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WINTER/SPRING 2006

Algoma University College Alumni Magazine

Algoma U:
Alive with
Creative
Ambition

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 for providing information on the accomplishments of
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 and developments within the university community.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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

"You make a living by what you get, you make a life by what you give." That quote from Sir Winston Churchill has been running through my head recently, as the Living Learning Campaign comes to a very successful close and the 2005-2006 Annual Campaign winds up. Thinking back over the many conversations I have had with people who have chosen to donate to the Algoma University College Foundation I am struck by the deep level of support that exists for Algoma U.

When the Board of Directors of the Algoma U Foundation first launched the Living Learning Campaign, the goal seemed very far away. It was the first campaign the Foundation had ever launched, and raising \$784,000 in new endowed funds seemed like a very big task. And now we are celebrating the end of the campaign that will see more than \$1 million added to the Foundation's endowment - \$520,000 in new donations and \$520,000 in matching funds from the provincial government. It is a tremendous endorsement for the quality of education that Algoma U students find here, and a ringing recognition of the importance of the university to the community.

Donors to the Annual Campaign are influential because more and more alumni are donating to the Annual Campaign to help provide scholarships and bursaries to deserving

students. Alumni support is the backbone of the Annual Campaign; the Alumni Council is doing a wonderful job reaching out to all Algoma U alumni.

People often respond with sympathy when they hear that my job is fundraising - they think it's a 'tough' job. And like any job, it has its moments. But almost every day I am reminded that I get to work with people when they are at their best - when they are giving, when they are helping students they may never meet and by doing that, reaching out and changing lives. The act of philanthropy changes both giver and receiver, and it is the act of giving that 'makes a life.'

At this point, it looks as if the federal government is going to make some changes that will make it even easier for people to support institutions like the Algoma U Foundation. Predictions are that the capital gains tax will be removed for donation of stocks and other securities in the next federal budget. Many donors to the Living Learning Campaign established endowed funds with gifts of stock - if you would like more information about making a donation of stocks to the Algoma University College Foundation, please contact me at loosemore@algomau.ca, or call (705) 949-2301, extension 4115. Thank you.



"We are proud to be a university that respects and honours all cultures and that embraces and celebrates the marvelous diversity of communities in our world."

Dr. Celia Ross
President, Algoma University College

Algoma University College Vision Statement

VISION

Biidaabin
A new dawn

A university of international distinction enriching generations of diverse cultures and communities.

Debwewin
Truth

The Algoma University College community has recently completed a visioning exercise, an activity in which we engage every three or four years. Visioning serves as the basis for all our institutional planning. How do we see ourselves as a community? How do we understand what our institution is all about? What is the meaning behind the activities we engage in every day at Algoma U?

Our Vision Statement is a collective statement, meant to inspire us to coherent, significant achievement. Our Vision Statement represents our aspirations and our purpose.

The first word of our Vision Statement - Biidaabin – a new dawn. What an uplifting word!

Biidaabin is an Ojibwe word given to us by the Indigenous community. The dawn comes every day – the secret is to see each dawn as a truly new and marvelous event. In the life of an institution, a new dawn is a fresh start that builds on all the work which has gone on before. For Algoma U, a new dawn represents a renewed commitment to learning, to teaching, to discovering.

"Biidaabin" also reflects aspirations for a new approach to post-secondary education encompassing Indigenous and non-Indigenous knowledge. We share these aspirations with our partners, the Shingwauk Education Trust. Algoma U and the Shingwauk Education Trust are moving forward cooperatively to create at Algoma U an institution that incorporates Indigenous learning and knowledge into the very fibre of its being. The realization of this commitment to a shared vision will bring together the best of the heritage of Indigenous and European peoples, providing a better future for both through education.

Our Vision Statement continues by stating that we are a university. That seemingly simple and obvious statement implies that we see Algoma U becoming an independent, stand-alone university, ranking along with all the other independent Ontario universities. And we see ourselves as a worthy equal within this system – as a university of international distinction.

As a university, we exist to enrich generations of diverse cultures and communities. Generations – stretching back to our first students in 1964 – and back even further, encompassing the legacy of the thousands of children who passed through the Shingwauk Indian Residential School. Our new vision for Algoma U will leave its own legacy as it stretches out into the future to the students yet to come, and to their children and grandchildren.

We are proud to be a university that respects and honours all cultures and that embraces and celebrates the marvelous diversity of communities in our world.

Debwewin – this Vision Statement is spoken in Truth.

