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Dr. Celia Ross

President, Algoma University College

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

By: Deborah Loosemore, CFRE Director of Advancement and External Relations, Algoma U



As the beautiful fall colours around us fade and the academic year switches into high gear, the pace of life on the Algoma U campus is ramping up. Classes are humming, the new 'Speak Easy' Lounge is becoming one of the hottest new venues in town, and student clubs and societies are in full swing. There's an event calendar on the website 'www.algomau.ca' that gives a full picture of life at Algoma U – take a look when you have a moment. You may be surprised – I know that many of the people who were part of Reunion 2005 this past July were thrilled at the changes that have recently taken place around here.

The Alumni Council, with the assistance of Bev Teller, Alumni Officer, and Travis Hannah our co-op student, did a stellar job organizing Reunion 2005. You'll see lots of pictures in this issue. It was wonderful to see Alumni and retired faculty who had not been on campus for 10, 20 or even 30 years share old memories as they wandered down familiar and not-so-familiar halls.

This issue of Algoma U Today is crammed with the news of the last six months, and the highlights of today. You'll also find in-depth profiles of some of the interesting people who are part of the Algoma U community.

Also in this issue, the Chair of the Algoma

University College Foundation, Robert J. Dumanski, presents the Foundation's annual Community Report. The Foundation raises funds to provide scholarships and bursaries to Algoma U students, to fund capital projects, and for other special projects important to Algoma U. The Board of Directors of the Foundation is pleased to report on a successful year that saw the Foundation establish new endowed funds, as well as see an increase in the number of donations to the Annual Campaign.

The Annual Campaign provides funding for Awards of Excellence – the entrance and continuing scholarships that are given to Ontario Scholars. As the entrance average at Algoma U has climbed to above 77%, more and more students are eligible for these scholarships. Top donors to the Annual Campaign are highlighted on a special Donor Wall in the foyer of the ICT Centre – if you are on campus please take a moment to check it out.

Please let me know what you think of the Donor Wall, and other communication initiatives like the 2005 Community Report.

If you have any ideas, questions, or comments to share, please do not hesitate to call me at 705-949-2301, ext. 4115. I can also be reached at loosemore@algomau.ca. I'd love to hear from you.



WHAT TO STUDY WHEN I GET TO UNIVERSITY?

By: Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma University College

Tun

What to study when I get to university? High school students tend to follow trends, and a current trend across North America is to study science. At Algoma U, we see the trend in growing science enrolments. Our newest course this year is Forensic Science

(PHYS 1026). It is proving most popular, and we welcome Dr. Cappelli, from Sault Ste. Marie's Forensic Science laboratory, as lecturer.

At Algoma U, we are continuing to build our science offerings, working in partnership with the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, a federal research lab located just down the road from us on Queen Street. We now have both a Biology and a Chemistry lab located at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. The GLFC staff are making our students feel very welcome, and we are able to use some of their other facilities, such as a section of their large greenhouse for our plants.

When I go to the Great Lakes Forestry Centre for meetings or to visit, I'm always very proud to see the Algoma University College logo on the door of Prof. Susan Meades' plant lab. Prof. Meades, a long-time instructor in Biology at Algoma, is leading a taxonomy project to build a computerized database of the plants of our boreal and mixed-wood forest. The project involves various partners who have herbaria featuring northern Ontario plants: Laurentian University, Lakehead University, and the Royal Ontario Museum. Sue Meades and her team describe and catalogue plants held by these herberia in order to provide a baseline understanding of Northern Ontario plant material.

With Canada's ongoing biodiversity commitments, increasing pressure on native species from accidentally introduced exotic species, and habitat change resulting from shifts in our climate, the project's computerized database will be an essential research tool.

A great deal of today's scientific research depends on collaboration between different institutions and their scientists. In Sault Ste. Marie, the organization ULERN, or Upper Great Lakes Environmental Research Network, has been an outstanding tool for pulling together innovative groups of scientists. ULERN then assists the scientists in obtaining research grants.

ULERN's collaboration was important in Algoma U's proposal for a Canada Research Chair. In this Algoma U Today magazine, you will read about Dr. Jenny Cory and her work in molecular ecology. Dr. Cory's presence in Sault Ste. Marie will be most beneficial not only to the University, where she will play a lead role in ongoing program developments, but also to the research community where she will be working closely with existing research teams.

In the midst of all this activity, a new event is raising awareness of science opportunities in the younger crowd. Youth Science Forum, a brainchild of yet another local science-based organization, Science Entreprise Algoma, pulled together young public-school and high-school students from throughout our district for a three-day science extravaganza last winter. Algoma U is taking a lead role in planning the next Youth Science Forum in two years time. The presence of Canadian science gurus and the collective energy of hundreds of grade 8 and 9 students energized many of us last year, and we're looking forward to a great repeat in 2006-07.

Innovation in science will lead Canada through a prosperous and healthy twentyfirst century. Algoma University College will be playing an active role!



SCIENCE: WHY AND WHAT IF

By: Dr. Arthur H. Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma University College



As a boy, my mother often remarked about how naturally curious I was, often asking questions of why and what if. Like all children, I sampled the world through my senses and the experience was immediate. The experience of all children is gleaned by interacting with the world, collecting information in order to make sense of things and watching others who had already made sense of the world. Children's fascination with zoos, museums and science centres reflects the immediacy of those experiences and the opportunities for surprise that these settings proffer. Childlike interest and surprise is far from childish; in many ways, our lives depend on it.

Today we know that *interest* is a motivational state that applies to all animals (*including humans*) across our evolutionary history. From birth, interest plays a key survival role in helping orient our attention so that we can adapt to our environment. Initially, it leads to surprise and occasionally a permanent sense of wonder. Science is simply a way of knowing the world, one through which we use our senses and logic to make "sense" of the world we live in. Indeed, it is only one of many methods to

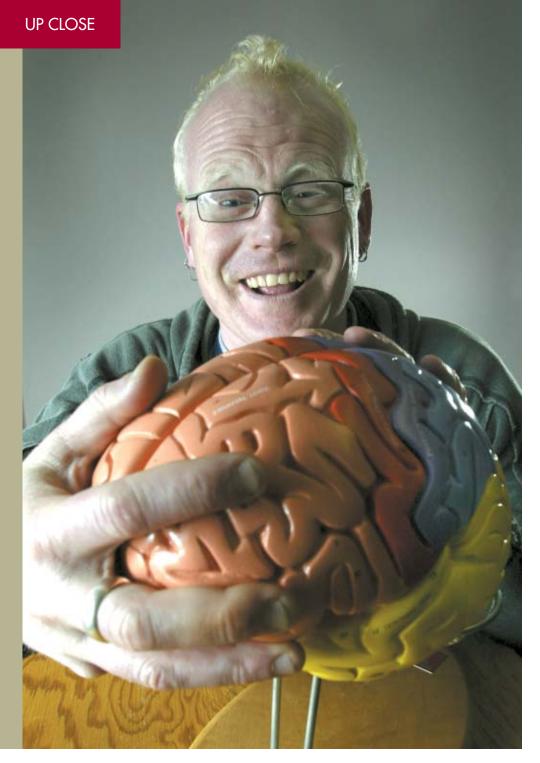
know the world; others include faith, authority, and intuition. However, science is one method that many agree is best suited to answer our childlike questions of why and what if, as it is a method aimed at explanation and prediction. And while thought to be a method aimed at acquiring truth, it's proponents are characterized by humility insofar that the truths they seek are only tentative until better explanations might be found --- an analytical, critical and, above all else, corrective method of knowing our world.

