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SPRING/SUMMER 2015

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

1965-2015



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## Alumni Council Chair's Message

By: Paul Skeggs, Chair, Algoma University Alumni Council

This year, Algoma University passes an impressive milestone in the history of the institution. As the University continues to develop and mature while celebrating 50 years, the accomplishments of its alumni reach higher levels to reflect the expansion and growth of the University.

A reflection on the previous year demonstrates the ongoing hard work and diligence of the University staff, faculty, students, and supporters. Specifically, the expansion to the George Leach Centre now brings the newest and most up-to-date physical training equipment and facilities for University students, alumni, and the local community. The completion of this project allows for the engagement of exercise within a facility which is much more spacious and accommodating to any physical activity.

A recent development in the successes of our alumni demonstrates the ability of the University to attract not only top-notch academics and researchers but also great athletes. This is evident in the accomplishment of three recent Algoma University graduates winning gold medals at the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia - namely, the well-known members of

Team Jacobs. The team was also recognized this past year as inductees into the Thunderbird Wall-of-Fame.

In addition to the continued success of our alumni and the University, is the continued relationship with the Algoma Conservatory of Music and their relocation to their new site at Mill Square. This truly exemplifies the University's expansive opportunities to provide for excellence in education and development in a wide variety of areas. It is with great interest and excitement that we should all look forward to the upcoming years of the University and its ongoing development.

As alumni, you have a voice to the University through your Alumni Council. I invite all alumni to reach out to the council to participate in and stay up-to-date on all of the events and activities scheduled for 2015. The impact of the Alumni Council and its initiatives grow in concert with the successes of Algoma University, and through our efforts, we can assist the University and community to continue to grow in the years to come.



**Dr. Richard Myers**



**Armando Plastino**

## **Message from the President & Board Chair**

**By: Dr. Richard Myers, President, Algoma University  
Armando Plastino, Chair, Board of Governors, Algoma University**

In recent years, we have been in the habit of referring to Algoma U as “Ontario’s newest university” as a way of emphasizing the significance of getting our own Charter in June of 2008. The advantages that flow from becoming an independent university should never be understated. That said, emphasizing our newness carries with it the risk of obscuring the truth that we are also a very old and well-established institution.

Some universities trace their founding date back to colonial times when they were essentially what we would today call a secondary school. From a certain point of view, one might trace the roots of our University back to the 1830s when Chief Shingwauk first lobbied the Colonial Governor for the creation of a “teaching wigwam.” Chief Dan Pine, who was Chief Shingwauk’s grandson, once expressed the continuity between Chief Shingwauk’s initiative and the current University this way: *“The Shingwauk School never closed. It just entered a new phase of development.”*

Technically, Algoma University’s formal birth as a post-secondary institution took place in 1965 when the Legislature of Ontario passed *The Algoma College Act*. Algoma University College began offering courses two years later out of temporary buildings behind Sault College. So “Ontario’s newest university” has actually been delivering quality university programming for half a century.

Of course, no one understands that point better than our alumni. Our school was created to serve you, to provide access to university-level programming for people from the Algoma District. And you have played the key role in building Algoma University over the years. We have grown substantially, adding to our enrolments, to our campus, and to our research activity. Our student-athletes compete against rivals from universities as large as Sault Ste. Marie itself. And today, we draw students from across the province; indeed, from around the world. But our fundamental mission remains to meet the needs of our local population.

It is important to recognize and to savour the successes of Algoma U’s first half century. Enjoy the photos and stories that you’ll find in this edition of the Alumni Magazine, and please join us for some of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities over the course of the year.

*Richard Myers*      *A. Plastino*

## **algomautoday 50th Anniversary Special Edition Table of Contents**

Alumni Council Chair's Message 3	Alumni Profile - Rich Prophet 18	Our Leaders - Through the Years 33
President & Board Chair's Message 4	Alumni Profiles - Deb Pine & Christine Sy 19	Algoma U's Community: Then and Now 34-35
Political Messages of Congratulations 5	The History of Convocations 20-21	Shingwauk Restoration 36-37
History of Algoma U 6-10	Convocation Award Winners 22-23	The Grand Vision of Independence: The Bid for Algoma University 38-39
Original Professor Profile - Dr. Francis Guth 11	Newly-Expanded GLC Enhancing Student Experience 24-25	Essential Elements: Team Jacobs Follow Your Dream Bursary 40
Shingwauk Project 12	Athletics on the Rise at Algoma U 26	Essential Elements: Supporting Student Leaders 41
Alumni Profile - Lori Rainville 13	The Algoma University Students' Union: A Brief History 27	Diversity and Internationalization at Algoma U 42
Original Professor Profile - Jim Gibson 14	The John R. Rhodes Scholarship and Dinner: Honouring Local Leaders and Supporting Future Leaders 28-29	Alumni Profile - Ross family 43
Original Professor Profile - Dr. Linda Savory Gordon 15	Our Staff: Contributing to Student Success 30-31	Alumni Message 44
The Evolution of a Campus: Physical Growth at Algoma U 16	A Celebration 50 Years in the Making 32	Homecoming 45
Algoma U = Economic Development 17		13 Years Comes to an End / Reflections on Dr. Arthur Perlini 46-47

# Messages of Congratulations to Algoma U



Since its founding in 1965, Algoma University has grown both in size and in importance to our community. In addition to its educational mission, today's Algoma U also plays a major role in our local economy and in attracting new talent to our city. As our university enters its second half-century, I am confident that its stature, influence and importance will only continue to increase.

On behalf of City Council, congratulations to everyone who has played a part in the Algoma U story thus far and best wishes for continued growth and success!

**Christian Provenzano**, Mayor  
Sault Ste. Marie



On behalf of the Government of Canada, I would like to congratulate Algoma University on the occasion of their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

For five decades, this institution has opened its doors to thousands of residents from Northern Ontario and beyond. It has provided our community and its students the opportunity to strive for and benefit from academic excellence.

On their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let's recognize Algoma U's latest campus additions, including the Essar Convergence Centre and the new residence. These buildings symbolize the University's continued development, growth, and success in providing students with an exceptional quality of education.

Sincerely,

**Bryan Hayes MP**  
Sault Ste. Marie



I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to all faculty, staff, administration and students at Algoma University as you celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Established in 1965, Algoma University has evolved over the years and achieved a significant milestone in 2008 when the provincial government made Algoma University the 19th independent university in Ontario.

In more recent years the campus has modernized considerably and Algoma University continues to establish itself as an academic leader, offering a broad range of programs to thousands of students.

I offer my best wishes for a memorable anniversary celebration and for continued success.

**David Orazietti MPP**  
Sault Ste. Marie



# The History

By: Meaghan Kent in collaboration  
with Dr. Celia Ross, and Professor  
Don Jackson

## **The Earliest Days: From Sault College to Shingwauk Hall on Queen St. East**

In the 1950s, a group of citizens of Sault Ste. Marie rallied to bring post-secondary institutions to the community. The baby boom had resulted in rising numbers of 18-24 year olds, and people were increasingly aware of the value of a university education. The idea of Algoma University College (AUC) was born.

In 1964, the Algoma College Association, led by Algoma Steel executive Lawrence Brown, was incorporated by Letters Patent of the Province of Ontario. Immediately, the Association sought to partner with Southern Ontario universities, but all declined the opportunity. Undaunted, the Association and its supporters made a strong appeal to Ontario Premier Leslie Frost who encouraged them to consider a partnership with a Northern Ontario university, Laurentian University. With Frost's

help, the Association signed an Affiliation Agreement with Laurentian on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December 1965, officially founding Algoma University College (AUC).

AUC was originally located at Cambrian College, now the Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology. The first courses were offered in September 1967 under the direction of the AUC's first principal, Reverend Charles A. Krug (1966-68). AUC's first full-time faculty member was Dr. Lloyd Bannerman (1967-80), a philosopher and experienced educator who became instrumental in shaping AUC's inclusive community-based student-centred approach to education. He was joined by a registrar, a librarian, and 18 other highly-qualified faculty members. The majority of AUC's 77 students in this first year were mature or "extension" students looking to enhance their post-secondary education by taking the first-year Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BSc) courses. Students worked hard to create a bustling and exciting student life that included a yearbook club,

international film society, and a Christmas dinner dance among other programs and events. The first-ever scholarships were also created, providing \$150 to all students with a 70 percent average or higher, which helped to offset the cost of tuition that was just below \$600 annually.

Enrolment at AUC grew quickly with over 1,000 students studying on a part-time and full-time basis within the first few years. Students and faculty began to agitate for second-year courses and improved funding; Dr. Ian Brown (1968-1973) was brought in as AUC's second principal. To celebrate Brown's arrival and the prospect of continued growth, the first-ever Homecoming celebration was held on 28<sup>th</sup> December 1969.

In its earliest years, AUC delivered courses out of second-hand portables on the Sault College parking lot, and metal Butler buildings. When a storm occurred, classes had to be cancelled in the Butler buildings because students couldn't hear their professors over the sound of rain on the tin roofs.



# of Algoma U

In 1969, noting the space crisis at AUC, Lake Superior State College students shipped a wooden outhouse across the river to the front entrance of Sault College, calling it the "New Algoma College Annex". *The Sault Star* deemed this an international aid package.

Principal Brown and the Board of Governors made every effort to seek another location for AUC. In 1969, a decision was made to purchase several hundred acres of vacant land at Fourth Line and Brule Road for the eventual development of an entirely new campus. Complete with a river, pond, and rolling hills on the rocky shield, it was deemed an excellent location for environmental and northern studies programs that were being planned to build upon the unique strengths of the Algoma region and its people.

In the meantime, until funding permitted construction, a more suitable temporary home had to be found. The local armory, as well as a downtown store-front style campus on Queen Street, were proposed. In

early 1970, rumours began circulating that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs had scheduled the Shingwauk Indian Residential School on Queen St. East for closure at the end of June of that year. Principal Brown declared AUC's interest in renting this space, and several other local groups also expressed interest, including a First Nations group, the Keewatinung Anishnabek Institute, whose members and supporters had historical and affinitive ties to the site. A cross-cultural weekend led to a partnership between AUC's faculty and the Keewatinung Anishnabek Institute. After much consultation, AUC and the Keewatinung Institute received permission from the Anglican Church, Chief Richard Pine of Garden River, and the Department of Indian Affairs for the two institutions to share in the use of the site. AUC held the primary lease from the Anglican Diocese of Algoma which had received the site in 1875 "in Trust" of Indian education from its first Principal, Rev. Edward F. Wilson. In turn, AUC agreed to work and share the site with the First Nations, as stated both in the lease and in the

Principles of Association it negotiated with the Institute.

In 1970, the first ten students from AUC graduated. They attended convocation ceremonies in Sudbury earning Laurentian University degrees, but they were considered AUC alumni. In May of 1971, after years of lobbying and debate at the provincial level, AUC was approved to offer second- and third-year level courses, thereby giving it the ability to offer full-time three-year programming in Bachelor of Arts degrees.

On 1 July 1971, AUC signed the lease for the Shingwauk Indian Residential School site including 53 acres of the surrounding land fronting on St. Mary's River. Construction began immediately to accommodate the space for higher learning. The Keewatinung Anishinaabe Institute was housed on the third floor of Shingwauk Hall. Plans were put in place to build a science laboratory in a semi-permanent building and to house the new Conservatory of Music in another portable building.





## Solidifying Aboriginal Relations & Growing the College

Despite these exciting developments, 1971-73 saw a decline in university enrolment throughout Ontario and also at AUC.

In 1972, AUC used operating revenues for the construction of a new library, later known as the East Wing. To try to recoup the costs from the Province, which refused to provide capital funding of public buildings on rented land, AUC and the Anglican Diocese agreed to a real estate transaction whereby Shingwauk Hall and 34 acres immediately surrounding it were to be transferred from the Shingwauk Trust to AUC. AUC had asked the Institute to move to the Rectory two years before, and the Rectory was not included. In June of 1975 the Institute was obliged to close and the Rectory was returned to the Church.

In 1973, Dr. Francis Guth, a Philosophy professor at AUC, was named Acting Principal. Long-range planning for program and course innovation continued. Various

performances by Theatre Algoma under the creative direction of Professor Bob d'Amato highlighted these years. As AUC discussed various structures of self-governance, the student newspaper played a lively role in the debates, and student life was enhanced as the basement of Shingwauk Hall was converted into a student lounge.

Dr. Don Watkins served as Principal from 1975-1976. Enrolment declined, finances were tight, and policy and personnel-related difficulties plagued AUC. A provincial Royal Commission was set up by the province, and Professor Whiteside, the Commissioner, concluded that a period of trusteeship would serve AUC well as it sought to restructure its governance.

During this period, Dr. Lloyd Bannerman played a positive role working to entrench understanding between the post-secondary institution and First Nations people. Dr. Bannerman helped to cultivate a curriculum which emphasized AUC's commitment to cross-cultural learning and diversity. More importantly, he co-founded the Shingwauk Project in 1979, which laid the foundation for the reaffirmation of a positive and respectful relationship between AUC and the First Nations

people. The University's emblem, a thunderbird designed in 1972 by Dora de Pedery-Hunt, and inspired by Indian pictographs in the Agawa Bay area, symbolizes this foundational relationship. In 1996, alumnus Jane Scott Barsanti, a graphic designer, created the official crest incorporating the thunderbird into the design.

Dr. Howell from the University of Guelph was appointed Chairman of the restructured Board of Trustees in 1976. Dr. Robert Ewing, from the Department of Geography, served as Dean during this period, effectively leading AUC's operations. In 1984, Dr. Patrick Wesley was appointed President. Dr. Wesley encouraged AUC to continue transitioning to structures more appropriate to the Ontario university system, and in 1985 the Algoma University College Senate was established. Dr. Howell requested the lifting of the trusteeship, and the Algoma University College Board of Governors began its operations in 1985 as well.

Enrolment started to increase, and the long-range planning committee set a target goal of 1,000 full-time students. Care was taken to develop good relationships with Lake Superior State College and with Sault College, and a special advisory committee on Native Canadian relationships



was struck. The building blocks were being put in place to allow significant future development of AUC. The thunderbird flag was now proudly flying on the front-door flag pole. An annual Founders' Day reconciliation event recognized the contributions of the Anishinaabe group that, through the wisdom of Chief Shingwauk, established the land on which AUC sits as a place of cross-cultural learning. The first-ever Shingwauk Indian Residential School Reunion was held in 1981.