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

ART: THE POWER OF CREATION

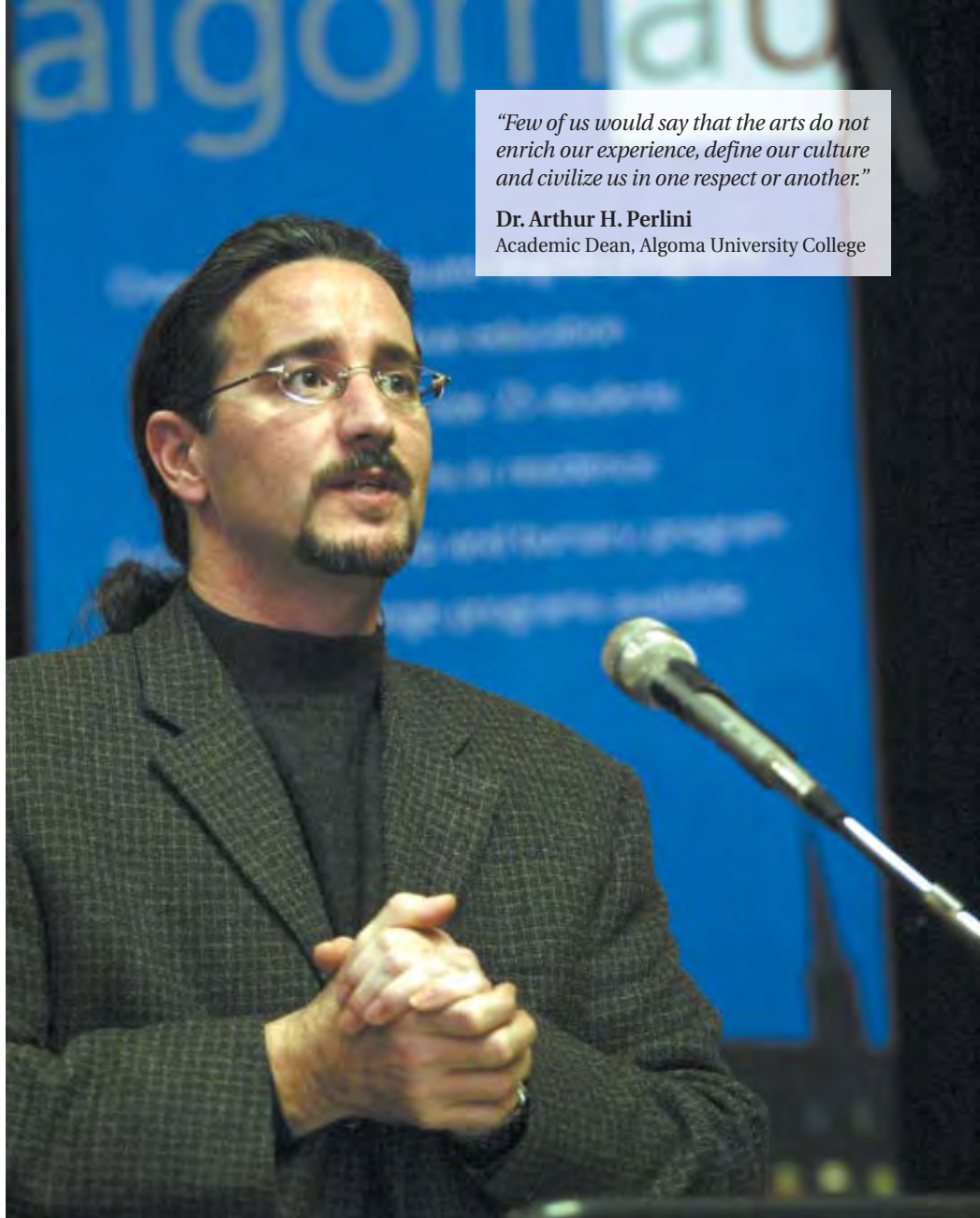
By: Dr. Arthur H. Perlini,
Academic Dean, Algoma University College



My beginnings with art coincided with my understanding of language, as this word was used as a nickname for me as a boy. While the word resonates for me in its descriptive form, like so many of us, it has taken an experiential form. From an early age -- we all share the experience of creating - through crayon, pencil, paint, clay or musical instruments; those creations are unfettered by rules or teachings. Rather, they are manifestations of our imagination, constrained largely by the dexterity of our fingers. There is unadulterated purity in this because the creation is not gauged by its public acceptance, but rather through the sheer expression of imagination. Apart from the creation, it is the creating of art that, leaves me in wonder and awe. Note that I say the creating, rather than the creation of art. To witness the imagination unfolding - for me - challenges the experience of witnessing the imagination unfolded.