The value of science --- including its study and support --- is inestimable. On a broad scale, strong research and development is associated with social and economic advantage --- today our children hold in their hands more powerful communications technology than could fit in a large-size room, only 40 years ago. A productive economy is one that benefits all citizens. An economy supportive of scientific research helps provide the necessary evidence that guides our decision makers, both corporate and government policies and practices. Scientific research activity responds to matters of public interest and issue; mid-century efforts on the "race to space" have shifted to the 21st century pursuits of energy, environment and communications. Villages are global and our focus has shifted from competition to cooperation, connection rather than separation --- today we live in a borderless community.

Universities are at the forefront of scientific research and development. In addition, to preparing the scientists that will undertake

the research and discoveries that will eventually change our lives, universities also play a role in helping to create a scientifically literate culture. The importance of this contribution cannot be underestimated as these lessons have a fundamental effect on our lives and our experience. This is not because there is greater "value" in accepting an empirical or scientific view of our world; rather it is because our understanding and knowledge of that view changes our experience and ultimately the way in which we live with one another. Understanding necessarily carries with it various ways in which a matter might be viewed; such complexity and controversy engages our interest, motivates us to learn more about an issue and how this issue fits with our lives and the lives of others. Ultimately, this engagement of interest and deeper analysis creates decisions that are informed --experiences that are enriched --- by understanding. As a way of knowing the world, science asks not of our acceptance, simply our understanding --- our knowledge, not our belief. In this way, it respects the diversity of opinion that characterizes human beings and provides a means by which we can understand one another and the world in which we live. Indeed, a scientifically literate culture is one that helps bring us together.

The next time you look at an infant or child, remember: what is reflected in their eyes is *why* and *what if.* These questions, and the pursuits that they foster, bring us all closer together.



DR. DAVID BRODBECK "PICKING HIS STUDENT'S BRAINS!"

By: Liisa McMillan

After spending much of his 10-year teaching career at Memorial University of Newfoundland, **Dr. David Brodbeck** is enthusiastic about his return to Algoma U's Psychology Department this fall.

In fact, not even an opportunity to teach at the prestigious University of Oxford or Duke University could sway Brodbeck's decision. He wanted to remain in Canada, and had his sights set on Algoma U.

"I like living in a place that's a bit smaller," Brodbeck said. "I didn't have to leave Newfoundland, but I wanted to come closer to home in Ontario." Prior to teaching in Newfoundland, Brodbeck had the opportunity to teach at Algoma U for one year. "When I left here, I felt like there was unfinished business," he said. "I felt like I belonged."

Although Brodbeck lived throughout Ontario while growing up, he did spend the first two years of his life in Sault Ste. Marie.

Now with plans to remain here, Brodbeck is excited about the changes happening around campus and is looking forward to a

bright future for the university. In fact, the diversity of the students is one of the things that brought Brodbeck back to Algoma U.

"I was used to diversity, but seeing what was happening here was a real transformation," he said. "There are people from all over the world coming here, and I think that's exciting."

Brodbeck said the opportunity to interact and build personal relationships with other faculty members makes a big difference. This is more difficult at a larger institution. "Here, I know the President, the Dean, and so I feel as though there is a shared purpose in being here," Brodbeck said. "Faculty, staff, students, we all work together. From a faculty perspective, it can be enriching." It's the opendoor policy that Brodbeck believes is a major advantage to both faculty and students alike.

After completing his M.Sc. and Ph.D. at the University of Toronto in 1989, Brodbeck moved on to a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Western Ontario, where he ran a research lab. This allowed him to specialize and gain experience in his chosen area, animal cognition. It also gave him the opportunity to work with individuals in the field whose work he knew and respected.

Brodbeck loved this entrance into the world of animal cognition, since it allowed him to do the "hard core" experimental research and training he so thoroughly enjoyed.

"I love teaching, and I love research," Brodbeck explained. "With research, there's a moment when you realize something that six billion other people don't know, and that's a powerful feeling."

Initially, Brodbeck entered psychology with the idea that he would help others; however, after the experience of peer counselling, he realized it wasn't for him. "I didn't think I could handle other people's problems." The realization prompted Brodbeck to change his direction to academia. Since then, he's never doubted it was the right direction.

His passion for his work is evident. In fact, Brodbeck himself is in awe of the very material he teaches, and brings an enthusiasm that is needed in any classroom. Brodbeck sincerely believes he is making a difference in his students' lives, and it is that sincerity that makes him a valuable addition to Algoma U. "In making a difference in someone's life, you're opening their eyes to something new."



PROFESSOR SUSAN J. MEADES: A PASSION FOR BOTANY

By: Liisa McMillan

Algoma U's Professor Sue Meades discovered her passion for botany by chance.

discovered her passion for botany by chance. "I started as an artist, but I had a botany course that was interesting, and botany quickly became more important to me," Meades said. "Now I use my art as a tool in my botany."

Throughout her 28-year career as a field botanist, Meades has found a way to successfully merge her two passions in life. She is the senior author of the Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as Natural Regions of Newfoundland and Labrador. Meades has also illustrated numerous books, including a forestry reference entitled "Indicator Plants Species in Canadian Forests."

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Botany) from Rutgers, near her hometown of North Arlington, New Jersey, Meades went on to complete her M.Sc. in Botany from Eastern Illinois University. She is a Ph.D. candidate (Plant Systematics) at the University of Connecticut. It was there that

Meades met her husband, Bill, who worked with the Canadian Forest Service in Newfoundland, a place they subsequently called home for the next 17 years. Upon her arrival in Newfoundland, Meades was hired by a consulting firm to describe vegetation types throughout Newfoundland and Labrador. She continued to work on her Ph.D. part-time, but then, as Sue describes it, "life intervened."

"We started a family. Tragically, our second child, Billy, died shortly after birth." While dealing with her grief, Meades put aside her studies and worked with other bereaved mothers to improve the way hospitals dealt with dying infants and their families, and later participated as a parent counselor in the first bereaved parents group in Newfoundland. "As a result of this experience, I chose to concentrate on my family, which is a decision I have never regretted." In addition to raising their two children, Debby and Sean, Meades continued to work part-time as a consultant and was instrumental in the establishment of Burnt Cape Ecological Reserve, a unique limestone barren site in northern-most Newfoundland.

After her husband was transferred to the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie in 1995, Meades continued to return to

Newfoundland each summer. Her love of the area persists, and she is working on a project she started while residing there, writing and illustrating a field guide to the native wildflowers of Newfoundland and Labrador. "There is no book for Newfoundland flora right now," Meades said. "There are touristoriented books, but nothing with accurate botanical descriptions. This book will be useful for the general public, but also for students studying the Newfoundland flora."

Meades is also the project leader of the Northern Ontario Plant Database (NOPD) project, a comprehensive website host to over 60,000 records of herbarium specimen in Northern Ontario. The site experiences over 12,500 "hits" per month, and Meades said information requests have come from as far away as Italy.

The NOPD project began in May 2002, with an award from the Ontario Living Legacy Trust (LLT) to Algoma University College, the lead partner, and 13 educational, government and forest industry partners. It has grown to include 19 partners and recently was awarded a 2-year grant from Ontario Forestry Futures. As part of the NOPD project, Meades is currently collaborating with Peter Ryser of Laurentian University to offer an intensive one-week course on plant identification in the spring of 2006 at the Canadian Ecology Centre in Mattawa.

"Since the focus at larger educational institutions is on molecular level systematics, fewer students are taught how to identify plants in the field," Meades said. "This skill is very important to anyone working in the field of natural resources, which is an important employment field in northern Ontario." The course will provide foresters and botany students with the resources and skills necessary to identify all plant groups to the species level.

As an adjunct professor in the Biology Department at Algoma U since 1997, Meades teaches a variety of courses, including Principles of Ecology, Diversity of Vascular Plants and Plant Systematics.