In 1987, Dr. Douglas Lawson was appointed President of Algoma University College. During his tenure, Psychology became AUC's first four-year program. The construction of the Arthur Wishart Library, which opened in 1989, changed the face of the campus and recognized the significant contributions of this distinguished community member to our institution. It was followed by the 1992 construction of the George Leach Centre (GLC). In 1995, the first campus residences opened.

Discussions with Lake Superior State University and Sault College continued over a potential international institution.

## The Next Stage of Development: Independence & Beyond

By 1997, AUC was again facing enrolment declines and financial troubles. Dr. Linda Sorensen from the Department of Psychology became Acting President for one year, following which time Dr. Celia Ross from the Department of Modern Languages was appointed President.

The final years of the twentieth century were spent at AUC in careful and thorough planning leading to strategies to reverse enrolment decline, to diversify sources of income, and above all, to build academic and research excellence. Over the next years, a series of five-year Institutional Plans pointed AUC in the direction of growth to 3,000 full-time students.

The opening of a new student residence in 2001 met the needs of a growing student body. In 2005, the North Wing provided more faculty offices, classrooms, and most exciting, the Speakeasy Student Centre and a 180-seat lecture theatre. Renovations to the main buildings resulted in multi-purpose wired classrooms and state-of-the-art computer labs.

Aside from physical expansion, AUC continued to expand program offerings to educate a larger audience of varied interests. Community Economic and Social Development, known as CESD, was introduced in 2002, Canada's only undergraduate degree in this field. By 2004, English, Business Administration, Computer Science, and Psychology were four-year programs. In 2006, AUC became the exclusive host in North America for the first-ever master's-level degree in Computer Games Technology, offered through the University of Abertay Dundee, Scotland. A four-year Fine Arts honours program was introduced in 2008, and in 2010, the three-year Biology program earned its fourth year.

Innovative partnerships with the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and other public and private players resulted in significant growth of on-campus research. New institutes housed the work of professors, collaborators from other universities, and students: NORDIK (Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge)

Institute led in community-based research; ISRI (Invasive Species Research Institute) led in research concerning invasive species; the Health Informatics Institute linked technology to health administration; Algoma Games for Health linked computer game programming to commercial ventures.

On 19 May 2006, AUC entered into a new relationship which further entrenched understanding between AUC and First Nations people. AUC and Shingwauk Education Trust (SET)/Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) signed the Covenant, which demonstrated the two parties' agreement to work together alongside each other in the pursuit of their goals to provide quality education to Anishinaabe students and students of all cultural backgrounds.

With widespread community and political support, healthy enrolment, and stable finances, AUC was now ready to request independent university status. On 18 June 2008, Lieutenant-Governor David Onley gave the royal assent to Bill 80. AUC transitioned to an independent, degree-granting institution. The new University's special mission, outlined in its charter, is to be a teaching-oriented, primarily undergraduate university focused on the needs of Northern Ontario, and also to "cultivate cross-cultural learning between Aboriginal communities and other communities, in keeping with the history of AUC and its geographic site."

On 13 July 2009, Algoma University conferred its first degrees as an independent university. Of those students, 60 opted to receive Algoma U degrees. Algoma University graduates, as well as Dr. Ross, donned new regalia, including new convocation hoods designating programs of study.



# The History of Algoma U

Student life was enhanced during this period. Students began competing in varsity-level sports in the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA), beginning in 2001. The student council transitioned to become a union, the Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU), and a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). A significant growth in international student enrolment saw many new multicultural events on campus.

In 2009, Algoma U achieved institutional eligibility for Tri-Council funding, allowing both faculty and students to be eligible for large government grants to help fund academic research. Dr. Brandon Schamp in Biology was the first faculty member to be awarded with Tri-Council funding, receiving \$95,000 in NSERC funding. Science capacity was greatly enhanced with the construction of the 16-million dollar state-of-the-art Essar Convergence Centre.

Fundraising contributed positively to all these initiatives. The Foundation embarked on its fundraising in 2004 with the Living Learning Campaign. In 2005 Dr. Lou Lukenda, his family and associates donated the former Windsor Park Retirement Home to the University which became the Downtown Residence. The University later launched its first major capital campaign, the Essential Elements Campaign, successfully lead by Brian Curran.

Dr. Ross also instigated the opening of Algoma U at Brampton, the first extension of Algoma U outside of Sault Ste. Marie. An innovative Accelerated Second Degree in Computer Science attracted students of varied backgrounds to the Brampton campus.

In 2010 Dr. Ross stepped down after 12 years as President and was succeeded by President Dr. Richard Myers (2010 – 2015).

Dr. Myers aimed to highlight the benefits of education at Ontario's smallest university



through a new marketing campaign known as "small university, big education". The President also hoped to alter the makeup of a normative university education by implementing a block-plan model. Under a block plan model, students would study one course at a time for three weeks, different from the standard 15-week delivery of five courses at a time. While the block plan model never came to fruition in Sault Ste. Marie, another extension program was opened in St. Thomas, Ontario which followed this style of learning. Students studied one course at a time for two years at the Southern Ontario site prior to transitioning to the Sault Ste. Marie campus two years later.

In the 2010-11 academic year, Algoma U at Timmins opened. In Timmins, students work toward earning a Bachelor of Arts in Community Development, or a Bachelor of Social Work. The first group of students graduated from Algoma U at Timmins at the University's annual June Convocation ceremony in 2014.

Enrolment at Algoma U continued to climb during Dr. Myers' term. In 2014, 1,600 students studied at Algoma U. Of those students, 24 percent came from outside of Canada, representing the University's international student body. Coming from 32 different countries, many from the country of Saudi Arabia, these international students have helped Algoma U become one of the most diverse campuses in Canada. Another 13 percent of students are Anishinaabe (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit), many of whom study in the Anishinaabemowin program or with SKG.

In order to accommodate the growth in students, Algoma U has expanded its campus to include a new student residence which was built in 2012. New programming now incorporates a four-year Bachelor of Social Work program. In September 2014, the University relocated its Music and Fine Arts programs to the historic St. Marys Paper site, now the Mill Square development, allowing for further growth.

After competing in the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association for 11 years, the athletics program made the move to the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) conferences, the highest level of university sport in Canada. In their inaugural year in the OUA and CIS, the Algoma wrestlers competed in the CIS national championship, and the men's basketball team notched five wins against storied teams. The University's athletics complex also completed a 10,000 square-foot renovation, and now boasts a new weight room, cardio room, and change rooms for the varsity teams.

In March of 2015, Algoma University appointed its first Chancellor, Shirley Horn. Horn is a former student of the Shingwauk Indian Residential School and a proud recent graduate of Algoma University. A formal installation will take place at the June Convocation.

Algoma University looks forward to continued growth and development under the leadership of Dr. Craig Chamberlin who will become Algoma University's newest President as of 1 July 2015.





## Philosophy and Institution Building: Dr. Francis Guth

By: Meaghan Kent

Algoma University College (AUC) always intrigued **Dr. Francis Guth**. Since learning about the small post-secondary institution in Sault Ste. Marie, he had been interested in the development and progression of the Laurentian University affiliate. When he was offered a lecturing position in the Philosophy Department at AUC, he responded affirmatively and began teaching on 1 July 1971, only one year after earning his doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Toronto.

When Dr. Guth arrived at AUC in 1971, he was warmly welcomed into the institution, but was also faced with the challenge of working at a young university which lacked many of the normative policies and procedures of a storied post-secondary institution. It was unlike any educational atmosphere he had ever stepped foot in. *"Those initial years were difficult for the institution,"* he says. As a faculty member, Dr. Guth was not protected by a unionized faculty association, nor were options for promotion or tenure penned out and approved. However, being a newer institution, AUC presented Dr. Guth with more opportunities to get involved and become a key stakeholder in its progression.

In June 1973, only two years after becoming a junior member of the

faculty complement, Dr. Guth became the administrative head of AUC, the Interim Academic Administrator, or Acting Principal, amidst a faculty and Board of Governors dispute. The position was originally slotted for three-months, but Dr. Guth remained the Acting Principal for two years. During his reign, Dr. Guth sided with the faculty, and managed to get policies and procedures approved through the Board which supported the faculty complement in regards to appointments, promotions, redundancy, and tenure. *"I was able to do some good things for the college... One of the things I insisted on was that we established some policies. We actually established a whole raft of policies and got them approved by the Faculty Association and the Board."*

In 1975, Dr. Donald Watkins became AUC's newest principal, and Dr. Guth returned to lecturing. He was still very much involved in the betterment of the institution. He became a member of the Board as well as countless other committees. In one year in particular, between the Board, Senate, Humanities Division, and Faculty Association, he served on 13 different committees. No matter the position he held, he always worked toward keeping AUC open. *"There were really tough times, especially those first 10-15 years... The fact that we stayed open and were*

*granted independence are really big accomplishments, and I think they are due to a very dedicated group of faculty and staff. In those days, the faculty and staff were more interested in the survival of the institution rather than their own career. In my own career, the fact that I was involved in administration and committees shows that. I wasn't as interested in publishing. It certainly didn't help my career in Philosophy but it did help the survival of the institution."*

Dr. Guth retired from his role at AUC on 31 December 2006. In 2006, he was the only full-time faculty member in Philosophy. Upon his retirement, however, his position was never replaced, causing the phasing out of the Department of Philosophy, a program which had dwindled in numbers and is today amalgamated with the History program. *"That is my one regret. Perhaps I was more concerned with the overall survival of the institution and I should have also been more concerned with the survival of the Philosophy Department."*

Since being retired, Dr. Guth has written an extensive three-volume institutional history of the first 10 years of AUC, which can be found in the Arthur A. Wishart Library. He also won the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2007.

## Shingwauk Project

By: Rick McGee

Struggling to survive during its early years, Algoma University ultimately secured its future by looking to the past.

Inspiration came from the vision of the region's legendary Ojibway Chief Shingwaukonse (1773-1854).

In 1832, he won government support for a "Teaching Wigwam." Built atop Pim Hill, the mission school was to provide youth with access to European understanding and ways that could be incorporated into their own.

The Chief's legacy included the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, a local presence until 1970. With its closure, Algoma University College and the Keewatinung Anishnabek Institute (which offers courses and programs of particular interest to Anishinaabe students) partnered and moved to a part of the site that included Shingwauk Hall.

In 1974, newly hired Algoma faculty member Don Jackson began working on what, in 1979, became the Shingwauk Project. It's now known as the Shingwauk Indian Residential Schools Centre. Now retired, Professor Jackson served as Founding Director until 2012.



The Centre promotes "sharing, healing and learning" through cross-cultural partnership and research and educational development, especially addressing the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

*"I saw the Shingwauk Project as the key to that part of what the University's Northern future would be like," Prof. Jackson recalled. "If it was going to serve this community, it had to serve more than Clergue and after (Francis H. Clergue who brought industrialization to Sault Ste. Marie). It had to be rooted in the area and its deep history."*

Prof. Jackson, former Shingwauk alumnus and Garden River Elder Dan Pine Sr. (Shingwaukonse's grandson), and many others collaborated on the initiative.

*"The way we look at it is, the school never closed," Dan Pine Sr. observed early on.*

*"We have to work with the people so that Native and non-Native can work together."*

*"Dan's vision of the school simply going into a new phase of a history that started in 1832 made sense to me,"* Prof. Jackson said. *"Why shouldn't the founding of the school include the Indigenous founding as much as the non-Indigenous? But nobody had that idea. In my view, it had the potential for a different kind of unique mission."*

By gaining its independence in 2008, Algoma U acquired a "special mission" to "cultivate cross-cultural learning between Aboriginal communities and other communities, in keeping with the history of Algoma University College and its geographic site."

The Shingwauk Project was about fulfilling the school's vision – to respectfully embrace and develop the best of each for the good of all.





## Lori Rainville: Following in Her Mother's Footsteps

By: Rick McGee

Following - literally - in her mother's footsteps, Lori Rainville embodies Algoma University's past, present and future.

The proud member of Missanabie Cree First Nation initially visited the campus in 1981. Lori accompanied her mother, Alice Fletcher Souliere, to the inaugural Shingwauk Reunion. Decades earlier, Alice had been a student at the Shingwauk Indian Residential School.

*"I had just finished high school and went to the gathering as a family activity," Lori recalled. "My mother never told us anything about the residential school. So it wasn't until then that I was introduced to it. But because I was a teenager, it wasn't something that really interested me at the time."*

As the years passed, a maturing Lori grew more curious. *"Then I came to the second reunion in 1991 with my mother and that's when everything kind of*

*started. My mother passed away in January 1992 and I still didn't know her story. I decided to go back to school that fall."*

That decision turned into a life-changer for the 30-year-old. *"Everything was coming together," Lori continued. "I was learning about myself and my two children were exposed to everything right from the beginning. I had grown up in Elliot Lake and didn't even know who I was. I didn't know what my background was."*

Choosing an academic major came easily. *"Sociology really caught my attention," Lori recalled. "I've always wondered about behaviours and why people do what they do."*

Student life at Algoma University opened many new doors. Becoming active in the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association helped Lori learn more about the school's history and students.

Close ties with her alma mater continue to this day. Lori serves as Chair of the Anishinaabe People's Council. *"It's hard to stay away from there (Algoma U)," she chuckled 19 years after graduating. "There's a deep connection with my mom's time here. Although the history remains, something positive resulted from that."*

A third generation of important family associations with Algoma U is part of this story, too. Lori and her husband Kim watched their son Nolan graduate in 2014 from the Bachelor of Arts in Anishinaabemowin program. And the couple's daughter, Dayna, will receive her Bachelor in Fine Arts (Visual) degree at this year's Convocation.