While not an artist, my role as an academic is defined by innovation and creation - original ideas and expressions that advance our understanding of human nature. In my own scholarly work, I have never been able to enjoy even momentary pleasure from the product (e.g., published paper) of my creative efforts; instead, the rapture lies in the process in which I liberate my ideas and imagination. It is not the dexterity of my fingers that constrains this process of expressing my imagination, but rather my understandings and knowledge. It would seem in my description of this process, I would be suggesting that learning to express oneself - either artistically or otherwise - detracts from the process of creating. However, learning to express one's creative ideas - in visual, musical and literary forms - is important for the understanding and experience of the creative outcome. Learning "the rules," I would suggest, fuels the process of creating because it introduces limits beyond which imagination must assert itself. It is the clash between knowledge and imagination that creates original expression.

It cannot be said that creation is the sole province of the arts; nor can it be said that aesthetics or beauty is the sole outcome of the arts. We have all seen and heard art that is marked by horror, distaste and disgust.



"Few of us would say that the arts do not enrich our experience, define our culture and civilize us in one respect or another."

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

Similarly, we have seen disciplines outside of the arts that are regarded by their practitioners as beautiful, including mathematics and technology. The object of many disciplines - the natural world - is replete with beauty and horror. This, it must be said, includes ourselves. The products of creativity are indeed important reflections of ourselves.

The arts today are considered vast in number, including visual arts, literary arts, musical arts, performing arts (drama and film), and design (graphic and architectural) amongst others. To many of us, our experience of art is in the form of art appreciation. Few of us would say that the arts do not enrich our experience, define our culture and civilize us in one respect or another. Some periods in history are particularly noted for how art, literature and architecture defined and transformed culture; for example, the Renaissance period. It appears unlikely that we will encounter a

time such as this; instead, today, it seems that the art of our time is graffiti and gameboys, rap and rancour, pornography and publicity, tattoos and tabloids. Their aesthetic or beauty is questionable. Their potential to subvert authority is considerable; however, these are borne of the same origins as Michelangelo's David or Da Vinci's Mona Lisa; namely, imagination.

It has been said of great art that its greatness lies in its ability to capture "essence"; its beauty is really, beside the point. This observation is of consequence when we are tempted to distract ourselves from the apparent cacophony of sound emanating from a youngster learning to play music - or the asymmetry of form apparent in a youngster's painting. The greatness in those expressions are not in their ability to capture the essence of something; rather, their greatness is in capturing the essence of someone.



DR. ALANNA BONDAR

By: Liisa McMillan

When **Dr. Alanna Bondar** had the opportunity to teach at a southern Ontario university, lecturing to over 200 students at a time, she knew immediately it wasn't for her. After spending four years as a sessional instructor at Algoma U, Bondar had become accustomed to the close connections between students, teacher and faculty. Bondar wasn't interested in becoming just another faculty member at a large university.

When a full-time faculty position opened at Algoma U in 2005, Bondar was more than

willing to endure a lengthy hiring process in order to compete for the position and remain in her hometown.

By the time Bondar had earned her M.A. at New Brunswick, and her Ph.D at Memorial University (B.A. Hons, University of Western Ontario), she'd also spent considerable time on the east coast, where she had missed the natural landscape of her hometown. Returning home for Bondar was a "celebration of spirit, of feeling connected to my surroundings."

"The Maritime landscape didn't inspire me like it does here," she said. "I missed the hills, and Lake Superior. I got charged moving back to the area."

Specializing in Canadian literature, creative writing, women's literature, and 20th century poetry and drama, Bondar believes she teaches one of the toughest disciplines at the school. By attempting to demystify and find meaning in the often-complex nature of literature, Bondar hopes to create a genuine interest for the discipline in her students.

"You need to learn what excites you about literature," Bondar said. "The hardest part about the discipline is finding your way in, and I encourage my students to do that."

And once her students finally do find their way in, Bondar is almost always surprised by where it takes them.

"I can't think of a lecture where I didn't get something profound from a student," she said. "It's always inspiring within the class, and there's always a place I wouldn't have anticipated going with a lecture."

"Lecturing keeps me focused, and the students keep me alive."

Not even lecturing full-time though, keeps Bondar from what she loves most in life – poetry. She continues to work on her manuscript, entitled "Doors against gravity/bodies against the wind," which explores the emergence of ecocriticism, ecofeminism and ecological literature in Canada. The manuscript, which she hopes to finish in 2006, received first place in the 19th Annual Atlantic Writing Competition (1996).