"Through my work as a consultant, I learned that field experience is the most effective way to train botanists, so my labs incorporate field techniques and skills that will be particularly useful for students seeking jobs related to natural resources," she said. "Students who work with us on the NOPD project also gain experience in identification and collecting, as well as skills in herbarium and database management."

You can find the NOPD website at: www.northernontarioflora.ca



GREAT LAKES FORESTRY CENTRE AND ALGOMA U:

A WINNING PARTNERSHIP

By: Donna Woldanski, Communications, Algoma U

"Natural Resources Canada is one of the largest science-based departments in Canada and since the mid-1990s, its focus has been on establishing partnerships to create a knowledge-based economy," said Pardeep Ahluwalia, Director General, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Natural Resources Canada. The GLFC is located only a few minutes away from Algoma U.

"Often people think of communications or information technology when they hear "knowledge based economy", but it also applies to natural resources."

Algoma U and the GLFC share more than a geographic neighbourhood: they both promote and develop life sciences education, research capacity and economic impact. Sharing expertise, resources, and facilities, Algoma U and GLFC have created a partnership that uses the best that both institutions offer to bolster the science and technology sector in Northern Ontario.

Students enrolled in biology or chemistry at Algoma U take their lab classes at the Mary Guyon Memorial Laboratories at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre. The laboratories were renovated and equipped for the students, using a generous gift to the university from the estate of Mary Guyon. A number of GLFC scientists are Research Affiliates or instructors with Algoma U, and some of the students have the opportunity to be part of the Herbarium Project and the pan-Northern Research Project running at the GLFC. "These students are our feeder group for future potential staff," said Ahluwalia.

The GLFC and Algoma U are exploring ways to expand their partnership. One early development has been the creation of *Science Enterprise Algoma*, or "seA", with other stakeholders in the science and technology arena. *Science Enterprise Algoma* (seA) is working to help researchers and institutions bring the results of their research investments to the corporate sector. Errol Caldwell, Executive Director of seA, said his primary mandate is to assist in bringing science-based commercial initiatives to fruition.

This entrepreneurial connection brings the partnership full-circle back to Algoma U, as the campus now hosts the Sault Ste Marie Innovation Centre's New Business Incubator. Located in Algoma U's new ICT Centre, the incubator is providing support, training, and mentoring to science and technology entrepreneurs.





↑ Margo Shaw, Executive Director,

↑ From left to right: Errol Caldwell, Director, Science Enterprise Algoma (seA); Angie Wagner, Administrative Assistant/Special Events Coordinator, ULERN; Craig Zimmerman, Communications Officer, ULERN.

ULERN TAKING A 360 DEGREE VIEW OF SCIENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

By: Cindy Ellen Crawford

The search for funding is often a familiar process. Apply and wait. Upper Lakes Environmental Research Network (ULERN) takes a more proactive approach with a 360 degree view of science research and development funding.

As a member-based organization, representing industry, government, academic, non-profit and First Nations sectors, ULERN provides opportunities for networking and co-operation, facilitating collaborative R & D projects. In addition, ULERN creates jobs and training opportunities for students and recent grads, and organizes conferences, workshops and science events.

Since its inception in 1997, ULERN has secured more than \$15.5 million in funding, which has been leveraged by partners to \$45 million. Although every project is deemed worthy, it was helping Algoma U to secure a Tier One, Canada Research Chair that was particularly rewarding to Margo Shaw, Executive Director. Dr. Jenny Cory, holder of the research chair, is a world-renowned

virologist from Oxford University.

"That was a feather in our cap," said Shaw. It involved Algoma U and the Great Lakes Forestry Centre working closely together, securing funding totalling \$1.75 million for Dr. Cory's salary and basic research needs for the next seven years. The Canada Foundation for Innovation and the Ontario Ministry of Economic Development & Trade added the funds to purchase required lab equipment.

"This is a fascinating job," Shaw continued. "We spend our days working with people who are nationally or globally recognized experts in their field and we get to play a small but exciting role in the whole research and development process."

Other recent projects include the Northern Ontario Plant DataBase Project, the Canada Yew: Developing a Value Added Crop for Northern Ontario, and the Youth Science Forum. The forum was conceived to encourage students to consider science education and careers.

"A staff member is assigned to work with the applicant and help them in any way possible," said Shaw, who describes staff as "opportunity seekers." The ULERN office employs six full-time staff. On average they've created 45 term positions annually to work on projects with member organizations. "These term positions are filled largely by students and recent graduates hired on terms of three months to three years," she explained.

"Having a university as part of our membership is important; a lot of science research and development takes place there as that's where much of the funding is going," Shaw explained.

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VIDEO GAMES: FOCUS OF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT MSU

By: Glyn Heatley, CGT Promotions Manager, Algoma U

The former Computer Game Technology (CGT) Conference initiated and run by Algoma University College since 2002, this year became FuturePlay, an International Academic Conference On The Future of Game Design and Technology. The 2005 Conference was presented by Algoma U and hosted by Michigan State University. The Conference proved to be a huge success with participants and speakers attending from all over the world.

"The goal of FuturePlay is to bring together academics, industry representatives and students to advance game design and technology through peer-reviewed research, creative and experimental game design and development, and formal and informal discussion on academic and industry-related topics," said Brian Winn, MSU Assistant professor of telecommunication, information studies and media and co-chair of the conference.

The conference focused on three main themes:

- future game development: academic research and emerging industry trends in the area of game technology and game design.
- future game impacts and applications: academic research and emerging industry trends focused on designing games for learning, for gender, for serious purposes, and to impact society.
- future game talent: designed to provide a number of industry and academic perspectives on the knowledge, skills and attitude it takes to excel in the games industry.

FuturePlay addressed these issues through exciting and thought-provoking keynotes from leaders in academia and industry, peerreviewed paper sessions, panel sessions (including academic and industry discussions), workshops (including design, technology, and career workshops), and exhibitions of posters, games, and the latest game technologies and supports from industry-leading vendors.

The highlight of the games exhibition was a peer-reviewed competition of games with three categories: Future (experimental) Games, Serious Games, and Student Games.



↑ Brenda Brathwaite, Henry Jenkins - MIT, Ernest Adams, Dave Brodbeck - Algoma U, Andy Gilgallon - MSU, Glyn Heatley - Algoma U



↑ Michael Mateas - Georgia Tech, Brian Magerko - MSU.

Chris Hecker - Maxis →

The conference attracted world- renowned academics such as Dr. Henry Jenkins III from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); James Paul Gee from Wisconsin-Madison, Michael Mateas from Georgia Tech and Dr. John Buchanan from Electronic Arts among academics from other universities worldwide.

In attendance were industry icons such as Chris Hecker from Maxis in California (creators of the Sims series), Ernest Adams from International Hobo in the UK (designer of John Madden Football), Brenda Brathwaite from Cyberlore Studios, Massachusetts (designer of the award winning Wizardry and Jagged Alliance games, as well as Playboy: The

Mansion) and Greg Costikyan from Nokia Research Center, New York.

Plans are underway for next year's conference to be held at the University of Western Ontario. Watch for news of FuturePlay 2006 at: www.futureplay.org



↑ From left to right: Students - Lauren O'Brien, Corina Longo, Jasmine Agliani, Amanda Mathur, Phil Wong and Chris Meyers. Dr. Basil Arif far right.

INNOVATIVE BUGS FROM ANNOYING BUGS

By: Donna Woldanski, Communications, Algoma U

The search for environmentally safe ways to control damaging insect pests could establish Sault Ste. Marie as a global leader in genomics-driven forest management products.

One of the scientists leading the way will be Dr. Basil Arif, a molecular virologist at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre (GLFC), a worldrenowned institute for bug biology.

Gone are the days of the Agent Orangelike dumps of toxic chemicals to fight forest pests. These days, pest management strategies are green.