Meanwhile, as Missanabie Cree's Education Counselor, Lori helps others begin post-secondary studies. *"I never thought I would be here today helping our members pursue higher education," she said.*



## Professor Emeritus Jim Gibson: 42 Years Strong

By: Nadine Robinson

With 42 years to his credit, **Professor Emeritus Jim Gibson** is the longest serving faculty member in Algoma U's history. The Scottish immigrant (by way of Portage la Prairie, Manitoba) began his career in the English Department in 1968. He started teaching in the Butler Building and the portables behind Sault College before Algoma moved to the Shingwauk site. Over four decades, Prof. Gibson saw the East Wing, the Wishart Library, the GLC, and residences added to campus, and he was Acting President for the latter. *"We needed a name for the residences and I consulted with First Nations. The Elders came up with the name: 'Spirit Village.'"*

Prof. Gibson focused on teaching Canadian and American Literature. One of his many career highlights was coordinating the English Department's public reading series which brought over 15 major figures in Canadian Literature to Algoma U, including Michael Ondaatje, Earle Birney, and Susan Swan.

Another time that stands out for Prof. Gibson was in the early nineties, when as Dean he needed to schedule 90 credits in six consecutive terms for the Canadian Steel Trades Employment Congress. *"A number of laid off steelworkers joined the program to earn a post-secondary degree in two years while collecting EI. We were concerned, since their average number*

*of years out of education was 14, but we were delightfully surprised, as they were utterly serious students. It was an amazing experience."*

Prof. Gibson sat on handfuls of committees annually, and made a number of important administrative contributions including being: Speaker of Senate, Chair of the English Department, Chair of the Humanities Division, Academic Dean, and Acting President.

He is often recalled for his big presence walking down the halls, standing in at 6' 2". Affable and approachable in his old corduroy jacket with elbow patches, his door was always open. *"I tried to eliminate barriers and was on first name terms with my students. My mother, also a teacher, wouldn't have approved of that... but putting students at ease helped me to reach them."*

Prof. Gibson reflected on his favourite part of teaching: *"When I managed to formulate the questions that caused people to think creatively... when discussion sparked more discussion... it felt like spontaneous intellectual combustion. A flame appeared in the discussion and ignited many minds at the same time. Those were magical moments."*

He marvels at the transformation of Algoma U over the years. *"From a*

*small, teaching oriented affiliated university college, with three Administrators, a Chief Librarian, a small group of faculty, and less than 100 full-time students, to our much expanded and diversified free-standing, chartered University... what an amazing journey."*

One thing that didn't change was the student-centred focus. *"Ian Brown, the man who hired me, placed the emphasis on teaching and to a great extent that is still the case."*

Perhaps not surprisingly, his passion for teaching earned him the 2009 Algoma University Distinguished Faculty Award. *"It was enormously gratifying, and humbling to be selected by my peers for an award recognizing quality teaching, and contribution to the University and community... and to have my wife Sally, my son Duncan, and my sister there... I deeply appreciated the honour."*

Enjoying retirement since 2010, Prof. Gibson is still surrounded by Algoma U. He has artwork from a former student, Karen Doleske-Court, and from colleague Tom O'Flanagan prominently displayed in his living room, alongside an award-winning installation by his wife Sally.

*"42 years flew by... It was a very rewarding career."*



Dr. Linda Savory Gordon  
with her granddaughter Lily.



## Professor Emerita Dr. Linda Savory Gordon: A Passion for Development

By: Nadine Robinson

Reminiscing about her more than two decades at Algoma U, **Dr. Linda Savory Gordon's** passion is clear: she wants to help build strong communities through development, creating linkages, and having the proper infrastructure in place.

Dr. Savory Gordon obtained her MSW from McGill and then worked in Montreal for 11 years in community development. In 1988, she joined Algoma U teaching part-time in Social Welfare.

The Cobalt, Ontario native, revelled in program development, including leading the creation of the Community Economic and Social Development program at Algoma U. Similarly, she helped create the Bachelor of Social Work.

*"What strikes me now, is that the University itself has been a community development project. I particularly liked when I first started at Algoma U; there was such a feeling of people pulling together to ensure the institution's survival and sustainability."*

Aside from being Department Chair and Divisional Chair over the years, she remembers having the title of Director of the BSW in the early years: "Yes, I was the director of one... myself," she laughed. While teaching, Dr. Savory Gordon completed her PhD studies in

Policy Studies, graduating in 2003 from the University of Bristol.

She also helped a student launch Black History Month events on campus. *"We formed a committee and raised money to sponsor a guest speaker, we organized an African-inspired dinner, and we involved the library in creating black history displays. That committee later morphed into the diversity committee. I was very proud to help with her event."*

Dr. Savory Gordon was known by her students as being passionate about policy and development issues... and for her messy office. *"I always thought that everything else was more important than doing my filing,"* she said with an impish smile.

Another career highlight for Dr. Savory Gordon was being part of the committee that developed the BA in Anishinaabemowin and the certificate in Indigenous Learning. *"I enjoyed that work a lot."*

*"I'm encouraged every time we move closer to our special mission in the Sault and in the region. It was great to see the SASA lounge moved from the portables to a welcoming central location for Anishinaabe students and the more prominent location of the archives in the East Wing. Within the region, we're also making strides, offering social work and community development in*

*Timmins with outreach to the James Bay coastal communities. We got our independence to service underserved areas in Northern Ontario. I really think that's the way to go for sustainability."*

Dr. Linda Savory Gordon received the Distinguished Faculty Award in 2010, and retired in December of 2012. In her retirement, she became a volunteer research associate with NORDIK Institute working on rail issues in the region. As part of the Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains and the Northern and Eastern Ontario Rail Network, she is passionate about saving Algoma Central Railway passenger service.

Always one to recognize linkages to build strong communities, Dr. Savory Gordon associates her two passions: *"Passenger rail south to Sudbury and Toronto and north to Timmins makes this University and community more accessible. We need the infrastructure to support our universities and communities. Especially with extreme weather, highways closed, flights are cancelled, but the train goes through."*

In retirement, the Professor Emerita also stayed on the advisory committee for the BSW program. In January 2015, she agreed to fill a hole as Algoma U's part-time Interim Director of Social Work. So for now, Dr. Savory Gordon's smile again lights up Algoma U's halls.

## The Evolution of a Campus: Physical Growth at Algoma U

By: Meaghan Kent

After moving to its current location on Queen Street East, Algoma University's campus began to expand tenfold. With the space and resources in Shingwauk Hall being exhausted, Algoma U's infrastructure doubled in size, allowing for growth in numbers and other resources.

Expansion on campus blossomed in the 1980s, beginning with the construction of the Arthur A. Wishart Library, which moved from its original location in the East Wing, the first extension of Shingwauk Hall. The creation of the two-level library allowed for less dependence on Laurentian University.

The George Leach Centre (GLC) was opened in 1992, which provided not only students, but also community members, with the opportunity to access healthy lifestyle alternatives. Since then, the GLC has provided a venue for large recreational sporting events, including regional, provincial, and national championships, which in turn, has boosted local tourism and the economy. A 10,000 square-foot expansion was added in 2015, providing GLC members with access to state-of-the-art life fitness equipment, not readily available elsewhere in Sault Ste. Marie.

Also significant was the construction of the first residence, the Spirit Village Residences - or townhouses - in 1995. These 15 townhouses, which could

accommodate 75 students, provided a new affordable university education opportunity for those living within Northern Ontario, who no longer had to travel as far as Sudbury to earn a post-secondary degree. *"The building of the first residences allowed Algoma University College at the time to better serve students in the Algoma region."*

*Now students from areas north or east of Sault Ste. Marie could get access to a traditional university experience by living on campus and engaging with other students and getting involved with student clubs and activities,"* says Tom Mauro, the Director of Ancillary and Student Services. Other residences were built in 2001 and 2012, allowing Algoma U's student population to grow from under 1,000 to an all-time high of 1,600 students, coming from countries around the globe.

In 2005, the West Wing was opened, which houses the Speakeasy. The Speakeasy operates as a patio, pub, cafeteria, and entertainment hub. Specifically designed for students, the Speakeasy is a place to unwind and relax day or evening, listen to live bands and performances, study, or catch-up on the latest entertainment. *"The Speakeasy provides our students with a necessary place to relax and unwind after classes. It has been integral in building our student life on campus. The Speakeasy allows us to offer a wide variety of student events, including open mic nights, karaoke, pubs, cultural dinners, and more,"* says past Algoma



University Students' Union (AUSU)  
Past President, Yasir Garwan.

One of the most significant campus developments was the creation of the Essar Convergence Centre (ECC), named in recognition of Essar Steel's one million dollar donation to the Essential Elements Campaign. This four-story steel building, complete with three floors of research laboratories and two large lecture halls, was completed in 2011 and allowed Algoma U to begin offering a four-year Bachelor of Science Honours program, but also to become a major competitor in innovative scientific research at an international level. The ECC has attracted countless grand partnerships, Canada Research Chairs, and institutes, including the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC), Health Informatics Institute, and Algoma Games for Health. In addition, students could now complete their research requirements and lab components of their degree on campus, without having to travel to the Great Lakes Forestry Centre or Lake Superior State University. *"The ECC provides excellent research and teaching labs for the sciences at Algoma University. Students gain from being able to learn and conduct research in*





*state of the art facilities. Research labs in the ECC have also enabled our biology faculty to be extremely successful in conducting high-quality research, and consequently obtaining national recognition and research funding. This funding gives students further opportunities to conduct research alongside faculty," adds Drs. Brandon Schamp and Jennifer Foote, Associate Professors in the Department of Biology.*

The expansion of Algoma U's campus has allowed the University to become a self-sustaining research entity, attract some of the greatest researchers and innovators, and become more independent while simultaneously providing unique opportunities for the community at large.

## Algoma U = Economic Development

By: Marc Capancioni

It's not surprising that any large or medium-sized city without a university is fighting tooth and nail to get one. Post-secondary institutions provide a significant economic impact for their host communities, and Sault Ste. Marie is no exception.

Don Mitchell is certainly familiar with this trend. As a member of the Board of Governors at Algoma U, he's also the volunteer President and Board Chair of the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation. This gives him a unique viewpoint on the impact the University has on the community.

*"When you look at the employment numbers, visiting and local students who attend and spend money here, and all the suppliers and spin-off economic activity, Algoma University is absolutely a main driver of the Sault Ste. Marie economy," says Don, whose six-year term on the Algoma U Board of Governors concludes in June. "As the school has grown over the years, in terms of number of students and faculty, along with the size of the campus and number of campus locations, that positive impact has been - and continues to be - felt throughout the entire community."*

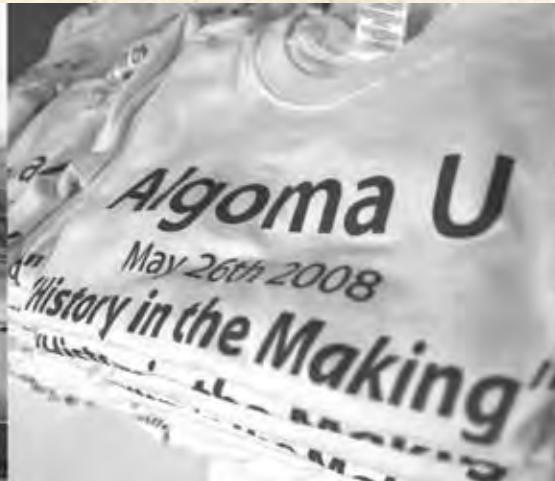
As a local business owner, James Caicco, who's also wrapping up a six-year term on the Algoma U Board of Governors, would certainly agree. From his perspective, the benefits that the University has on the local

economy and area businesses are immense.

*"Not only is the institution one of the largest employers in town, but it also gives local companies access to some of the smartest and brightest people around,"* says James, who graduated from Algoma U in 1994 from the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program. *"When you study in Sault Ste. Marie, you're more likely to remain here. It's really a win-win for the students and the local businesses and organizations that end up employing them."*

James' companies, which include Century 21 Choice Realty, Centum Mortgage Approval Centre, and Property One Management, currently employ a number of Algoma U alumni. *"Having access to these graduates is a huge resource,"* he says. *"It's great to be able to tap into that talent pool."*

Ask any employer in Sault Ste. Marie, and they'll almost certainly agree.



## Rich Prophet: Education as a Worthy End in and of Itself

By: Nadine Robinson



It was September 1967 when **Rich Prophet** began classes at AUC. "I had just started teaching elementary school at St. Veronica's and I wanted to get a degree to move up the pay grade and accrue more knowledge. Back then we didn't require a university degree. I started teaching at 19, after graduating high school and completing one year at Ottawa's Teacher's College."

Rich taught all day, went to class in the interconnected portables on the Sault College property on Tuesday and Thursday evening, and then he'd rush to go play hockey. "Many of us did that for about six years... Most of the student population of Algoma was teachers."

The Brockville, Ontario native majored

in geography and sociology, and graduated with a bachelor of arts from Laurentian in 1973 (when the degrees were still printed completely in Latin).

He recalls his geology professor, Dr. Hicks, saying: "*Boys, listen, what I would do if I were you, I would invest in gold, it's fixed at \$26 an ounce. I wish I had listened to that sage advice!*" His favourite class was history, and he remembers the most unique course he ever took was climatology.

Of his three children, two also followed in his footsteps at Algoma U. His son Mark graduated with a B.A. in geography in 2003, and his daughter Christa did her first year of a B.Sc. at Algoma U before finishing her degree at Western University.

Education has always been a huge part of Rich's life's focus: from teaching to learning, and also getting involved in administration, the union, and now the Retired Teachers of Ontario.

*"I've always felt that education is not a means to an end - but a worthy end in itself. I've reiterated that to teachers and students alike... I spent 42 years working in education. What could be more wonderful?"*

Rich taught physical education and history, became Vice Principal, taught the gifted program, became Principal, then President of the Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association. He also sat on the Provincial Executive, was Governor of the Ontario Teachers' Federation, and was then elected to the governing council of the Ontario College of Teachers.

*"I retired in 2000, but was asked to come back in 2002. I missed being around students: the greatest thing is watching the growth of individuals. For some teachers their curriculum is so important, but I always reminded them that the person comes ahead of the curriculum. Coming out of retirement, I resumed the role of Principal in Blind River, and Elliot Lake. I finally stayed retired in 2008."*

Rich remains involved in education as the President of the Retired Teachers' of Ontario - Algoma District, spreading the word that anyone involved in education can become a member of RTO, whether they are school secretaries or university professors. Prophet is also proud that RTO stays involved in post-secondary education by presenting an annual bursary at both Algoma U and Sault College.