Even Bondar's recent trip to Peru found its adventures being twisted into prose-poetry, in her newest manuscript "There are many ways to die while travelling in Peru." The manuscript examines "how high-risk adventure lifts the fear that creates barriers to physical and psychological understandings of self, society, spirituality, and solitude."

Even with two manuscripts in progress, Bondar found the time to create The Naked Word Reading Series, a local professional reading series that began in December 2005.

The series, being promoted as a bridge between the university and the arts community in Sault Ste. Marie, partners professional writers with emerging writers.

"There is a renaissance happening in terms of music in Sault Ste. Marie, and I thought there was a gap in the reading scene."

The series, once in full force, is expected to play an important role in the growing arts community in Sault Ste. Marie.

And Bondar will remain part of that community, providing an opportunity for emerging writers in the North, and her students, to find their voices in the literary world.



PROFESSOR JIM GIBSON

By: Liisa McMillan

It was the summer of 1968 when Jim Gibson joined Algoma College's English department as a faculty member. Then, the college was in its second year of existence, with an 18-member faculty and a mere student enrolment of 78; so small, in fact, it could be housed within a few portable classrooms tucked behind Sault College.

Then, the College offered only the first year of B.A. and B.Sc. degrees to full-time students, and a full B.A. degree to part-time students. Despite this, part-time enrolment increased rapidly to 1,000 students by 1969-70.

A lot has changed over the last 38 years, and Gibson has been witness to the evolution of it all. From a tiny school, it is now an institution with close to 30 full degree programs, including two undergrad

programs unique in North America, CESD and Anishinaabemowin, Algoma U has truly transformed itself over the decades.

Moving from Manitoba (where he had lived since emigrating from Scotland at age 10), Gibson didn't intend to stay long with his family in Sault Ste. Marie. The city soon became home however, and Gibson settled in comfortably at Algoma U.

Since Gibson had completed his undergraduate work at the University of Manitoba, he knew he wanted to work in a small institution where student and teacher were in close contact.

"It's been a comfortable place to work and to deal with people," Gibson said. *"I liked the idea of a small school, and the contact between students."*

Now, with retirement in sight (officially in four years), Gibson reflects on his nearly four-decade long teaching career, from the growth of the University to the changes in course curriculum.

"It's nice to see us continue to grow," he said, noting the openings of the Arthur A. Wishart Library and George Leach Centre as notable moments in the school's history. *"My family loves the area, and have very much enjoyed seeing the city and the University evolve over the years."*

Gibson even spent time in administration in the late 80's as academic dean, and then as president for a term. These experiences, he joked, led him eventually to return to teaching.

"I've been here for so long," he said. *"I'm looking forward to retiring, but I'll miss being part of a vibrant place like this."*

Even though Gibson never intended that his first teaching position should be his last, he has remained dedicated to the university throughout the years. When he finally does retire, Algoma U will lose not only a long-standing member of its faculty, but someone who is, in fact, a part of the school's rich history.



TOM O'FLANAGAN

B.F.A., M.F.A. (University of Saskatchewan)

By: Liisa McMillan

For **Tom O'Flanagan**, one of Algoma U's newest faculty members and an exhibiting artist, inspiration for his art is found in several significant sources. But it wasn't just about finding the inspiration for his work that was important; first, he had to find his identity before he could call himself a true artist.

For O'Flanagan, inspiration was found in the Baha'i Faith, which he joined at the age of 19. The Faith represents a unified vision of people and race, and it was this celebration of differences that made sense to O'Flanagan.

At first, he admits joining for social reasons, but was soon intrigued by its history of remarkable poets and enchanted language. This mystical aspect appealed greatly to the artist in him, and it eventually became a source of constant inspiration for his work.

"It has a mystical aspect that is quite motivating and beautiful," O'Flanagan said.

"It's allowed me to come into contact with different people. When I'm creating a work, I get caught up reminiscing about people, and it's a strong motivator."

Although he grew up in the Catholic religion, it was only when his grandfather suggested taking a closer look at faith that O'Flanagan began to question his own beliefs.

"I investigated what was going on in the culture," he said. *"I had an intuitive sense that there were things going on in the world that were remarkable. In a way, the religion presented itself to me, and I stumbled into it. I wouldn't be an artist without it."*

From Keyano College in Fort McMurray, to the University of Alberta, to Algoma U, O'Flanagan has been encouraging students to find their own inspiration for two decades.