"That is the best thing that could happen," says Arif, one of the world's authorities on insect genomics in the emerging field of pest management biotechnology. "Not only is it of socio-economic benefit to Canada, it starts here in Sault Ste. Marie."

A federal research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service for 32 years, Arif started a genomics project three years ago to produce an environmentally safe viral control agent to fight insect pets, buoyed by a \$4.6 million Genome Canada grant.

Squarely in his sights is the spruce budworm, considered one of the forestry industry's most destructive pests. "It devastates more forests in Ontario than all forest fires in Canada," says Arif.

With chemical sprays banned, the research emphasis is on developing more environmentally benign control agents using naturally-occurring viruses and bacteria which have a proven safety record in targeting specific insects. Over million of years of evolution, these viruses have become less virulent, existing in a more harmonious relationship with their insect hosts. "We need to modify the virus to make it a more effective agent for targeting the pest in an environmentally safe manner," says Arif.

It will require extensive study at the genomic and proteomic (study of proteins) level between the spruce budworm, its viral parasites and plants it feeds on.

Arif says there are many advanced projects in the world, particularly in China, where genetically engineered viruses are used in forestry and agriculture as biological control agents. But genetic engineering is only one aspect of Arif's work in developing natural pesticides that target specific insects without harming mammals, fish and birds.

Over the past two years, Arif and his team have identified, and are gaining a better understanding of, two insect viruses called Baculo and Entompox viruses.

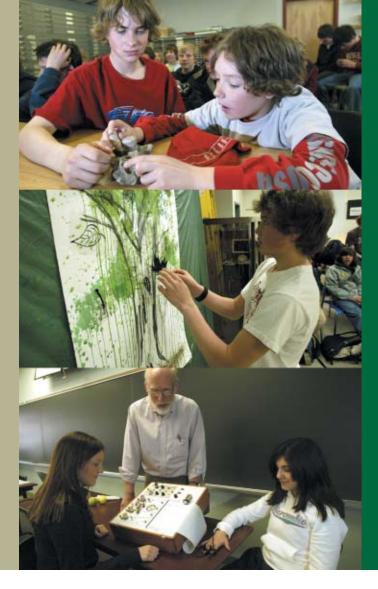
"We've made good progress in understanding the genomics of these viruses and now are moving one stage further," says Arif.

The centre is pleased to welcome Canada Research Chair Dr. Jenny Cory from the United Kingdom's Oxford University. She is widely recognized as the world's authority on molecular biology. Together with Arif, she is heading up an international team of scientists from Queen's University, the University of Guelph, Laval University, the Chinese Academy of Science, Inra, France's Institute of agronomy research, Germany's Institute of Plant Protection and London's Imperial College.

Arif says the Sault's stellar track record in developing biological control agents is known throughout the world and is a great help in recruiting top-notch research talent.

"We could not have secured the collaboration and services from people all over the world had we not the track record to prove that we can deliver what we say."





SCIENCE: THE FUTURE IS YOURS! SAULT STE. MARIE AND ALGOMA U YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

By: Craig Zimmerman, Communications Officer, ULERN

Science: The Future is Yours! Youth Science Forum (YSF), held April 7-9 was a resounding success. On April 7 and 8, 2,000 students mainly from grades 8 and 9 participated in over 50 science-based workshops. Topics ranged from forensics, bioproducts, forest plants, and veterinary sciences to forest fungi, fitness, steel design, and art. Students attended two workshops each day and volunteers stationed at each venue ensured students and teachers were in the right workshops and lunch areas at their designated times.

Participating school boards included the Algoma District, Huron Superior Catholic, Le Conseil scolaire catholique du Nouvel-Ontario, Rainbow District (Sudbury), Ontario Northeast (Timmins), and Northeastern Catholic (Timmins). Venues included the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre, Algoma University College, Sault Armoury, Great Lakes Forestry Centre, Sault College, Ontario Forestry Research Institute, Camp Korah, the Kiwanis Community Theatre, and Korah C & V S.

Thursday and Friday began with high profile keynote speakers at the Kiwanis Theatre. Astronaut Dr. Roberta Bondar spoke about 'Creative Science,' and Dr. Ted Sargent, a renowned nano-technologist from the University of Toronto talked about how to design molecules for useful purposes in the fields of energy, environment, medicine, and information technology.

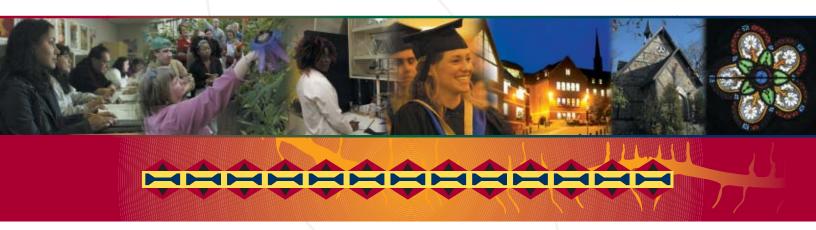
The Forum culminated in a trade show/career day at the Sault Armoury on April 9. This portion of the YSF attracted universities, colleges, research institutions, industries, not-for-profit organizations and others, with over 50 displays and hands-on activities. Over 1,500 people attended. Bob McDonald, host of CBC Radio's *Quirks and Quarks* rounded out the complement of speakers with two hour-long presentations. He drew laughs for balancing a broom on his nose, but also presented a future vision of commercial space travel that included space

station hotels equipped with gravity free swimming pools. Bob Friedhoffer, the 'Mad Scientist Behind the Magic' appeared during all three days of the Forum and kept students entertained with his zany science-based magic tricks and humorous anecdotes. Science North staff entertained trade show participants with flying squirrel demonstrations and surprised everyone by bringing along their Segway (self balancing personal transportation device). The Twin Saults International Instigators showed off their robotic wizardry by allowing participants to operate 'Boomer 1,' the team's competition robot.

With the success of this inaugural event, plans are afoot to repeat this Forum within two years. The goal is to get kids excited about science and motivate them to think about pursuing science careers.

We would like to thank our sponsors, participating school boards, speakers, workshop providers, trade show/career day participants, students, teachers, volunteers and parents for making the first Youth Science Forum such a successful event. Science is the route to our future!

community report



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO, CANADA



2004-2005

community report

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

I am very pleased to present to you the 2004-2005 Community Report of the Algoma University College Foundation, for the fiscal year covering the period from May 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005. This report allows the Board of Directors of the Foundation to thank the volunteers and donors who are helping us support Algoma U and its students, to highlight special accomplishments and to point to the future. In these pages you will see the names of the many people who have donated to the Foundation this year, helping us provide financial support to students and assist Algoma U's growth.

Created in 1981, the Algoma U Foundation manages assets of \$2,162,228, and its mandate is to provide scholarships and bursaries to Algoma U students, and to fund capital improvements to the campus, and other special projects at Algoma U.

The Foundation provides funds for these purposes from earnings from the investments and money raised through the Annual Campaign. Last year, the Foundation provided more than \$523,000 to the university for the Information Communication Technology Centre, special projects and a large number of scholarship and bursary student awards.

The Alumni Council is providing key leadership to the Foundation's Annual Campaign and Alumni Relations Program. Universities thrive when the alumni remain involved and supportive throughout their lives — students at Algoma U are fortunate that their predecessors continue to contribute to and support the university and its goals.

More and more alumni are donating to the Foundation and supporting various Algoma U and Foundation initiatives.

I am also pleased to tell you that the Living Learning Campaign is nearing its successful completion. This campaign was launched under the Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Fund, Phase II, to create new endowed bursary funds. The provincial government offered to match all donations to this campaign on a dollar-for-dollar basis, to a maximum of \$392,000. When complete, the Foundation will be able to provide another \$39,200 per year in financial awards to students who need financial aid to allow then to complete their degrees. Thank you to the Living Learning Campaign Committee of Brian Curran, Mike Tulloch and Cathy Shunock who are leading this effort.