True to his roots of teaching physical education, Rich stays extremely active, including downhill skiing and playing hockey four days a week. In the offseason, he plays golf five days a week.

*"My next challenge? I'm trying out for the NHL,"* he jokes. Considering his hockey team is made up of highly accomplished hockey players, including a goalie who had Tony Esposito as his back up, perhaps Rich will indeed come out of retirement again.

# Anishinaabe Students Share Their Algoma U Success Stories

By: Melanie Nolan

**Deb Pine and Christine Sy** pursued a post-secondary education at Algoma U as mature students. They hope to inspire others who may be apprehensive about the challenge of going back to school.

Deb Pine obtained a degree in Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) with a minor in sociology from Algoma U. Graduating cum laude in June 2013, she is now working toward a masters degree in geography at the University of Toronto.

Originally from Garden River First Nation, Deb chose Algoma U for its ideal location and high-quality learning environment. *"Algoma U was close to home and it had an interesting program. I wanted to be able to make a difference in my community and the CESD program was right for me."*

Deb says the people at Algoma U helped contribute to her success. *"The professors and the Anishinaabe staff were great. I had a variety of challenging classes in my program, from sociology to economics. The Anishinaabe staff always had time not only for me, but also for other students. I made lifelong friends and learned how to excel in an academic environment."*

Deb wants to work with Anishinaabe Elders in the future, expressing her appreciation for their vast knowledge and their cultural importance.

*"No amount of degrees I could ever obtain could come close to what my mother and father or my aunts and uncles know. The knowledge they have of the land is contained in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe language). Our Elders carry all of this knowledge and experience and I want to share what they have taught me and continue to teach me."*

Deb says Algoma U provides students with many opportunities to embrace, celebrate, and learn about Anishinaabe culture through its talking circles, teachings, visiting Elders and classes like Anishinaabemowin and those offered by Shingwauk Kinomaaage Gamig. Algoma U also holds an annual pow wow and often hosts expert craftspeople for beading or basket-making classes.

Christine Sy graduated from Algoma U in 2006 with a bachelor of arts degree

in Anishinaabemowin. She is now obtaining a PhD in indigenous studies from Trent University. She is currently participating in a pre-doctoral dissertation fellowship in American Indian Studies at Michigan State University.

Christine chose Algoma U specifically because of its three-year Anishinaabemowin degree, the only one of its kind in Canada. She appreciates that Algoma U actively engages with Anishinaabe peoples, cultures, and acknowledges the colonial history.

*"There are no words to describe the benefit of being Anishinaabe in your homeland and attending an institution that, in my experience, actively strives to ensure their space is not only ethical, but also generative for both Anishinaabe and non-Anishinaabe students."*

Christine attended Algoma U while working full-time and balancing life as a new mom. She values the support and contributions of all of her professors and continues to be inspired by what she learned from Howard Webkamigad, Rolland Nadjiwon, Rosalie Favell and the late Dr. Alanna Bondar.

She especially enjoyed participating in the creation of *Algoma Ink*, a juried journal of creative writing, including poems, short stories and creative non-fiction. This publication was developed under the guidance of Dr. Bondar.

Christine also took part in the Poetry Slam for two years and describes it as a memorable, transformative and fun experience. She says Dr. Bondar's creative writing courses continue to influence her own writing, performance and teaching.



Deb Pine

Christine Sy

## The History of Convocation

By: Rick McGee

An emphatic exclamation mark will accentuate 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations when an anticipated largest-ever graduating class is honoured at Spring Convocation 2015 on June 13.

The big day will substantially boost the University's alumni population, now standing at 5,209.

During its early days, Algoma University College offered only first-year courses. Students continued degree studies elsewhere. Sudbury's Laurentian University was the preferred destination for many.

Algoma students following that path first received degrees during Laurentian graduation ceremonies on May 30, 1970.

Another 37 Algoma students were recognized during Laurentian's 20<sup>th</sup> Convocation a year later.

Local resident Walter Morrow, then a trades teacher at what is now Sault College, attended the event with his wife Hughette.

*"After I started teaching at the college, I got the notion to do some upgrading,"* the personable 88-year-old alumnus recalled. *"I took part-time courses through Algoma College [as it was then known] and at summer school in Sudbury. It took four or five years to complete a degree in psychology."*

Algoma U first conducted its own Convocation on June 2, 1973, in the

Korah Collegiate Auditorium. 500 people attended.

Now retired and living in Belize, Blane Harvey graduated with distinction as a psychology major that year en route to a commendable 40-year career in Canadian post-secondary education.

*"Having access to Algoma U in the sixties and early-seventies was a critical element in subsequent career success and graduate-level studies,"* Blane said. *"I am very grateful to those who pushed for the establishment and development of Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie."*

In 1974, Convocation moved to the campus and the lawn immediately south of Shingwauk Hall.

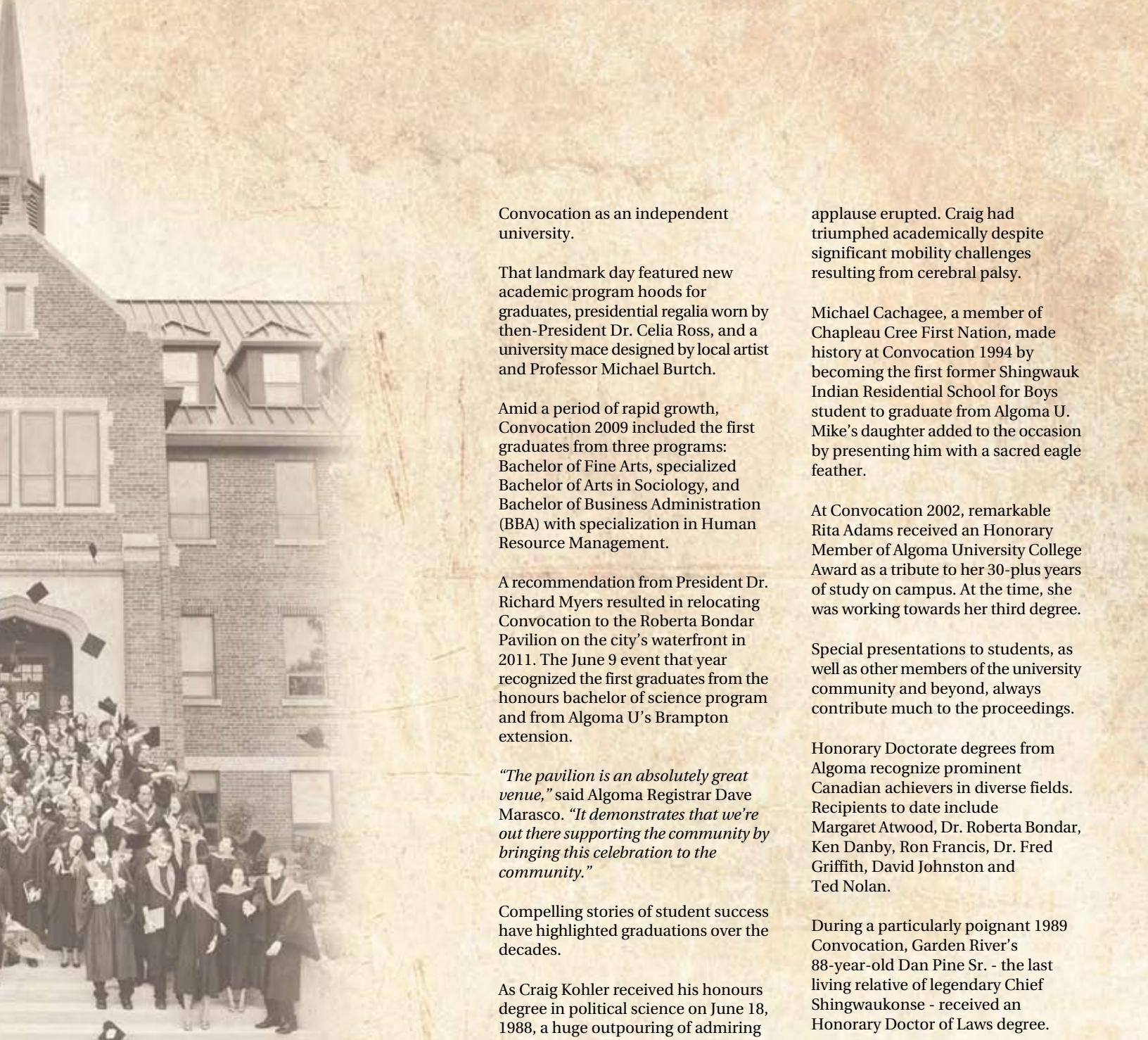
A return to Korah followed in 1975. During the next 17 years, Central United Church frequently provided the setting for graduation. White Pines Auditorium (1976) and St. Luke's Cathedral (1978) also accommodated the event.

A fall Convocation on November 14, 1987, at Westminster Presbyterian Church saw 25 general degrees and two honours degrees conferred.

Completion of Algoma U's George Leach Centre athletics complex brought Convocation back to the campus on June 12, 1993.

Historic "firsts" abounded on June 13, 2009, when Algoma celebrated its first





Convocation as an independent university.

That landmark day featured new academic program hoods for graduates, presidential regalia worn by then-President Dr. Celia Ross, and a university mace designed by local artist and Professor Michael Burtch.

Amid a period of rapid growth, Convocation 2009 included the first graduates from three programs: Bachelor of Fine Arts, specialized Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, and Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with specialization in Human Resource Management.

A recommendation from President Dr. Richard Myers resulted in relocating Convocation to the Roberta Bondar Pavilion on the city's waterfront in 2011. The June 9 event that year recognized the first graduates from the honours bachelor of science program and from Algoma U's Brampton extension.

*"The pavilion is an absolutely great venue," said Algoma Registrar Dave Marasco. "It demonstrates that we're out there supporting the community by bringing this celebration to the community."*

Compelling stories of student success have highlighted graduations over the decades.

As Craig Kohler received his honours degree in political science on June 18, 1988, a huge outpouring of admiring

applause erupted. Craig had triumphed academically despite significant mobility challenges resulting from cerebral palsy.

Michael Cachagee, a member of Chapleau Cree First Nation, made history at Convocation 1994 by becoming the first former Shingwauk Indian Residential School for Boys student to graduate from Algoma U. Mike's daughter added to the occasion by presenting him with a sacred eagle feather.

At Convocation 2002, remarkable Rita Adams received an Honorary Member of Algoma University College Award as a tribute to her 30-plus years of study on campus. At the time, she was working towards her third degree.

Special presentations to students, as well as other members of the university community and beyond, always contribute much to the proceedings.

Honorary Doctorate degrees from Algoma recognize prominent Canadian achievers in diverse fields. Recipients to date include Margaret Atwood, Dr. Roberta Bondar, Ken Danby, Ron Francis, Dr. Fred Griffith, David Johnston and Ted Nolan.

During a particularly poignant 1989 Convocation, Garden River's 88-year-old Dan Pine Sr. - the last living relative of legendary Chief Shingwaukonse - received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.



# CONVOCATION AWARD WINNERS

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Convocation Medals and Awards are given out at the spring ceremony held in June each year. Algoma University issues six special awards at this time to deserving recipients. The first of these special awards was an Honorary Doctorate of Laws issued in 1982 to W.C. Winegard, a Canadian educator, engineer, scientist, and former Member of Parliament.

## **Alumni Achievement Award**

The Alumni Achievement Award acknowledges the professional, civic, and personal accomplishments of an Algoma University alumnus/a who has graduated within the last 10 years. Recipients of the award are individuals who have distinguished themselves since graduating from Algoma University, and who have become a source of pride and/or inspiration to the University community.

## **Distinguished Alumni Award**

The Algoma University Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the accomplishments of an Algoma U alumnus/a who has reached a pinnacle of personal and professional achievement in his or her chosen field. Recipients of the award have successfully demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in business and industry, community service, and/or public life.

### **ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

.....

- Jody Rebek  
2007
- Dr. Laurie Bloomfield  
2008
- Nevin Buconjic  
2009
- Tausha Esquega  
2010
- Fred Pelletier  
2011
- Brad Jacobs,  
E. J. Harnden, Ryan  
Harnden, Scott Seabrook  
2012
- Jamie Coccimiglio  
2013
- Andrew Ross  
2014

### **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

.....

- Diane Marshall  
2007
- David Jones  
2008
- Les Dunbar  
2009
- Lieutenant-Colonel  
Eric Groulx  
2010
- Michael Cachagee  
2011
- Robert Key  
2012
- Terence Bos  
2013
- Terry Rainone  
2014

### **GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDAL**

.....

- Stephanie Tanninen  
2011
- Nicholas Cerilli  
2012
- Michael Kendall  
2013
- Joseph Macmichael  
2014

## Governor-General's Silver Medal

The Governor-General's Silver Medal is awarded for academic excellence to the undergraduate who achieves the highest academic standing in a Bachelor's degree program.

## Distinguished Faculty Award

The Distinguished Faculty Award recognizes exceptional faculty contribution at Algoma University. The recipient embodies the ideals of the University mission: teaching excellence and scholarship with a demonstrated commitment to community and institutional citizenship. Investiture takes place at the spring ceremony, and consists of a citation.

## Honorary Member of Algoma University

Honorary membership of the Senate Award is bestowed upon persons who have contributed distinctive and distinguished service to Algoma University and/or the community. Investiture takes place at Convocation, and consists of a citation and the awarding of appropriate regalia.

## DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

- Dr. William Osei  
2006
- Dr. Francis Guth  
2007
- Dr. Thomas Allaway  
2008
- Prof. Jim Gibson  
2009
- Prof. Linda Savory Gordon  
2010
- Dr. Gayle Broad  
2012
- Dr. István Imre  
2013
- Prof. Don Jackson  
2014

## Honorary Doctorate

Honorary Doctorate recipients are chosen from people who have made outstanding contributions to the life of Sault Ste. Marie and/or the region; people who have made outstanding contributions to intellectual advancements; and those who have made contributions in the fields of Canadian and/or international life.

