatre with and for Aboriginal Youth” (with Warren Linds) commissioned for Safe Enough Spaces: Theatre, Trauma, and Pedagogy, Eds. Cheryl McFarren, PhD and Nisha Sajjani, publisher to be determined; 5) Accepted for publication: “Where Are the Children?” and “We Were So Far Away...”: Exhibiting the Legacies of Indian Residential Schools, Healing, and Reconciliation.” Museum Transformations: Art, Culture, History, eds. Annie E. Coombes and Ruth Phillips (in the International Handbook of Museum Studies series). Wiley-Blackwell.

### 3. Project of Heart

The Centre has received \$35,300 for the “Project of Heart- Commemorating the Children for Future Generations” project. Shingwauk Indian Residential School and Algoma University alumna Shirley Horn, BFA, has been commissioned for the project. A local launch is planned for Dec. 7, 2013, with a larger province-wide launch planned for early in 2014.

# Student Services

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013 Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

### Student Services

- WUSC (World Universities Services of Canada – Student refugee Program) has seen a significant increase in student support thanks to the involvement of the Social Work/CESD students and faculty. As a result the committee structure is more defined by a newly created terms of reference and clearer committee roles. The committee now sits at 17 members.
- Ron Byrne Vice President of Mount Allison visited Algoma University in late September to provide Algoma University with a presentation on programming and integrated operations which have been successful at Mount A. Their model has students access fewer points of contact in order to receive services.
- Skills assessments for international students , used to better support our first year intakes of international students, continues to refine and assist them in clearer, more supportive academic paths.
- Attended the **2013 Integrating Student Services: Improving the Student Experience Through Transformative Innovations**– One Stop Delivery Model Conference October 6-8. Heard presentations from a number of North American institutions who currently use the model of integrating all services into a one stop delivery.
- Two Algoma University students (Caleb Smikle and Jonathon Natale) have created an online radio station where they record a weekly show discussing Algoma University services, interview students, and promote upcoming events. The “AURA” handle can be found at [www.spreaker.com/show/1002813/episodes/feed](http://www.spreaker.com/show/1002813/episodes/feed) . To date four episodes have been posted.

### Residence

- Residence Council members were elected in September and are currently meeting weekly to discuss student concerns and plan council sponsored events. Meghan Caveen, a 2<sup>nd</sup> Year History student from Keswick, ON, is the 2013/14 President.
- Residence Life staff have hosted a number events throughout the fall term (sporting events at the GLC, pick up hockey at the John Rhodes, dinners, visits to areas parks, Halloween activities, pre-varsity game events, pubs etc.) and are currently planning some holiday activities and New Year events.
- Staff are currently preparing for the arrival of 10-15 new students in January.

### George Leach Centre

- The staff at the GLC has been actively involved in the GLC Expansion Committee, providing support and research from other facilities in the province.
- The GLC staff assisted Dr. Dwayne Keough in the implementation of the first ever Algoma University Colour Dash (5K Fun Run) which help to raise money for ARCH (Algoma Residential Community Hospice). Over 260 runners took part in the “colourful” event.
- The GLC upgraded the gym curtain divider to a newer lighter model which is easier to use.
- Over 1000 elementary school and high school aged students visited the GLC over the last month for a variety of activities including fitness and fun with Anna McCrea students, the ARTIE EXPO, and high school basketball tournaments.

## Varsity

- Algoma Thunderbirds hosted the Trent Excalibur men's and women's soccer teams at the Superior Heights field as part of OUA Soccer Showcase games on Oct 21. These games were a requirement of the OUA membership to evaluate our ability to host the sport of soccer. The OUA evaluation was very favourable. These games were also included as part of the Algoma Homecoming Weekend.
- Also in conjunction with Homecoming, the Thunderbirds had its annual Alumni Basketball Games where former players and coaches returned to their alma mater and had an opportunity to mingle with current players, staff, faculty and other alumni.
- Algoma Thunderbirds wrestler Tasha Doroodian silvered in the Senior Women's 67 kg weight class at the Marauder Invitational at McMaster University.
- The men's basketball team has surprised many with its early success with a 3-3 record in the OUA. Attendance at games has been positive and media coverage has increased from previous years. As part of our home games versus Lakehead and Guelph we hosted our popular Parent's Appreciation Weekend where the parents of our current players took part in a number of events and were recognized for their contributions.

## Health and Safety

- Joint Health and Safety Committee Terms of Reference have now been developed and circulated to members.
- Training for our Evacuation Wardens was conducted in October in an effort to ensure proper procedures are followed and that evacuations run as effectively as possible. There are currently 26 Wardens on campus encompassing all service areas, departments and classroom areas.
- Health and Safety Orientation for New Employees was conducted on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Attended the Annual Crime Prevention Seminar on Oct 29<sup>th</sup> which focused on the downtown area. CESD researchers presented their findings from a number of activities and a keynote speaker from the Hamilton area presented some successful initiatives currently in place in that region.

## Ancillaries

- In partnership with the Modern Languages Department and current students, Algoma University has hosted a number of language workshops where students, staff and community members had an opportunity to converse in Arabic, Japanese, Italian, Spanish and French.
- The newly created Bookstore Advisory Committee held its first meeting in October discussing important issues and book adoptions, new and used books, online services and apparel.