The highlight of the Living Learning Campaign to date has been the establishment of the Gerald E Nori QC Student Assistance Fund, as announced at the Foundation Dinner honouring Gerry. Gerry Nori is one of the individuals who is responsible for the Algoma U Foundation's existence, and his tireless support of the university and the Foundation was in many ways the basis of the success we are experiencing today. Everyone who attended the dinner on April 8th saw the outpouring of affection and respect from Gerry's family, friends and colleagues. Together, they donated more than \$50,000 to establish the Gerald E Nori QC Student Assistance Fund, which will be doubled by the Ontario government through the COSOTF Phase II matching funds. Thank you to the enthusiasm and energy of the Foundation Dinner Committee who organized this dinner.

Robert J. Dumanski

Chair, Algoma University College Foundation

2004-2005 COMMUNITY REPORT - ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Board of Directors, Algoma U Foundation

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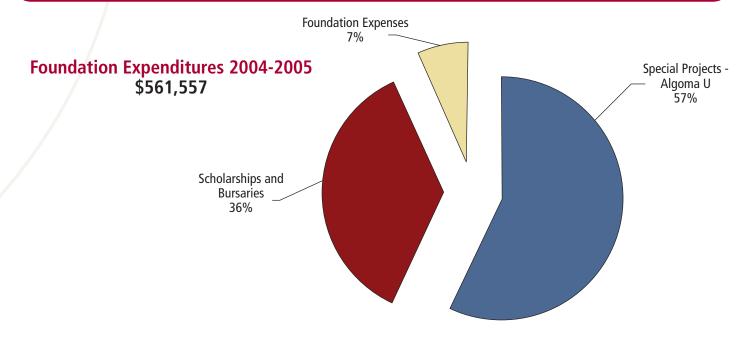
Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma U

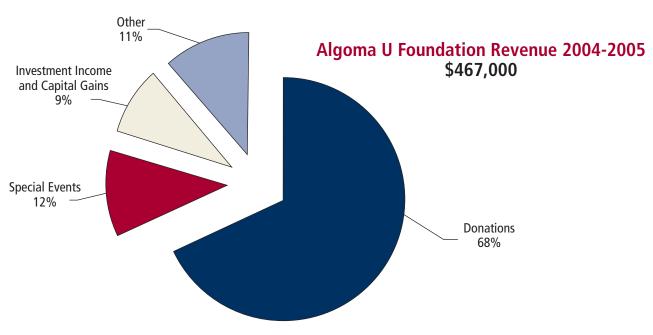
Mark Pitcher, President, Algoma U Students Union (AUSU)

Deborah Loosemore, Director of Advancement and External Relations, Algoma U

Thank you to the following individuals who left the Board of Directors in 2004-2005:

Hollis McLeod Dayne Houston





2004-2005 COMMUNITY report - ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Living Learning Campaign & the Tomorrow's Leaders Today Fund for Indigenous Students

Committee members: Brian Curran, Michael Tulloch, Ian McKenzie, Cathy Tulloch

Mickey Contini

Created under the provincial government's Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund, Phase II, the Living Learning Campaign's goal is to raise \$392,000 by December 31, 2005. These donations will create endowed bursary funds, and will be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis by the Government of Ontario.

Funds established or increased in the 2004-2005 campaign period:

Paul and Bricken Dalseg, Pioneers of Lake-of-the-Woods, Student Award

Alexander M. Ross Bursary Fund

Askin Family Bursary Fund Scotiabank Student Assistance Fund

Indigenous Students Assistance Fund

Gerald E Nori QC Student Assistance Fund

The Gerald E Nori QC Student Assistance Fund, established through the generous support of Mr. Nori's family, friends and colleagues, was celebrated at the Algoma U Foundation Dinner on April 8th, 2005, at the Best Western Great Northern. Thank you to BDO Dunwoody for sponsoring the wine for the dinner.



Honourary Chair: Orlando Rosa, Wishart Law Firm LLP Mary Borowicz Robert Cohen Murray Davis Vin Greco

Murray Davis Vin Greco Jim McAuley Gene Nori Bud Wildman Adele Perugini-Dudgeon

Dave Saunders

Donors to the Gerald E Nori QC Student Assistance Fund

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To find out how you can endow a bursary award, please contact Deborah Loosemore, Director of Advancement and External Relations, at (705) 949-2301, ext. 4115 or loosemore@auc.ca.

2004-2005 COMMUNITY report - ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION



Algoma U Classic Golf Tournament: Golfing "Fore" Education - June 2004

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Soo Mill Buildall

Tournament Committee: Robert J Dumanski, Hollis McLeod, Maryon Young, Bruce Caughill, Don Mitchell

The scholarship and bursary program gets a 'boost' every year from the Classic Golf Tournament. Thanks to the hard work of the committee, an the generous support of sponsors, prize donors and golfers, just over \$17,000 was raised to provide financial aid to students.

Tournament Co-Sponsor



Major Sponsors









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Hole in One Sponsors

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Alumni Council

Council members: Les Dunbar, Chair, Bruce Lenten, Craig Kohler, Cathy Hicks, Pat Fremlin and Cathy Alisch.

At any university, strong alumni support is critically important. It builds bonds between the students of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. It keeps the school's history alive while at the same time keeping the university relevant to changing times. It helps solidify the reputation of the institution.

And financial support from alumni often provides the impetus for real, positive change throughout the years.

If you would like to get involved with your Alumni Council, please contact Bev Teller at (705) 949-2301, ext. 4125 or teller@auc.ca.

Bequests to Algoma U Foundation

There are many reasons to consider leaving a gift to charity in your will... if you would like more information on how you can support the Algoma U Foundation through a bequest, please contact Deborah Loosemore, Director of Advancement and External Relations, at (705) 949-2301, ext. 4115, or loosemore@auc.ca.

Algoma U Advancement and External Relations Department

Deborah Loosemore, Director of Advancement and External Relations, ext. 4115, loosemore@auc.ca

Bev Teller, Alumni Officer, ext. 4125, alumni@auc.ca

Donna Woldanski, Communications Officer, ext. 4120, communications@auc.ca

Glyn Heatley, CGT Promotions Manager, Advancement and External Relations, ext. 4113, heatley@auc.ca

2004-2005 COMMUNITY report - ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

2004-2005 Annual Campaign

We take this opportunity to thank the individuals, corporations, organizations and foundations that gave to support the Algoma U Foundation.

Algoma U Fund

The Algoma U Fund provides funding to Algoma University College where it is most needed.

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(Donations of \$10,000 or more):
Anonymous (1)

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(Donations of \$1,000 - \$2,499): Canadian Italian Business and Professional Association

Friend's Club

(Donations of \$500 - \$999): Deborah Loosemore Krista Pearson Ray Stortini Michael F. Tulloch

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Brian Leahy
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Futures Club

(Donations of \$100 - \$249):

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Foundation Scholarship and Bursary Fund

The Scholarship and Bursary Fund provides entrance and continuing scholarships and other financial assistance directly to Algoma U students.

Dean's Circle (Donations of \$1,000 - \$2,499): Nancy & Jim Tibbles

The Office Supply House (Sault)

Friend's Club (Donations of \$500 - \$999):

Anonymous (1) Brian J. Curran

Builder's Club (Donations of \$250 - \$499):

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Futures Club (Donations of \$100 - \$249):

Anonymous (1)

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Juhani Pulkkinen

Kim Sacchetta

Julie Schryer

Jane Vienneau

George F. Vosper

Nancy Watkins

Dr. Jong You

Angela Zambusi

Gifts to the Arthur A. Wishart Library

Donations to the Arthur A. Wishart Library are used to secure research materials for Algoma U students.