The selection of honorary degree recipients at Algoma University is guided by the outstanding nature of each candidate's achievement. The recipient is awarded both the degree (*honoris causa*) and appropriate regalia.

## HONORARY DOCTORATE

- W.C. Winegard  
Doctor of Laws 1982
- D.G. Howell  
Doctor of Science 1985
- James E. MacDonald  
Doctor of Letters 1987
- Daniel Erskine Pine  
Doctor of Laws 1989
- Morley Torgov  
Doctor of Letters 1990
- Dr. Roberta Bondar  
Doctor of Science 1991
- Tom Angus  
Doctor of Science 1992
- David Lloyd Johnston  
Doctor of Laws 1993
- Robert-Ralph Carmichael  
Doctor of Letters 1994
- Ken Danby  
Doctor of Fine Arts 1997
- Basil Johnston  
Doctor of Letters 1998
- Nicholas Goldschmidt  
Doctor of Letters 1999
- Olive Dickason  
Doctor of Letters 2000
- Margaret Atwood  
Doctor of Letters 2001
- Ted Nolan  
Doctor of Laws 2002
- Frank Paci  
Doctor of Letters 2003
- The Hon. James K. Bartleman  
Lt. Gov. of ON  
Doctor of Laws 2004
- David M. Paciocco  
Doctor of Laws 2005
- Dr. Fred Griffith  
Doctor of Letters 2006
- Jeromy Carriere  
Doctor of Science 2007
- Ronald Francis  
Doctor of Letters 2008
- Daphne Odjig  
Doctor of Fine Arts 2010
- Justice Susan E. Lang  
Doctor of Laws 2011
- Guy Traficante  
Doctor of Letters 2012
- Joseph Boyden  
Doctor of Letters 2013
- Les Pyette  
Doctor of Letters 2014

## Newly-Expanded GLC Enhancing Student Experience

By: Marc Capancioni

An active body helps build and maintain a healthy mind. With this adage in mind, the Algoma U leadership team set out to establish a student recreation and health centre around 25 years ago.

The goal was clear: *"Research has consistently shown that regular exercise can improve quality of both body and mind,"* says Mark Kontulainen, Director of Athletics and Recreation for Algoma U. *"Having a first-rate fitness and rec centre on campus can help students combat the stressors of student life, which translates to better performance in the classroom."*

That was the line of thinking that caused Algoma U to forge ahead with its expansion plans. In the early-1990s, thanks to an investment from the Province of Ontario, construction began on the school's recreation and health centre.

When it came time to naming the facility, one moniker stood out. George Leach was Algoma U's Athletics Director from 1972 until his death in 1986. During his stead, he enacted a number of initiatives to enhance the student experience. *"He did a lot of incredible things on a very limited budget,"* says Mark.

To increase the number of intramural sports, George oversaw the construction of an outdoor hockey rink, open-air fitness lab and slo-pitch baseball field.

He also coached many of the school's hockey teams, most of which went on to achieve considerable success. Simply put, with these and other initiatives, George elevated athletics and recreation at the University.

In 1992, the aptly-named George Leach Centre (GLC) opened its doors. The 39,000-square foot complex was built with three full-size courts that could accommodate basketball, tennis, indoor soccer and other sports, along with weight and cardio rooms, an aerobics studio and additional amenities. The facility, which is open to the public, has also hosted a number of varsity and intramural competitions over the years.

With the success of the GLC, the complex underwent a large-scale expansion in 2014. The timing was perfect, as Algoma U's varsity teams, which had previously competed in the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA), recently joined Ontario University Athletics (OUA).

The GLC expansion included the addition of a 10,000-square-foot second floor that boasts a new weight room, featuring new equipment from Hammar Strength, cardio equipment from Life Fitness, including the only Life Fitness Synrgy Functional Trainer in Sault Ste. Marie. Three new aerobic studios with equipment are also new to the level. These studio spaces

overlook the campus and provide plenty of natural light. One workout room houses a Spin Studio with 15 new digital spin bikes.

Further updates to the facility include a varsity athletics wing, additional locker rooms for visiting varsity teams and designated referee change rooms. *"The latest expansion is truly a game changer,"* says Mark. *"It's enhancing the training of our student-athletes, enriching the campus experience for all students, and is also helping us recruit new students to Algoma University."*

The expansion cost \$4.9 million, with \$2 million in funding from the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation.

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, the Algoma University community, George Leach Centre (GLC) members, MPP David Orazietti, Mayor Christian Provenzano, and community supporters gathered together to cut a red ribbon, signifying the end of construction and the opening of the brand new state-of-the-art expansion.

A special poem was written and delivered by Karin von Althen, the 78-year old GLC member who has used the facility since its opening in 1992. Her poem provides a humorous perspective on the building process and final results.



**Written by: Karin von Althen**

*Here we all are, our dream has come true.*

*The Leach Centre is now almost like new.*

*Ok, ok it took quite a while.*

*But now we can lose weight in style.*

*Our muscles will soon be hard as a drum.*

*Our tummies are flat and tight as is our bum.*

*True enough, we have been through a lot.*

*But it was worth it; just look at what we have got.*

*A spanking new gym with all kinds of machines:*  
*the likes of which we have never seen.*

*There is one for every body part:*

*for your back, for your legs, for your hips and your heart.*

*Once we figured them out and have tried them all;*  
*we are fitter than fit and can stand up tall.*

*The colour red makes them inviting too,*  
*and makes up for everything we've been through.*

*Remember the weeks and months of despair,*  
*with noise and dust and dirt everywhere?*

*The days without water, not even cold:*  
*"Be patient, trust us", that's what we were told.*

*We were bribed with free passes to the YMCA.*

*That was generous, and that was ok.*

*The Y is a great place and they were glad we came,*  
*but it was not the Leach, it was not the same.*

*The Leach does not only mean fitness to me.*

*When I go there it feels like family.*

*We know each other very well.*

*And when someone is missing, we can tell.*

*The Leach has all kinds of programs in store,*  
*and when you turn eighty, you don't pay anymore.*

*You are given a t-shirt to honour your age.*  
*To belong to the "Golden Club" is all the rage.*

*No question, the Leach is a wonderful place.*

*It welcomes all ages and every race.*

*It's good for the body, for the soul and the mind.*

*A better place is hard to find.*

*The basketball teams are smiling from ear to ear,*  
*now that the spiffy new change rooms are here.*

*They are specially built for the teams; we cannot get in.*  
*Now all they have to do... is win.*

*There is only one thing left to do;*  
*to thank those that made the dream come true.*



Karin von Althen



## Athletics on the Rise at Algoma U

By: Marc Capancioni

The importance of athletics to a university can't be overstated. Sport has the ability to enhance the student experience and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Realizing this fact, not long after being established 50 years ago, Algoma U began offering athletic and recreational opportunities directly to its students. At the beginning, teams competed in local hockey, baseball, basketball and other league sports. But as time went on, and Algoma U grew in size and stature, a varsity program began to develop.

In 1988, a Nordic ski team formed and started competing against other universities and colleges across Canada and the United States. This was essentially the first club at the school that could be considered "varsity".

At the dawn of the new millennium, the Algoma U leadership team - in particular, then-President Dr. Celia Ross and Director of University Services Bruno Barban - pushed to have the school join the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA).

In 2001, Algoma U began fielding men's and women's varsity basketball teams. Other varsity teams were later formed, including curling, indoor soccer and cross-country running.

A few years later, when Algoma University College became an independent post-secondary institution and changed its name to Algoma University, the wheels to



further enhance varsity athletics were set in motion. In 2012, thanks to a coordinated effort by President Dr. Richard Myers, the Algoma U Board of Governors and a taskforce made up of various stakeholders, the school joined the Ontario University Athletics (OUA).

*"The move made sense," says Dr. Myers, who took over as Algoma U President in 2010. "If you want people to treat you like a university, you have to act like a university. And we also wanted to give our athletes an opportunity to compete at a higher level."*

As part of its OUA requirements, Algoma U now fields six teams in both men's and women's divisions: basketball, cross-country running, wrestling, curling, Nordic skiing and soccer. Though many of the clubs are new, their competitiveness continues to increase month-after-month, year-after-year.

In fact, in February 2015, Algoma U wrestler Natasha Doroodian took home a silver medal at the National Championships in Alberta. With an entire university behind its athletes, these types of successes are bound to repeat.



# The Algoma University Students' Union: A Brief History

By: Jessica Ferlaino

Student representation at Algoma University has a long and active history. Today, a number of organizations exist at Algoma U, including the Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU), the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students' Association (SASA), as well as a number of groups and initiatives that operate under those auspices.

These organizations have evolved over time, increasing their roles and responsibilities, collaborating to create a unique undergraduate experience for students. Through advocacy, student engagement, as well as the funding, organization and delivery of events, which advance student interests, these organizations improve academic welfare, and collaborate with administration and faculty to achieve successful results.

AUSU, which began as the Algoma University Students' Association (AUSA) many decades ago, is still a relatively new organization, established in the 2003-04 school year when students voted to unionize and become a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). Now Local 82 of the CFS, AUSU has provincial and national representation and is among over one-half of a million students from more than 70 federated universities and colleges across Canada.

Just as Algoma U was growing, so too was the AUSU board which had outgrown the "office in the back hallway", which is now home to the Student Food Bank. It is joked that much of the history of AUSA was lost when the graffiti on the office walls was painted over, as each outgoing board member signed their name, position and years served on the walls.

Having aspirations for a more professional space that would support their growth, a levy was proposed and accepted by students to finance, plan, design, and build a standalone student centre, which is today home to the Speakeasy, cafeteria, AUSU offices and boardroom since June 2005. The T-Bird II Lounge was later added. The new space has allowed AUSU to expand their programming abilities and internal capacities, growing their professionalism and visibility on campus.

The AUSU board is comprised of 15 positions, five of which are executive posts. Elections are held each March and each board operates from May to April every year. As the school becomes more diverse, so too does the AUSU board and the issues with which they are tasked. Board members are required to represent students on a number of Algoma U boards and

committees, including representation on the Board of Governors and Senate.

AUSU's constitution has undergone revisions and the board has undertaken many efforts to improve student life at Algoma U, including: supporting student clubs, club sports, and student-led events; playing an active role in Frosh Week, Frost Week, and other school sanctioned events; establishing Shinerama, Fair Trade initiatives, and the Food Bank; all while participating in lobbying efforts at the local, institutional, provincial, and federal levels.

The groundwork for these changes was laid by previous boards who planted the seeds of change, with the expectation that future boards would nurture the growth while planting seeds of their own. Transitions can be trying and occasionally institutional memory is lost with students when they graduate.



## The John R. Rhodes Scholarship and Dinner Honouring Local Leaders and Supporting Future Leaders

The John R. Rhodes Scholarship was established in 1979 thanks to generous contributions from friends and family of the late John R. Rhodes.

Born and educated in Sault Ste. Marie, John Rhodes began his career in broadcasting as a radio and television personality on CJIC in the 1960s. John Rhodes was elected to City Council and served as Mayor from 1969 to 1971. He went on to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 1971 to 1978 as a member of the Progressive Conservative Party. He was a member of the provincial cabinet in the government of William Davis as Minister of Transportation and Communications from 1974-1975, Minister of Housing from 1975-1978, and Minister of Industry and Tourism in 1978.

Each year, Algoma University proudly hosts the annual John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner. This event serves to honour the memory of John Rhodes by raising funds to allow the University to offer this prestigious scholarship to students entering their first year of university studies who have demonstrated academic achievement and community leadership while involved in political, social or academic activities.

The John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner Planning Committee selects an honouree who embodies the integrity, leadership, vision, and commitment to community services that was the hallmark of John Rhodes.

Past honourees include:

**Judge James Greco**

**Ted Nolan**

**Dr. Roberta Bondar**

**Morley Torgov**

**Gerald Nori, Q.C.**

**The Hon. Ron Irwin**

**Paul Dalseg, Sr.**

**Dr. George & Cathy Shunock**

**C.J. (Bud) Wildman**

**Dr. Celia Ross**

**Dr. Lou & Mae Lukenda**

**The Hon. Ray Stortini**

**The Cronies (Don Mitchell, Jim McAuley, Wayne Prouse, Damon Godfrey, Jo-Anne Brooks, (the late) Ted Brooks, (the late) John Rowswell)**

**Donna Hilsinger**



**Ghislaine Cottle**  
*- 2014 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Recipient*

Ghislaine Cottle is from Stratford, Ontario. A graduate from St. Michael's High School, Ghislaine was avidly involved in drama and community theatre, performing in numerous francophone plays. In the summers, she spent her time volunteering at youth summer camps, and taking lessons learned to help children abroad. She spent four months in Africa working at a centre for children with disabilities, tending to their medical needs and helping to provide them with adequate nutrition.

Her time abroad has had a profound impact on the person she is now. Currently studying Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) at Algoma U, Ghislaine is learning how to make a difference in society, enact change, and build stronger communities. She plans on using her education to further help those in need, and would like to take the skills she learns back to Africa to help others. She hopes to later work in the field of social justice.

Judge James Greco

Paul Dalseg, Sr.,

Dr. Celia Ross





**Taylor Jaehrling**  
- 2013-2014 *John R. Rhodes Scholarship Recipient*

**Taylor Jaehrling** was born in Sault Ste. Marie. She attended White Pines Collegiate and Vocational School and after graduation enrolled in the CESD program at Algoma University. Taylor loves to volunteer, and she attributes this to the opportunities that her parents have provided her. Her parents always taught her to give back and do her part; be a leader and make change happen. This sparked her love for community involvement and drove her passion for volunteering.

In high school, Taylor looked for opportunities to get involved. She served for two terms as President of the White Pines Students' Council, as well as serving as the Student Senate representative for the Algoma District School Board. She balanced her time between her studies, part-time jobs, clubs, and theatre, and credits her volunteer experience with providing her with a solid foundation for success. Taylor plans to use her education to make an impact, not only in her local community but also to be able to create a change in areas outside of her comfort zone. Taylor has continued to maintain her academic success allowing her to receive the John R. Rhodes Scholarship in 2014.



**Kelseigh Harten**  
- 2012 *John R. Rhodes Scholarship Recipient*

**Kelseigh Harten** is a graduate from Superior Heights Collegiate and Vocational School, and is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology at Algoma University.