Futures Club

(Donations of \$100 - \$499): Ann Wikman

Supporters

(Donations of \$1 - \$99):
 Doris Arnold
 Brenda J. Dunseath
 Sandy Fulcher
 Helgi Manniste
 Sharon R. Mooney

Elsie St. Jacques

Gifts to Support the Varsity Sports Program

Gifts to support the varsity sports program are used to provide equipment and support for student athletes.

President's Circle

(Donations of \$2,500 - \$4,999): Dr. Celia Ross

Supporters

(Donations of \$1 - \$99): Patrick Sammon

The following donors have provided non-endowed annual scholarship or bursary awards to Algoma U students.

President's Circle (Donations of \$2,500 - \$4,999):

Myrtle Kell

Royal Canadian Legion

Dean's Circle (Donations of \$1,000 - \$2,499): Algoma Central Properties Inc.

Friend's Club (Donations of \$500 - \$999):

Prof. John Flood Order Sons of Italy of Canada Digital Adventures Brascan Power Corporation

Builder's Club (Donations of \$250 - \$499):

Alan Anderson

SAR-GIN Developments (Sault) Ltd. Girl Guides of Canada Algoma Division

Futures Club (Donations of \$100 - \$249): Soo Mill & Lumber Company Ltd.

Thank you to the following members of the Class of 2004, who marked their graduation from Algoma U with a donation to the Class of 2004 Grad Class Gift.

Kristina Bourdage
Lucille Carson
Mark Dunn
Gabriel Fairbrother
Bernadette Farrell
James Fitton
Rachel Goodfellow
Margaret Hooper
Stephanie Korah
Deborah Millward
Mary Ellen Mitchell
Andrew Ross
Carol Rowland-Vas
Melanie Splinter
Leslie Ann Whitehead

In Memoriam donations made in the memory of:

Gary Corbiere Rocco Devuono Barbara Mathews Dr. Mark Wood

community report

This report acknowledges donations to the **Algoma U Foundation** for the period May 1, 2004 to April 30, 2005. Donors' names have been listed with their permission. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report, errors and omission may occur. Please accept our apologies and bring any errors to the attention of the Advancement and External Relations Department (705) 949-2301, ext. 4125, so we may correct our records.







↑ From left to right: Bud Wildman, Chair, Board of Govenors; Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma U and Dr. Lou Lukenda.



↑ Dr. Lou Lukenda chats with students at press conference announcing donation.

ALGOMA U ANNOUNCES \$3.8 MILLION DONATION

By: Donna Woldanski, Communications, Algoma U

Algoma U is pleased to announce that it is the recipient of the largest donation in the organization's history from Sault Ste. Marie resident Dr. Lou Lukenda, his family and four associates.

The donation comprises the lands and buildings presently occupied by the Windsor Park Retirement Home and HSBC on Queen St. East in Sault Ste. Marie. In addition, the donation includes the operation and operating assets of the Windsor Park Retirement Home. This \$3.8 million donation will be used by Algoma U to develop new programs that will continue to attract students from across the region and around the world.

"This donation is an endorsement of the direction that Algoma U is taking and a real boost to Sault Ste. Marie's university," says Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma University College. "This investment in the success of Algoma U, and the success of our students, is a milestone in the life of Algoma U. This is the largest donation the university has ever received."

"The Windsor Park Retirement Home will operate as usual without disruption to residents, management and staff. We value the people living there and will continue to provide for their comfort and well-being," says Dr. Ross. "The current staff and management will stay and the tenants will not be affected by this change in ownership. All monies generated from business operations will be used by the university as needed."

Dr. Lukenda joined Dr. Ross, Mr. Bud Wildman, Chair of the Board of Governors, student representatives and other members of the university community at a ceremony at Algoma U today where the newest residence building was named "The Dr. Lou Lukenda Residence" in recognition of Dr. Lukenda's support of the university.



← From left to right:

Robert J.

Craig MacTavish;

Dumanski, Chair, Board of Directors, Algoma U Foundation;

Mark Lajambe, Director, Algoma U Foundation.

GREAT-WEST LIFE ASSURANCE DONATES \$100,000 TO ALGOMA U FOUNDATION

By: Donna Woldanski, Communications, Algoma U

Algoma University College Foundation is pleased to announce that two new endowed bursary funds have been created, thanks to the generous donation of \$100,000 by Great-West Life Assurance. "This is a tremendous support for the Foundation and Algoma U,"

says Robert J. Dumanski, Chair of the Algoma U Foundation. "We very much appreciate this contribution to the campaign, which moves us toward our goal of creating more endowed bursary funds to support students at Algoma U."

The Great-West Life Student Assistance Fund and the Great-West Life Indigenous Student Assistance Fund have been created under the Foundation's Living Learning Campaign.

Craig MacTavish, Regional Director - The

Resource Centre-Great West Life-for Northern Ontario Branch Manager is very excited Great-West has provided funding for Algoma U. "I am extremely pleased we as a company can help provide the people in the communities we serve with opportunities for higher education through these two new bursaries."

The Living Learning Campaign is designed to allow the Algoma U Foundation to take full advantage of the recently announced Ontario Student Opportunities Student Opportunities Trust Fund Phase 11. This is a matching gift program of the Government of Ontario that will match every dollar donated to the Foundation for endowed bursary funds, to a maximum of \$392,000. Once fully matched by the provincial government, these new endowed bursary funds will allow the Foundation to provide an additional \$39,200 in annual support to students who need financial aid to complete their university studies. Funds may be established with gifts of cash or securities and a full charitable tax receipt will be issued.

In appreciation of their support, Algoma U named the lecture theatre in the new ICT Centre, The Great-West Life Amphitheatre.



↑ Dr. Cory is a member of the British Ecological Society; Ecological Society of America; Royal Entomological Society; Entomological Society of America; Society for Invertebrate Pathology and the Society for the Study of Evolution.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA
GRANTS ALGOMA U \$1.75 MILLION
FOR RESEARCH CHAIR HELD BY
DR. JENNY CORY: RESEARCH THAT
COULD CHANGE PEST CONTROL IN
AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY IN
CANADA & WORLDWIDE

By: Cindy Ellen Crawford

"Collaboration is one way of moving forward but having direct interaction is preferable."

That statement, by Algoma U's recently appointed Canada Research Chair (Molecular Ecology), Dr. Jenny Cory, is going to raise the bar for Algoma U's science program and benefit the district of Algoma. Her sevenyear appointment will allow plenty of opportunity for students to have direct interaction with this world-renowned scientist.

Dr. Jenny Cory is an internationally known and respected insect ecologist who works on insect diseases and how to best use them for biological pest control. She uses a combination of experimental, molecular and theoretical approaches to study the ecology, epidemiology and evolution of insects and their pathogens. In addition, she is interested in how the natural enemies of insects interact and the assessment of the ecological risks of natural and genetically-modified biological control agents.

"I use whatever tools I have in my toolbox (of skills) to do my work," she explained. "Plus I am always looking for new tools to answer practical or fundamental questions, which means not feeling I need to be restricted to ecology or pathology, so I enjoy looking at a wide range of disciplines to find approaches that might be applicable to my research interests."

And that 'toolbox' is well-equipped. Dr. Cory holds a Ph.D. in Insect Ecology, University of Oxford and a B.Sc.(Hons), Zoology, University of Sheffield, England. In addition, she's a past recipient of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Fellowship at AgResearch in Lincoln, New Zealand and has been awarded over a dozen other research grants.

In just the past five years, she's held the Distinguished Professor Fellowship at Wageningen University in the Netherlands, served as the Division Leader in Molecular Pathogen Ecology at Oxford's Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and was Visiting Scientist at the University of British Columbia's Department of Zoology.

Throughout the years, Dr. Cory's work has been published in top tier international journals, presented as research papers, published as books or included as chapters in other works. She's presented research papers or appeared as an invited guest speaker at dozens of meetings around the world.

Dr. Cory is as passionate about teaching as she is about her own learning. She says she takes great pride in supervising and training M.Sc. and Ph.D. students and post-doctoral scientists. She's looking forward to teaching evolutionary biology at Algoma U this coming winter term and will be teaching two courses in 2006, one of which is in development and may focus on molecular ecology.

"I enjoy interacting with students and my plans include strengthening and building-up the biology program which will benefit not only students but also the region."

In addition to teaching at Algoma U, Dr. Cory will spend time doing fieldwork balanced by conference and research work.

"It is very prestigious to get the Canada Research Chair, I am honoured to receive it," she said.

Securing Dr. Cory's presence at Algoma U required a \$1.7 million collaboration between the Great Lakes Forestry Centre (Natural Resources Canada), Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Ministry of Economic Development of Trade. For her tenure, Algoma U with assistance from Great Lakes Forest Research Centre (Natural Resources Canada), established a molecular ecology lab for Dr. Cory at the GLFC site. It will enable her to conduct research as well as provide a teaching lab for Algoma U students.

"GLFC is a centre of excellence for molecular research on (insect) viruses and other pathogens and it will be exciting to put a more ecological angle on it," said Dr. Cory, explaining that an ecological angle means focussing on understanding hosts and viruses and their population cycles, and their impact on the wider environment.

"There are lots of people with whom I will collaborate at (GLFC) and that is going to be rewarding." she said. "I am also looking forward to teaching so that is also very exciting. In this collaboration, the reward and excitement will be shared by many of us."



↑ Dr. Jenny Cory & Dr. Celia Ross, President of Algoma U. The Government of Canada has awarded \$1.75 million to Algoma University College to establish its first Canada Research Chair.



WELCOME BACK! (you<u>still</u>belonghere)

This past summer we had the distinct pleasure of welcoming back Algoma U alumni, faculty, staff and friends for a wonderful three day reunion celebration. Guests traveled from across Canada, some returning for the first time since graduating. Alumni spanned the decades as some of our very first graduates, to our more recent alumni, came back to tour the facilities and reunite with former friends and professors.

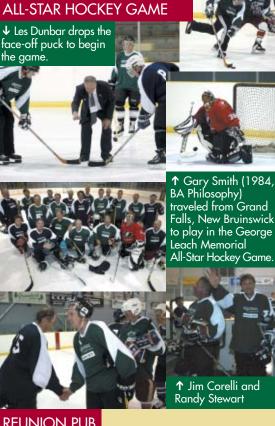
The weekend had a full line-up of activities including a reuniting of the Thunderbird Hockey Team players who put on an outstanding performance for the George Leach Memorial All-Star Hockey Game. The fun continued throughout the weekend with opportunities to mix and mingle, tour the campus, friendly rivalry on the basketball court and baseball field,

and concluded with a wonderful Anishnaabe feast at the farewell brunch.

Thank you to the Reunion Planning Committee and all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly in planning and organizing the reunion. A special thank you to all of our generous sponsors for their support of our 2005 Algoma U Reunion.

These photos capture some of the fun had throughout the weekend. Please be sure to check out updates to our Alumni pages on the Algoma U website: www.auc.ca

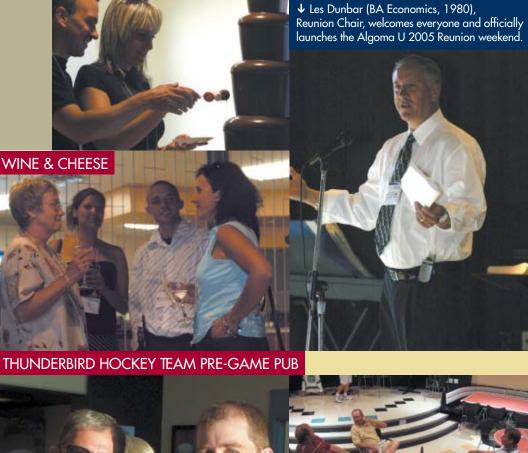
It was wonderful having all of our Algoma U alumni and friends back and we greatly appreciated your comments and promises to stay in touch. Algoma U you *still* belong here!



GEORGE LEACH MEMORIAL

REUNION PUB

↓ Ed Belanger, 1975, BA Sociology, and family, Gary Smith and friend have some fun at the reunion pub.



BASKETBALL GAME ↓ Alumni and

current players of the Algoma U basketball team took the game outdoors enduring the scorching July heat for a friendly test of skills and ta<u>ĺent.</u> →





↑ Dr. Hassan & Rosalie Gardezi, Dr. Lloyd & Leah Bannerman and daughter Maja Bannerman attending the Faculty Breakfast.

DINNER DANCE

↑ Judy Syrette and

John Payette. John was the editor of the first



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↑ Gary Smith presents Dr. Celia Ross and Bud Wildman with a special mask

he created in honour of the George Leach

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↑ ICT Centre Ribbon cutting ceremony. From left to right: Deborah Loosemore, Brian Curran, Robert J. Dumanski, Craig MacTavish, Mayor John Rowswell, The Honourable Greg Sorbrara, Tom Dodds, MPP David Orazietti, Bud Wildman, Dr. Celia Ross, MP Tony Martin, Michael Gekas and Mark Pitcher.



ALGOMA U'S NEW ICT CENTRE -OPENING DOORS TO THE WORLD!

ALGOMA U UNVEILS NEW \$7 MILLION ICT CENTRE AND STUDENT CENTRE

The growing university opened its new ICT Centre and Student Centre, this past June. This facility was the result of a series of innovative partnerships that resulted in close to \$7 million in funding from federal, provincial and municipal governments, industry, the Algoma U Foundation and Algoma U students.

The 40,000-square-foot addition includes a 198 seat amphitheatre, computer labs, faculty offices for the computer science department, business administration office and dedicated space for the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre New Business Incubator and PUC Telecom, and a new Student Centre.

Algoma U's ICT Centre Commemorative Stamp, an official stamp produced under Canada Post guidelines and especially designed for this occasion was also unveiled at the celebration. → The ICT Centre Commemorative Canada Post Stamp presentation. From left to right: Dr. Celia Ross, Mark Pitcher, Bud Wildman and Michael Gekas.

ALGOMA U PUBLICATIONS EARN SILVER, BRONZE AWARDS AT THE NATIONAL PRIX D' EXCELLENCE

By: Donna Woldanski, Communications, Algoma U

Algoma U has been recognized by the Canadian Council for Advancement of Education (CCAE) for its student admissions handbook and alumni magazine.

Algoma U picked up a silver Prix D' Excellence award for Algoma U's Student Admissions handbook and a bronze award for Algoma U Today - Alumni Magazine at the CCAE's annual conference that held in Banff, Alberta this past May.

The Prix D' Excellence is the annual awards program of the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education (CCAE) recognizing outstanding achievement in public affairs, marketing, development, student recruitment and overall institutional advancement.

This is a prestigious national competition with submissions from universities across Canada. This year there were over 400 entries.

In 2004, Algoma U was the recipient of the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce Marketing Award.



↑ Donna Woldanski, Communications, Algoma U and Bev Teller, Alumni Officer, Algoma U at the CCAE Annual Conference in Banff, Alberta.



↑ Shawn Dagenais (BSc., Computer Science, 2001).

↑ Digital WebWorks: Dave Pitcher (BA, Law & Justice, 2000 / Information Technology, 2001), Ron Sartor (BA, Information Technology, 2001), Jim Kukurin (BSc., Computer Science, 2001), Shawn Dagenais (BSc., Computer Science, 2001), Nick Lay (Graphic Design Diploma, 2005, Sault College).