Having struggled with diabetes from the age of six, Kelseigh is all too familiar with the disease and the impact it has on people's lives. She is intrigued on how to shape the way people view and acknowledge people living with diabetes, and wants to allow diabetics to feel proud of who they are and to not let the disease affect their dreams. She also wants to learn how cultural differences connect to emotional and physical behaviours of diabetes. Kelseigh's goal is to become a Diabetic Psychologist.



**Michael Maniacco**  
- 2010-2012 *John R. Rhodes Scholarship Recipient*

Michael Maniacco first came to Algoma U in 2010 as a graduate from St. Mary's College. In high school, he participated in the football and hockey programs and was a member of the Students' Council in his senior year. He also pursued his passion for music and travel. In his first year at Algoma U, Michael was the recipient of the John R. Rhodes Scholarship.

Michael's interest in understanding human behavior led him to pursue a degree in psychology. He worked hard on maintaining his marks which allowed him to continue to receive the John R. Rhodes Scholarship in his upper years at Algoma U. Michael graduated cum laude in June 2014, with a BA (Honours) in psychology. His dream is to find a career that involves combining his passions and allows him to serve others in the greatest capacity possible.

Dr. Lou & Mae Lukenda

The Cronies; Jim McAuley, Don Mitchell, Jo-Anne Brooks, Wayne Prouse, and Damon Godfrey

Donna Hilsinger



## Our Staff: Contributing to Student Success

By: Jessica Ferlaino

Penny Tyrell



Anne Beaupre



Algoma University is a special place to many people, for a number of reasons. Whether you are a student, faculty member, employee, or a visitor to the beautiful and growing campus in Sault Ste. Marie, you are met by a number of smiling faces, a team of committed and dedicated individuals, who work to provide quality services and exceptional standards in the operation of the institution.

Students often spend plenty of time on campus, whether studying, sitting in on a lecture, or taking part in an event. Their experiences are often made better by the staff who are eager to share a smile or exchange a kind word.

The many initiatives made by the faculty and staff, many of which fall outside of their job descriptions, bring life and capacity to Algoma University as an institution. Though cohorts of students may come and go, while faculty and administration evolve, many staff remain constant, ensuring that the school remains steadfast, efficient and effective, in an ever-changing post-secondary environment.

Two staff members in particular were instrumental during major changes at Algoma U. Retired Library Services Supervisor, Penny Tyrrel, and long-time employee Anne Beaupre, the Resource Sharing Technician for the Arthur A. Wishart Library, can speak volumes to the changes Algoma University has undergone, specifically in regards to the expansion of the institution's library facilities.

Penny Tyrell, who worked at Algoma U from 1985 to 2010, and started as a Periodicals/Government Documents Assistant and later became the Public Services and Collections Supervisor, recalls when the library was located in what is now the East Wing, home to the Doc Brown Lounge. Having operated there until the new library was built in 1989, it marked an era of technological development and change.

The new purpose-built library on campus expanded the institution's capacity and decreased the dependence it had on Laurentian University for library services.

*"Technological advances in the library soon became significant,"* Penny recounted, *"moving from a card catalogue and bound volumes of indexes and abstracts to electronic catalogues and databases and various e-resources."*

These times were both challenging and rewarding as it required a significant dedication of time and resources to ensure these new systems were integrated and adapted to. Anne Beaupre, who started at Algoma U in the Library's Technical Services in 1983 later moving to the Circulation Department, recalls the original card catalogue and the "top of the line typewriter" they used to manually produce these cards.

Once the library brought its services online, it significantly reduced the amount of manual work required and the time spent dedicated to cataloguing and circulation. *"Before Ocelot, the Circulation Department staff (along with the student) had to write out circulation slips, that is, writing the patron's name, telephone number,*



call number of book, and title of book on the slip. Fines were manually calculated," Anne shared.

Both Penny and Anne have very fond memories of their time spent at Algoma U, citing the people and the friendships they made as one of the many benefits of working for the institution; being a part of a great team. Anne cites both the establishment of the Arthur A. Wishart Library in 1986 as well as the University's independence in 2008 as her most memorable moments.

Penny, who follows the developments at Algoma U in her retirement, cites many exciting examples of change at the school. In addition to the school's independence she describes, "*The increase in the number of students, including international students, and the addition of residences and ancillary buildings,*" as memorable developments during her tenure.

The staff at Algoma U, both past and present, has been comprised of exceptional individuals with a real commitment to the institution and the



students, going above and beyond what is required to ensure students have the necessary services to succeed academically. In ensuring the provision of essential services, these people take pride in what they do as well as who they do it for.

Algoma U is located on a historically significant site, requiring a dedicated team to maintain and service the campus on a physical level, helping to maintain the historical integrity of the property as it continues to advance. Algoma University is very lucky to have an outstanding Physical Plant team who work hard to keep up the appearance and operability of the institution.

**Gary Taylor** is one of those people. With family ties to the University that date back to 1971, the Taylor family has been associated with, and committed to Algoma U and its development, with Gary's father Al starting the family tradition. Gary began casual employment with the University in 1972, until March 26, 1982, when he became officially

employed with the institution. He has served in a number of roles at the school, one of which Gary is especially proud, as a member of the Algoma University Alumni.

When asked about his most memorable moment at Algoma U, Gary responded, *"The most memorable event for me was the raising of the Thunderbird flag, for the first time, at the front of the property. It marked for me an impression that Algoma University was marking out for itself a unique plot of possession on the educational landscape, not only provincially, but nationally."*

The institution would not have been able to accomplish what it has without the commitment and dedication of its staff, faculty and administrators, who collaborate to ensure the provision of an exceptional educational experience and quality services for students, a great place to visit and an alma mater for which alumni can be proud, offering a sense of community that cannot be duplicated.

## A Celebration 50 Years in the Making

By: Meaghan Kent



Yue Wang at Algoma U's 50<sup>th</sup> Kick-off

When Algoma University College (AUC) was first conceptualized in the 1950s, and established in 1965, there was plenty to celebrate. After years of discussion and debate, Sault Ste. Marie was finally becoming a leader in post-secondary education, bringing university-level courses and learning to Northern Ontario and the Algoma region. However, a celebration never occurred to mark this historical moment. There was no cake, no cards, no cheers. Only a mere handshake and a signed agreement marked the birth of Algoma University College, an affiliate of Laurentian University in Sudbury, on 17 December 1965. For years, financial issues, dwindling political support, and inadequate facility spaces plagued AUC's history, preventing any large-scale celebration from occurring.

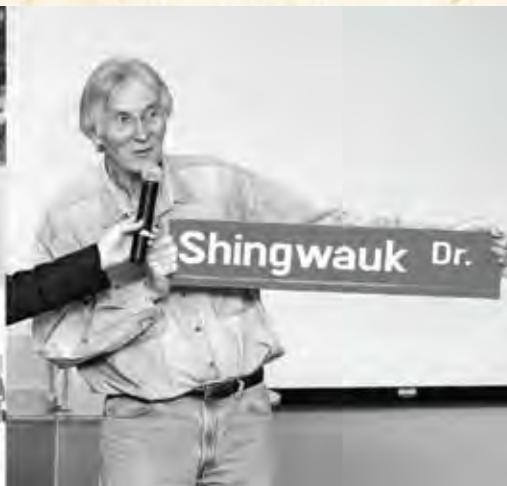
Fast-forward 50 years later, and fireworks shone brightly above the pinnacle steeple of Shingwauk Hall, in front of a crowd of approximately 1,000 people. It was all smiles and merriment on 25 of January 2015 as alumni, students, staff, faculty, and community supporters gathered together to celebrate on the front lawn the half-century mark of Sault Ste. Marie's post-secondary institution. A starry night sky was the perfect backdrop for the surprisingly warm winter evening, ideal for ice-skating on the man-made rink by Algoma U's Physical Plant Department, bonfires, and a 20-minute long firework spectacle.

For many, the celebration provided the perfect family outing on a Friday night. For others, the evening was emotional, marking the continued success and stability of the University, whose future was tested and questioned countless times in the past. For one alumna in particular, the event was the perfect opportunity to reconnect with her Algoma U family. *"I had always been thinking of going back to Algoma U and Sault Ste. Marie, but due to the long distance and my tight schedule I had never made it,"* begins Yue Wang, a former English as a Second Language (ESL) and Business Administration student, who attended AUC from 2004 - 2006. *"I wanted to visit my ESL teachers, Joanne Elvy, Raquel Lehto, Leslie Lay and Krista Yetman. They were so supportive, responsible and thoughtful to us at that time, and they were like my family. Algoma U's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary was an important event*

*[and] was like a trigger [that] made me decide to go back."* Yue, who currently lives in Toronto, Ontario, travelled via bus to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary kick-off weekend celebration. *"I was choosing between me driving back or taking the Greyhound, and [in] the end I decided to take the Greyhound. The reason is I wanted to follow the traditional way of travelling between Sault Ste. Marie and Toronto like I did in my old school days."*

Yue was one of the many international students to attend the weekend's festivities. With students from China, Japan, Saudi Arabia, Brazil, Mexico, and more, the diversity of those in attendance showed the transformation of the University's student body from its once mono-cultural society to its current cross-cultural community. Plus, many alumni enjoyed the festivities with their children, or towing their babes in toboggans.

Other highlights from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration kick-off weekend included an outdoor shiny hockey game, which featured the likes of alumnus Ed Belanger in his original AUC hockey jersey from the 1970s, a lecture on the history of AUC from Professor Don Jackson, titled "Algoma's Move to Shingwauk: the Transformation of a College", and cancer awareness basketball games, which saw the Thunderbirds, in pink jerseys, sweep the Nipissing Lakers, and raise \$610 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

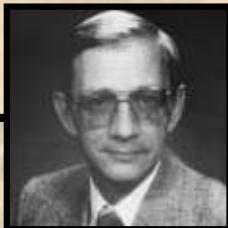


# *Our Leaders* **THROUGH THE YEARS**

**1966 - 1968**

**THE REV. PROFESSOR  
CHARLES ARTHUR KRUG**  
Principal

**1968 - 1973**



**DR. IAN BROWN**  
Acting Principal

**1973 - 1975**



**DR. FRANCIS GUTH**  
Acting Principal

**1976 - 1985**



**DR. DENNIS HOWELL**  
Chairman  
(Board of Trustees)

**1977 - 1984**



**DR. ROBERT EWING**  
Dean

**1975 - 1976**



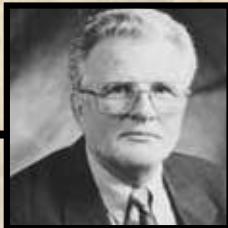
**DR. DONALD WATKINS**  
Principal

**1984 - 1987**



**DR. PATRICK WESLEY**  
President

**1987 - 1997**



**DR. DOUG LAWSON**  
President

**1997 - 1998**



**DR. LINDA SORENSEN**  
Acting President

**2010-2015**



**DR. RICHARD MYERS**  
President

**1998 - 2010**



**DR. CELIA ROSS**  
President



then



# AND NOW



## SHINGWAUK AUDITORIUM: BEFORE

### Shingwauk Auditorium By: Rick McGee

Renovations designed to improve the ambiance and expand the uses of Algoma University's historic Shingwauk Hall will take place over the summer.

"This is a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year project," said President Dr. Richard Myers. "The total cost of \$200,000 will be supported by a \$100,000 fundraising campaign [see insert]."

Initial work will include restoration of the space's old hardwood floor, long covered by carpeting. Plans also call for removal of the gallery on the room's south side and the resurfacing of walls.

"Once refurbished, Shingwauk Auditorium will continue to serve as a multi-purpose facility accommodating many different campus and community activities," Dr. Myers added.

Besides refreshing the auditorium's general appearance, renovations will facilitate other longer-term plans being pursued by the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre (SRSC).

These efforts support Algoma U's special mission to "cultivate cross-

cultural learning between aboriginal communities and other communities."

The Centre - a joint initiative of the University and the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association - wants to see the auditorium house museum-quality displays portraying the history of residential schools in Canada.

"In 2014, we - the SRSC - received a \$146,000 grant from Heritage Canada's Museum Assistance Program to develop and design a curatorial plan and program," said Jonathan Dewar, the Centre's Director. "Our plan is to have educational materials on display in high traffic areas of the University, including the main entrance to Algoma U, the transverse hallway and the entrance to Shingwauk Auditorium. It made a lot of sense for the programing to travel into the auditorium and then to be on display in some manner there. I was very pleased to hear that Dr. Myers thought we were long overdue for an upgrade and liked the idea."

Attracting visitors to campus can provide other benefits, too, Jonathan believes. "If we get people here for the public education piece, it may pique

their interest for post-secondary education."

The immediate priority is developing new content and designs for it. "We are approximately 12 months away from completion of a final fabrication and implementation-ready design package. Portability of exhibits is very likely - static displays in the hallways, but portable in the auditorium. We envision visual or slide displays."

After completing this phase, a second Heritage Canada grant will be sought for funding to actually produce and position exhibits.

"The refurbishing is the University's work," Jonathan explained. "Our existing grant will not be able to cover that. Within the next six months, we expect to have a very thorough first draft of a concept. This would be a concept that would be presented to the President and to other stakeholders as necessary over the next 12 months."

If everything proceeds as hoped, new exhibits would be in place by 2016. Members of the Association have long wished to see the kinds of changes now in the works.

# SHINGWAUK RESTORATION PROJECT



*"For Survivors, the former students of the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, the Shingwauk Auditorium is one of the few positive - or if not positive, at least benign - spaces they remember," Jonathan noted.*

*"Survivors have always wanted to see the auditorium better used and better cared for. And this project goes a long way towards that."*

One of those Survivors will be installed as Algoma University's first Chancellor during Convocation ceremonies on June 13.

**Shirley Horn** first came to the Shingwauk Indian Residential School site as a seven-year-old from Missanabie in 1947 and was a student until 1953.

Five decades later, she returned to the same site for Bachelor of Fine Arts degree studies. Shirley graduated with Honours in 2009. *"It was very traumatic and stressful coming here as a young child,"* the Chancellor-designate recalled. *"But I have always remained*

*part of this institution - coming here as a student and learning. Then coming back to organize the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and remaining on its Board of Directors."*

Childhood memories of the auditorium are easily recalled. *"We had morning and evening prayers, and other things that went on. The Kinsmen Club used to come and entertain the children at Halloween. The Lions Club would come, too, and their big band would play."*

*"The auditorium was a happy place because it's where you got to see your brothers and sisters who were separated from you because of our ages. We could only talk and mingle on special occasions but those occasions were very rare."*

As a member of the school choir, Shirley participated in many auditorium rehearsals and concerts. She also belonged to various groups like the Brownies and the Girl Guides that met there.

Later as an Algoma University student, Shirley took a drama class in the auditorium. It also accommodated many Children of Shingwauk meetings and gatherings she attended.

*"We used the auditorium as part of the healing process," Shirley said. "We'd have circles where we could come together to share our stories, our tears and our feelings about what this institution was at that time."*

*"But I love being here now because it's become something else. It's become very positive in terms of what we offer our people. It has been shaped in the Shingwauk vision of the 'Teaching Wigwam.'*

*"The Association applauds the project,"* Shirley added. *"It's an acceptance by the University that we are going to be working together, that we are going to be sharing this space. And I can't wait until the opening. This is a huge step, a gigantic step toward reconciliation and working in genuine partnership."*

# The Grand Vision of Independence: The Bid for Algoma University

By: Meaghan Kent

When Dr. Celia Ross first began her term as President of Algoma University College (AUC) in 1998, independence was a vision of the future, a distant hope of the administrators and Board of Governors. With enrolment on the steady decline, the financial situation looking grim and financial exigency threatening, the bid for independence was pushed aside, slated for future agendas when the Laurentian University affiliate was in a healthier, more stable situation.

Prior to Dr. Ross, former AUC President Dr. Douglas Lawson had extensive conversations with the Ministry of Education and the regional community about the possibility of an independent Sault Ste. Marie university. *"At the time, the Ministry pointed out to Dr. Lawson that it would be very helpful if we were on a firmer financial footing, with increasing enrolment,"* Dr. Ross begins in her office on the fourth floor of historic Shingwauk Hall. *"When I became President, we began a strategic planning process to turn our situation around. We wanted to reverse the course, but also to build government confidence in our ability to grow and thrive. Then that vision of independence could become a possibility."*

Once AUC began to move into a more stable situation, Board members,

especially David Orazietti, began to advocate for independence. But gaining independence was not easy and not without its challenges.

Knowing that creating an independent university is a political decision, independence advocates began lobbying for support at all levels. Support was needed within AUC, at the Senate and Board level, but also amongst students. Support was sought from the City of Sault Ste. Marie as well as surrounding communities and towns such as Prince Township, Wawa, and Echo Bay. Many supported the notion of making AUC an independent university, including Sault Ste. Marie Mayor John Rowsell and Member of Parliament for Sault Ste. Marie Tony Martin. A shift at the AUC Board level also helped further entrench local and provincial support for AUC's bid.

*"When David Orazietti moved into the position of M.P.P., he left our board, but was extremely supportive of our independence. His voice was vital in supporting our independence at Queen's Park."* AUC's Board Chair Bud Wildman was also instrumental in garnering support. *"We were very fortunate to have [Bud] as Chair of our Board. He is widely respected in town, throughout the Algoma District, and with the provincial government. Going down to Queen's Park with Bud was quite the revelation because he has*

*tremendous relationships with so many people there and could encourage a will to work together among the three political parties."*

The efforts of the AUC community came to a head on 18 June 2008. Following all-party support in the Ontario Legislature, Lieutenant-Governor Michael Onley gave the royal assent to Bill 80, creating Algoma University, Ontario's nineteenth autonomous, publicly-funded university. *"One of the most satisfying things for me was getting all-party support. We had three-party support when it went to a vote and I think there is nothing happier than having Conservatives, Liberals, and the NDP saying, 'Yes we want to create Ontario's newest university in Sault Ste. Marie.' What a vote of confidence!"*

There were many reasons for AUC to become an independent university, free of oversight from its Sudbury mother-institution. For instance, an independent university brings economic vitality to its hometown city. There is more freedom to develop innovative programming, and the university can build its own institutional identity. For Dr. Ross, an important result was confidence building.





*"The psychological difference is the most important. We've lost a sense of vulnerability that we used to have. And I think that's good. We're here to stay - it's not a question mark anymore and that is very important," Dr. Ross says with a laugh. "We also increasingly think of ourselves as one of the pack of Ontario and Canadian universities. We sit at the same provincial and federal tables - whether it's a student organization, our Physical Plant Department, or the President. We all are in the same group. We still face the same issues as we did then - like finances, enrolment, and quality education. But these are the same issues that all universities face, and we now approach these issues in a different manner, seeking both to collaborate with our sister universities and to differentiate ourselves as we follow our own vision and our own mission."*

This new found confidence in Algoma University also helped pave the way for a slew of other changes around the time of independence. *"To me, independence gave us the pride and confidence to move forward on the next visions of Algoma U. We partnered with Shingwauk Education Trust [SET] as they developed Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig [SKG]. Independence allowed us to define ourselves as a partner with*

*First Nations people, and allowed us to be a full and autonomous partner in initiatives like Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig. When we signed the agreement with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig there was actually a bigger celebration on campus than the day we became an independent university."*

Independence also gave us the impetus to create research institutes. *"Starting our research institutes was absolutely huge. We were able to create the Invasive Species Research Institute [ISRI] and work with the Great Lakes Forestry Centre [GLFRC] and with the Ministry of Natural Resources [MNR] as a full partner. To be able to create an institute that is ours and to hope that this institute in the future will create national and international linkages was very rewarding. We were able to attract and house a Research Chair for the first time as well. Independence allowed us to define ourselves with research that is nationally and internationally recognized."* Coinciding with such large advancements on campus was the University earning Tri-Council Research eligibility funding, an endeavour pushed forward by Academic Dean Dr. Arthur Perlini, which in turn allowed faculty to secure substantial government funding for their research.

Independence also helped finally cement Algoma University's identity. *"We developed our planning processes as we sought to be an outstanding choice for local, national, and international students. Independence gave us an identity. Before we were a university college and it was very hard to explain to people who we were. We were part of Laurentian, but not really. With independence, we could finally speak clearly about our differences. We became Algoma University."* For students especially, this new found identity was a large source of pride. Those who studied at AUC during the era of independence were given the opportunity to earn either an Algoma University or a Laurentian University degree. Many opted for an Algoma U degree. *"It's a leap of faith for students to take that initiative and say they're graduating with an Algoma U degree not a Laurentian degree. Laurentian had years of history as an autonomous university behind it, but people trusted and supported the newly independent Algoma institution. Students deserve a lot of credit for that."* In June of 2009, the first Convocation ceremony following independence was held and 60 students opted for an Algoma U degree, becoming history-makers.



# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

## Team Jacobs Follow Your Dream Bursary: Helps Student-Athletes Go For Gold

By: Nadine Robinson

For Team Jacobs, consisting of skip Brad Jacobs, Ryan Fry, and brothers E.J. Harnden and Ryan Harnden, winning the gold medal for men's curling at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, was a life-changing moment.

*"It's difficult to explain—it's one of those things that in order for people to fully understand what it was like, they would have had to have been at the Olympics with us. It was like living in an amusement park for athletes,"* explains Brad Jacobs.

The curlers now want to help incoming Algoma U students achieve their own athletic and academic goals. The Team Jacobs Follow Your Dream Bursary is an athletic financial award for student-athletes entering Algoma University and participating in an Ontario University Athletics (OUA) varsity sport.

Brad, E.J. and Ryan Harnden share a close connection with the University. All are Algoma U graduates and their mothers have worked at the University.

*"We used to wander the halls of Algoma U when we were toddlers, way before the campus was as large as it is today. It holds a special place in our hearts."*

The team members feel there is a need to support student-athletes because many of Algoma's current bursaries focus solely on academic achievements.

*"Sport has always been an integral part of our lives. Since we were very young, we all dreamt of becoming Olympic gold medalists. We encourage people, especially kids and young adults, to dream big and follow their passions in life."*

*"We hope that the recipients of this bursary will go on to make a difference in the lives of others and in their communities. We hope they will have the courage to stick to what they're passionate about and not be afraid to dream big!"*

The team has launched an annual golf tournament, the Team Jacobs Celebrity Golf Event, to raise funds for the bursary. This year, funds raised will also support the Sault Area Hospital's neo-natal care division. The team also supports other community events and local charities, including the Torch Run for Special Olympics, and fundraisers for the Algoma Residential CommunityHospice (ARCH) and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

This April, the team took the 2015 Players' Championship Grand Slam of Curling title and now looks forward to a summer break. Beyond that, they are preparing for the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea.

*"As soon as this season started, it was business as usual; lots of practicing, travel, physical and mental training, and playing on the World Curling Tour. We know we need to be even better in 2018. We need to continue to improve every curling season so that when it's time to qualify for South Korea, we will be the best athletes we can be at that time."*

The team members, young in the sport of curling, are committed to accomplishing even more in the future.

*"We love to curl and compete. What motivates us is to continue to strive for more. We want to show people that anything is possible. We stuck to our passion in life and accomplished something great. We encourage others to overcome adversity along the way and find their passion and stick to it without compromise."*



Photo credit: Anil Mungal, *The Curling News*

# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

## Supporting Student Leaders By: Nadine Robinson

Brady Irwin was the Chair of the Board of Governors at Algoma University when two trains of thought converged into one solution. He'd been looking for a way to honour his father and wanted to help tackle a community problem as well. The Hon. Ronald A. Irwin Student Leadership Bursary was the solution.

*"Why wait to pay tribute to dad's achievements? I said to my sisters. Why not get a bursary started while he is still an active member of this community and can be recognized as such."*

A tribute to their father wasn't the only reason for the bursary: Brady had recognized that the brain drain was a major issue for the Sault while in his role as a City Councillor. *"I ran a Youth Council where the high schools sent delegates to take part in a mock council. Many of these student leaders soon left the Sault for university. Similarly, from my own graduating class, only a third are still in town, and most of my friends are long gone. I realized that it was worse than a brain drain, it was a leadership drain. I wanted to do something to retain stars in the community, but at the time I didn't know what that looked like."*

*"Reminiscing about dad's ties to the formative years of the Shingwauk Educational Trust brought the answer. We'd offer a bursary with the hope of retaining strong leaders in the Sault, recognizing that if you choose a northern college or university, there is a better chance you will stay here, grow roots here, and be a meaningful part of this community."*

It took several years of fundraising for the Irwin siblings to build up the bursary to the level that it would become self-sustaining, but the bursary

has now had its first two recipients and the family is thrilled. *"If you do it over time and work as a team, you can create something special. Our bursary reflects a lot of people contributing, including people that knew my parents all of their lives, and of course my sisters Nicole Irwin and Toni Rutherford."*

Demonstrated student leadership and financial need are the requirements to receive the bursary, reflective of their father's path. *"Dad was the first of his family to attend university, and he worked for everything he had, growing up in the city's west end. We hope to see high school leaders, like my father was in his day, apply for this bursary, but it is also available to current Algoma U students."*

*"Our father had an exceptional career, and has done more for, and had more diverse roles in, the community than probably anyone in the history of the city. He was alderman, mayor, MP, Minister of Indian Affairs, and Ambassador to Ireland. In 1975, he was made a Member of the Order of Canada. Not unlike Ben Franklin, he did everything, and it all started when he was student president in high school at Sault Collegiate. Now he's enjoying his well-deserved retirement in the Sault."*

*"The Hon. Ronald A. Irwin Student Leadership Bursary is meant to remind students that you can live in Northern Ontario and have a great life and make a big difference. We're looking for tomorrow's leaders and we hope this bursary will help them on a path not unlike our father's. It's a false understanding of greatness to think that you have to go away to make a name for yourself. You can stay here and be great, starting with an education at Algoma University."*



Hon. Ronald A. Irwin

**For information on how you can establish a scholarship or bursary contact:**

**Bev Teller, CFRE**  
Alumni & Development Officer  
Algoma University, 1520 Queen St. E.  
SSM, ON P6A 2G4  
Ph: 705.949.2301, Ext. 4125

## Diversity and Internationalization at Algoma U

By: Jessica Ferlaino

For many years, Algoma University has attracted international students to its campus, explained David Marasco, Registrar at Algoma University. These students have left their homes and all that they know to embark on their academic journey, calling Sault Ste. Marie home and relying on Algoma University, as an institution, to support their efforts to learn and grow in a new, and sometimes challenging, environment.

Few in number in the early years, international students not only participate in learning but also in teaching, as international students contribute significantly to student life on campus, sharing their traditions and cultures, while at the same time, embracing their experiences at the small liberal arts institution they chose to attend in Northern Ontario, primarily for Business, Finance, Economics, and Computer Science.

International students now represent a quarter of the student population at Algoma University, the maximum level at which Algoma U plans on sustaining. Their recruitment efforts continue in order to replace the growing numbers of outgoing, graduating international students who now represent 32 countries from around the world - a testament to the work being done by International Student Services and Recruitment!

Over the last five to six years, Algoma University has developed an international student strategy and has aggressively recruited international students from all around the world. Site visits are of utmost importance as it allows Algoma U to develop relationships with their international counterparts, building trust and ensuring that students from all countries and all walks of life will be academically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually supported.

*"It is vital for Algoma U to have direct personal contact with international applicants and their families,"* shared Director of International Recruitment, Joanne Elvy. *"Anyone applying from outside of Canada has particular questions and queries - that need to be handled in a personalized and caring way. It is a big commitment for parents to send their children to a foreign country to study - financial, emotional, situational and otherwise."*

In order to support these students and to ensure that they are equipped to enter academic studies, Algoma University has established an English as a Second Language (ESL) program, which many students take in preparation for their studies, advancing only when deemed ready for success. Dr. Hanna Lin and her team administer ESL at Algoma University, a noteworthy area of growth on campus.