DIGITAL WEBWORKS: FOUR ALGOMA U & TWO SAULT COLLEGE ALUMNI MAKING THEIR MARK

By: Cindy Ellen Crawford

Digital WebWorks. Remember that name because soon it will be a case of "I knew them when..." The Sault Ste. Marie firm consists of four Algoma U grads and two Sault College grads and is making its mark in both digital and science technology.

With technology making a physical address transparent and the fact that some of the leading forest industry offices and labs are based in Sault Ste. Marie, business founder Shawn Dagenais (accelerated degree in computer science, 2001) says no one felt the need to "go south, young man."

"There are opportunities here and since we're all from this area, we decided to stay," he explained. "We're on equal footing with competition elsewhere in digital technology and don't have any local competition in our field of science technology."

Founded in 2001 by Dagenais and Ron Sartor (accelerated degree in Information Technology 2001), the Digital WebWorks team offer everything from web and print development to research and development in practical research applications. Other team members include: Dave Pitcher (Law & Justice, accelerated degree in Information Technology, 2004); Jim Kukurin (2005 grad

Computer Science); Nick Lay (Sault College grad in graphic design, 2004) and Dustin Pauze (computer programming, Sault College, 2005).

"When we started in 2001, we were doing 80 percent of our work on forestry-related software and twenty percent on web and print," said Dagenais. "Those numbers have now reversed simply because, aside from the Soil Carbon Spectrometer, we haven't been promoting forestry applications. Word of mouth and self-marketing is continually opening up web and printing opportunities."

"Their Soil Carbon Spectrometer probe is cutting edge and as we move forward with our research we want to use cutting edge methodologies and they are here thanks to Digital WebWorks," said Jim McLaughlin, Forest Soil Research Scientist, Ontario Forest Research Institute, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. "The development of the probe is particularly important for use in mapping soil carbon and looking at forest management impacts."

The Soil Carbon Spectrometer is used to measure carbon levels in soil on-site. A software algorithm and reference database is also being developed to calculate the soil content from the instrument readings. It is a collaborative effort between Digital WebWorks, Ontario Forestry Research Institute, Upper Lakes Environment Research network (ULERN) and Mikro-Tek (Timmins).

"The Spectrometer much provides lot better spatial coverage and reduces operating costs because it saves time and effort in preparing soil for analysis by doing it all on site," he said.

Over the next year, Digital WebWorks will offer the spectrometer as a service and then once it has proven its value, market it as a product which they anticipate will generate enough revenue to allow them to pursue further research applications.

"I was always doing something computerrelated when I worked in forestry," said Dagenais. "I wanted to develop forestry-related software that I could use in the field so that's why I went to Algoma U to pursue an accelerated degree in computer science."

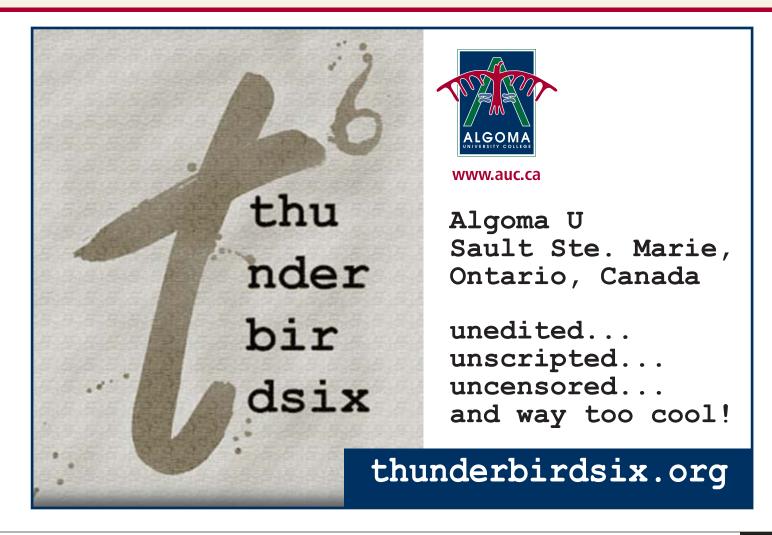
He said the degree helped him acquire the fundamentals. "There are so many different directions you can take and it helps you acquire the skill set to pursue your interests."

For Pitcher, it was learning how to develop a business application for the technology that was most beneficial at Algoma U. "The professors were supportive of anything you wanted to pursue."

Kukurin said it was knowing their support was both in and outside the classroom that was important to him. "The professors cared about the material and were always there for me," he says, noting in particular the support he felt from Prof. Jerry Davies.



↑ This year's convocation ceremony was a milestone for Algoma U, as the university congratulated the first graduates of Algoma U's Community Economic and Social Development Program (CESD). Front Row: Graduates - Terri-Marie Perrault; Diana Whiteloon; Ms. Louise Paquette, Director General, FedNor; Bonnie Gaikezheyongai; Peggy Rice; Paul Reid. Back Row: Faculty - Carolyn Harrington; Cecilia Fernandez; Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon; Dr. Gayle Broad; Alice Corbiere; Judy Syrette.



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Bev Teller, Alumni Officer, at (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125, or: alumni@auc.ca

ALGOMA U ALUMNI NOTES

Alumni Updates, News and Announcements (April 2005-present)

Craig Kohler BA Hons 1989 (Political Science) & Todd Walton BA 2004 (Political Science). The City of Sault Ste. Marie has opened the Accessibility Centre in partnership with all three levels of government and presently two Algoma Alumni are serving as staff. Craig Kohler is currently serving as Research Assistant with special responsibility for the creation of the Barrier Free in Algoma Association (BFIA) and Todd Walton is charged with the creation, updating and implementation of the Accessibility Centres Barrier Identification Audit Tool. The Audit Tool is available to both the public and private sectors as they strive to improve customer access. This is done in compliance with the Ontarians with Disabilities Act (ODA) and the proposed new legislation Bill 118 -Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA). The Accessibility Centre has been developed to assist individuals in the community dealing with all issues of accessibility and is the first of its kind in the Province.

Shirlene F. Weir BA 2002 (Psychology) has accepted a Counselling position with the Lake Grove Schools & Treatment Centres in Massachusetts, effective June 1, 2005. Shirlene will be working with sexually reactive male youths aged 10-21 in a residential facility that resocializes abused or abusers for reentry into the community.

Julie Francella-Gregson BA 2000 (Psychology), is the Executive Director for Partners Rural Family Support Center in Humboldt Saskatchewan, a non-profit community based organization that is committed to building healthy rural communities where individuals and families are safe from violence and abuse. In addition to running the family center, Julie is also a sessional lecturer on Family Violence for the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology campus in Prince Albert. Julie has two daughters, Sky and Sage.

alumni notes



Kim Rose BA 2002 (Political Science). In 2003 Kim began her employment through the Metis Nation of Ontario JCP program, which provides field experience necessary to gain employment elsewhere. Kim was the first graduate from university to receive this internship. Her job was to find a place in her field that could train and house a new graduate. Her search lead her to a position in the Mayor's office in May of 2003. At the conclusion of her internship, she was offered a one year-term contract. Today, this contract has been renewed with the title of Research Assistant to the Mayor. Kim writes, "To those who were great influences while instructing and assisting me at AlgomaU, my victory is their victory...

Lisa Grasley BA 2000 recently obtained her Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation and will be formally admitted to membership in November 2005 at the 2005 Annual CGA Conference in Toronto. Lisa is a director on the Board of Directors for the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter of Certified General Accountants. Lisa works for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation in Sault Ste. Marie in the Corporate Accounting and Reporting Department. Lisa is married to Dan and has two beautiful girls, ages 3 and 20 months. They reside in Desbarats and are enjoying the peace and quiet of living in a small community.

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