*"We've worked hard to strengthen our program to receive accreditation from Languages Canada,"* explained Dr. Lin, English for Academic Purposes Officer. *"ESL at Algoma is often the first program that many of the international students take when they arrive at AU. I am confident that this program is valuable for Algoma University and will continue playing an essential role in Algoma U's internationalization process."*

David Marasco gives full credit to the faculty at Algoma University who are passionate about student success and are dedicated to moving students forward. *"The faculty has always been very supportive in assisting students in strengthening their academic skills and in achieving their academic goals while preparing them for their careers or other educational endeavours,"* he explained.

International students not only make the most of their educational experience at Algoma U, but also contribute to the experiences of domestic students and the community as a whole. Algoma University continues to identify new emerging markets from which to draw international students, building relationships and networks from which to grow. There is also a Study Abroad program on campus to extend the same meaningful international opportunities for domestic students.





Ross family (from left to right): Pam, Ron, Andrew and Marissa.

## Ross family and Algoma U Go Way Back

By: Marc Capancioni

Throughout the past 50 years, Algoma University has grown by leaps and bounds from a small satellite campus to a globally-recognized independent institution.

The Ross family of Sault Ste. Marie, has had a front row seat for much of this transformation. Ron and Pam, along with their children, Andrew and Marissa, have directly interacted with the University in various capacities over the years.

During the late-1960s, Ron enrolled in the school's political science program. At that time, long before computers became mainstream, essays were hand-written and double spaced. *"It was very crude compared to today's standards,"* he remembers fondly. *"Because of the small class sizes, which still largely exist today, we were able to get to know our professors. It was great."*

Ron, who also played varsity hockey for Algoma U during his stead and was coached by both Steve Wochy and George Leach, attended teacher's college after graduating. He later returned home to apply his craft as an elementary school educator. *"Algoma U provided me with a solid learning foundation and a great sense of belonging,"* he says.

Ron's wife, Pam, started working for Algoma U in 1969 when it was located

on the campus of Sault College. She spent the next 37 years with the University, mostly in the role of Faculty Secretary.

Over the next few years, growth at the institution was rapid. *"We were running out of space,"* says Pam. *"After we moved to the school's present site on Queen Street, enrolment continued to increase, as did the number of faculty and staff. We all went through growing pains together."*

Ron and Pam, who met in high school and began dating while they were both at Algoma U, got married in 1977. Soon after, the couple bought a house near the University. Children followed shortly thereafter.

The first, a son named Andrew, would often visit his mom at work as a child. *"We grew up there,"* he says. *"Some of my earliest memories involve the University. It was very interesting to watch the school grow over the years."*

Andrew later enrolled at Algoma U and graduated in 2004 with a degree in Business Administration. Using that training, he has been working for the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation for the past seven years, most recently as the organization's General Manager of Enterprise Services.

Andrew, who now leads a number of major economic development projects, including the Small Business Incubator at Mill Square, is a current board member and former chair of the Algoma U Alumni Council. He's also a former chair of the Algoma U Foundation.

Meanwhile, the Ross' second child, Marissa, also remembers being on the Algoma U campus visiting mom at a very young age. And she followed in her parents' footsteps as well, enrolling in the school's English program in 2001. After graduating, she obtained a Master of Arts degree at Simon Fraser University.

Wanting to return home, Marissa was thrilled when she was hired as an Adjunct Professor in the English and Film Department of Algoma U. *"Although the campus has grown over time, my experience teaching is actually similar to my experiences as a student,"* she says. *"As an instructor, I have opportunities for professional growth and am able to work on great projects and see the other side of academia. Hopefully, I can have somewhat of a similar impact on the students I meet as my professors had on me."*

Simply put, the Ross family and Algoma University go way, way back. And the ties between the family and school remain as solid as ever.

# Message from the Alumni & Foundation Office

By: Bev Teller, CFRE, *Alumni & Development Officer*



Reaching 50 years is an impressive milestone. Depending on where your vantage point is in life it may seem like a long time or a fleeting memory.

For Algoma University, it's an opportunity to celebrate 50 years of growth, of providing students from our community, the north, across the province, country and around the world with an education that can only be provided in a smaller more personal setting. One that many other larger institutions look to emulate.

For graduates, it's a new beginning, fond memories, a chance to make a fresh start, the beginning of a path in life, or a reflection on one's success and journey. As members of the Algoma U family, it's a feeling of accomplishment, knowing that we have the opportunity to change people's lives through support and knowledge, building relationships, and

being a part of a bigger community, one that has no boundaries.

For supporters and friends of Algoma University, it is an opportunity to make a difference, to give back, to help others as they have been helped, to leave one's legacy to a generation of future leaders. To pay tribute to a place or a person who has significantly impacted their lives.

For the community, Algoma University has and continues to be an important part of economic growth, a vital part of attracting new people and new businesses to our community. It's a place to learn, to share, to teach, to inspire and to be inspired.

One of the best things about being a part of Algoma U is the impact that you can personally have on people's lives, as well as the growth and success of the institution. Algoma University has always been more than an institution

of higher learning. From the very beginning it was a dream, a collective vision by a group of community members who saw a need for a university to serve the north. It was an investment in the future of our students, our community and our region. Over the years, sacrifices have been made by many to keep the dream alive because they believed in the vision. It has been and continues to be a journey, an investment in the future, a place of personal growth and acceptance. Algoma University is rich with history and tradition. History is being made every day. Every page in this magazine tells a piece about that story. Our beginnings, our challenges, our triumphs, our hopes and dreams fulfilled.

Congratulations to all who have been a part of Algoma University's rich history and congratulations in celebrating 50 years.

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# Algoma U Homecoming

This year's Homecoming is bigger than ever! With new events to highlight our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, there are more reasons than ever to come home and relive your Algoma experience in the 2015 Homecoming celebration!

Our celebration kicks-off on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> and runs until Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and features events at our ever-growing campus as well as throughout Sault Ste. Marie.

Our Homecoming celebration is open to any alumni from Algoma University, Algoma University College, and the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, current students, family and friends, as well as the general public.

We'll be bringing back the ever-popular and staple Homecoming event, the alumni basketball games, as well as the third annual Algoma U Colour Dash. And of course we'll be hosting another Acoustic Open Mic Night with great cash prizes - but remember, come early as this show always sells out! With ethnic dinners, recreational and varsity-level sporting events, and live entertainment, there's something for everyone. And in the spirit of tradition and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we'll be bringing back hockey, hosting a good ol' hockey game.

For more information, please visit [www.algomau.ca/homecoming](http://www.algomau.ca/homecoming). Check back soon for a schedule of events.





As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, the office tucked in the back right corner of the Dean's Office went vacant. Its bookshelves are now empty. The Western University and Carleton University degrees are absent. The room on the third floor of the North Wing remains an empty reminder of Dr. Arthur Perlini's astounding 13-year reign as Academic Dean of Algoma University.

Dr. Perlini first came to Algoma University as a faculty member in the spring of 1992. He became a tenured member of the faculty complement in psychology in 1996, and from there, was promoted to Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor. With a background in cognitive, personality, and social psychology, Perlini has a breadth of published research, much of which shares recognition with Algoma U students.

In 2001, he became Academic Dean commencing his career as the longest-serving Academic Dean in the history of Algoma U. He considers his 13 years in this role as one of his greatest lessons and educational experiences. *"I would describe my experience as an extraordinary education."* Aside from

# 13 Years Comes to an End

By: Meaghan Kent

planning budgets, personnel hiring and evaluation, curriculum evaluations and planning, labour relations, creating and maintaining institutional partnerships, and ensuring quality assurance, Dr. Perlini had tough lessons to learn. *"I learned how to do more-with-less, how authority is a responsibility (not solely a right), how engaging-is-enabling and that we all prosper when leaders are mindful about removing organizational barriers for our collective success... Taken together, I would say that my term... has been an 'extraordinary education' from which, I've become transformed."*

Dr. Perlini served as Academic Dean during an era of rapid and immense change. When he first stepped into the role, the post-secondary institution was still affiliated with Laurentian University. However, that changed in 2008 when Algoma University College transitioned to Algoma U. Dr. Perlini was an instrumental figurehead who helped push forward Algoma U's independence. Dr. Perlini was also instrumental in helping bring Algoma U membership to the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, securing Tri-Council grant eligibility, and drastically expanding academic programming, the faculty complement, and the student body. Dr. Perlini is quick to add, however, that such achievements are not just his. *"In University administration... few accomplishments or achievements are singular; instead, they're shared... Particularly notable as significant co-agents of change were our former President Dr. Celia Ross and Board Chair Bud Wildman, without whom our University's transformation would*

*not have been possible. Our lengthy, concurrent terms – to my mind – reflected an earned confidence and trust of all stakeholders that, in turn, galvanized our collective efforts to create transformative success."*

Throughout his time at the University, Dr. Perlini has worked tirelessly to help others reach their goals, and has done so by nurturing talent. *"In order to do this, it's been important to be single-minded about working tirelessly to remove barriers to the success of others... If the University exists for any reason, it must include the provision of opportunity for one to become better, and ideally – their best."* For Dr. Perlini, seeing people's goals come to fruition and people become their absolute best has been a privilege and made his career so worthwhile. And by nurturing talent, Perlini is keeping with the original core governing principle of Algoma U, which was stated by Principal Krug in 1967, *"to teach persons, not subjects."*

His time as Academic Dean, which represents a quarter of the University's 50 years of existence, is nothingshort of remarkable. In his role, Dr. Perlini met countless students, staff, faculty, and community members, many of which he has left a lasting impression with. Many will remember the wisdom and guidance he has bestowed, his positive and influential teachings, and his warm, friendly greetings in the halls. Although he has left his role as Academic Dean, he assures his ties to the University will never cease. *"My plans are unfolding though rest assured my ties to the University, are ties that bind."*



# Reflections on Dr. Arthur Perlini

*"With great patience and a steady work ethic, Arthur has organized us and inspired us. He has kept us moving forward when, with our independent academic natures, we have been more inclined to scatter like kernels of popcorn, off in every direction. His many years as Academic Dean, easily the most stressful job at AU, don't seem to have managed to deplete his energy in the slightest. We will miss his detailed e-mails, his ready availability for consultation, his sincere interest in how each one of us is faring. All the best, Arthur!"*

**—Dr. Celia Ross, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages, former President of Algoma University.**

*"Arthur has been a tremendous asset to the University over the years. His innate aptitude for educating his co-workers and his extreme willingness to collaborate will be greatly missed by the AU Admin team. Arthur will continue to be a trusted and valued member of the AU Community and I look forward to having Arthur as a colleague and friend for years to come."*

**—Sean Dwyer, Vice President Finance and Administration, Algoma University.**

*"Dr. Perlini has served Algoma University well with his leadership of enhanced program development, program quality, and faculty research and advancement. As part of the University's mandate to provide access to post-secondary education, Arthur has championed efforts collaboratively with all stakeholders of the institution."*

**—Dave Marasco, Registrar, Algoma University.**

*"...It is rare to find a Dean that shows a genuine interest in the Academy, as an institution, and takes time to understand its many traditions, customs, observances, and rules. This knowledge served Algoma well, as it transitioned from a satellite of Laurentian University to a full-fledged independent University, and meant, among other things, that Algoma University's 'new' academic programming would be rooted in something meaningful and substantive... So, kudos to Arthur for helping ensure that Sault Ste. Marie's 'small university' could actually deliver a 'big education'. Simply put, his contributions have been worthwhile and instrumental."*

**—Dr. Neil Cruickshank, Assistant Professor in Political Science and Chair of the Department of Law and Politics, Algoma University.**

*"I enjoyed very much working with Arthur as he is always willing to listen and help find the solution to the myriad of problems that find their way to his desk. With his help we overcame many obstacles in our efforts to grow the Business Program and provide an excellent undergraduate education to our students. Arthur truly cares about Algoma University and he works tirelessly to ensure that faculty are supported in their endeavours and students are given every opportunity to attain their goals. I am going to miss him!"*

**—Cathy Denomme, Associate Professor of Business and Economics, Algoma University.**

*"Arthur Perlini has been my go to guy for the last 13 years. Without his insight, we would not have a Foundation program in Mathematics at Algoma. He treated sessional and part-time faculty with the same regard as tenured faculty and was receptive to new ideas from them. Dr. Perlini was the first Dean that struck me as anything other than a caretaker of a position. He actually worked at being a Dean. His most valuable asset is not a scholarly or professional trait, it is his ever-present sense of humour. He never takes himself too seriously,"*

**—Fred MacWilliam, Adjunct Professor of Mathematics, Algoma University.**

*"When I was a student at Algoma University, it was Arthur 'the Dean' that I looked up to and admired. Over the past few years, I realized it was Arthur 'the person' that had been a role model to me. Going forward, I hope it will be Arthur 'my friend' who continues to be a positive impact in my life. I wish you the best in the next chapter of your life,"*

**—Mike Biocchi, Programmer Analyst, Algoma University.**

*"During my tenure as VP External on AUSU, I had the pleasure of working with Arthur on several occasions on matters regarding the academic concerns of individual students. It never ceased to amaze me how much he would do to make sure student issues were resolved fairly and quickly. He was always able to meet... He took a real interest in our goals. To Arthur, we weren't just numbers – we were real people with real hopes and dreams. Arthur, you have left big shoes to fill. All the best in your future endeavours,"*

**—Kaitlyn Teller, Student Rights and Advocacy Coordinator at Durham College and UOIT.**



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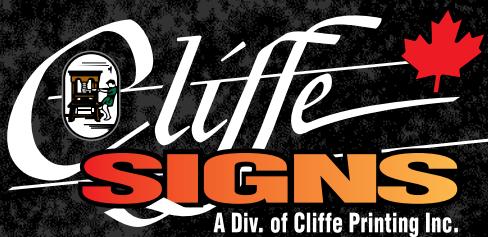
Statements, Business Correspondence, Invoices, Business Reply Mail, Solicitation for Donations, Flyers, Coupons, Invitations, Event Mail, Newsletters, Reports & more.

**Services:** Address Verification, Mail Merge - Personalized Mailing, Data Entry, Database Management & Maintenance, Duplication Elimination



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✓Banners: Paper, Vinyl, Retractable,

Banner Up, Bamboo X & more!

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✓Frosted/Metallic/Flat Decals & Labels

✓Building & Roadside Signage

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✓Recreational Vehicle

Registration Numbers

& Graphics

✓Installation

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