"As a teacher, what I hope to do is provide a sufficient amount of structure and guidance to allow people to find themselves," he said. *"By allowing people to progress, they can find their identity."*

O'Flanagan found out early on in his career that he could merge both teacher and artist roles to create art; teaching then became a new inspiration. *"I've always been able to balance the studio and the teaching, I've been adamant about that."*

His most recent evidence of that is a collaboration of the work of three O'Flanagan brothers; "Three Ply" was an exhibition at the Art Gallery of Sudbury, and followed a successful exhibition at the Edmonton Art Gallery in 2004.

"The work I do is a consequence of history," he said, referring to his childhood growing up on the "edges of civilization," in Melfort, Saskatchewan.

"It takes a long time for an artist to find their voice," he said. *"Painters don't come into their own until later in life."*

Through his teaching and the influence of his faith, O'Flanagan found his identity. Now, his newest challenge lies ahead in encouraging Algoma U students to find their own.





FIRST MASTERS LEVEL DEGREE IN COMPUTER GAMES TECHNOLOGY IN CANADA TO BE OFFERED AT ALGOMA U

Aspiring computer games designers in North America are being offered the chance to study for one of the world's most prestigious degrees in the subject.

Algoma University College has become the exclusive host in North America for the MSc Computer Games Technology offered by the University of Abertay Dundee, Scotland.

This is the first Masters level degree in computer games technology to be offered in Canada, as well one of a handful of MSc degrees in this field in North America. Students in the program will be located on the Algoma U campus in Sault Ste. Marie, and receive instruction from the University of Abertay Dundee's highly experienced and authoritative faculty, via state-of-the-art video-conferencing technology.

This program will run for three semesters over 12 months. This includes 2 semesters of lectures and laboratories, followed by one semester of team-based project work involving the design and test of a prototype game, and concluding with a Masters dissertation. The first graduates from the course are expected in summer of 2007.

During the first two semesters the students will have the exciting opportunity to meet with visiting experts from the game development and publishing industry from across North America.

The University of Abertay Dundee's MSc was the world's first degree in computer games technology when it was launched in 1997, and since then high quality graduates have gone on to great success in the rapidly-growing computer games industry worldwide.

Abertay has also developed the unique 'Dare To be Digital' annual international computer games competition for student teams looking to design and develop quasi-commercial computer games and digital products. Algoma U's Annual FuturePlay conference and its North American computer games competition builds on this expertise.

"The MSc Computer Games Technology offers an international experience, opening a window to European and North American enterprise. I am delighted that the program will provide students with an exceptional opportunity to work up a personal portfolio to showcase their knowledge and skills in the computer game arena," states Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma University College. *"We know the industry is hungry for these graduates and I look forward to watching their successes in the future"* she said.

"The prospect of the development of computer games companies that might contribute to the local economy, as has been the case in Abertay Dundee, is very exciting and the partnership between Algoma U and the Innovation Centre's IT Business Incubator will accelerate the process. Moreover, this new program puts Sault Ste. Marie on the map as a Centre of Excellence for advanced study in computer games," explains Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma U.

The program begins in September 2006. Applications are being accepted now.

"Consistent placement in both Canada's Top 100 Employers and the Deloitte Canadian Technology Fast 50 emphasizes BioWare's core values of quality in our products and quality in our workplace," says Dr. Greg Zeschuk, Joint CEO of BioWare Corp. He added, *"The announcement that Algoma U will be the first Canadian university to offer the Master of Science in Computer Games Technology is thrilling for us as we look forward to recruiting from that pool of top talent."*

For further information on the degree, please visit:

www.mastersdegreeingaming.com

For further information on the University of Abertay Dundee, please visit:

www.abertay.ac.uk

For further information on Algoma U, please visit:

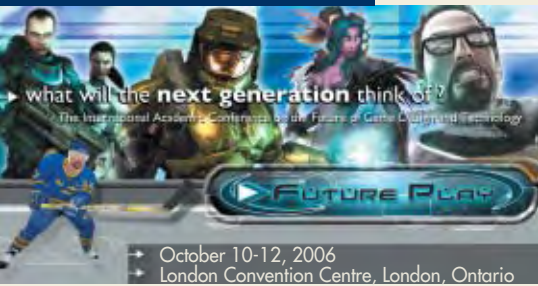
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**FUTURE PLAY 2006:
ALGOMA U'S ANNUAL
CGT CONFERENCE**



FuturePlay 2006 will be held at the London Convention Centre, London, Ontario from October 10-12, 2006. It is kindly hosted by

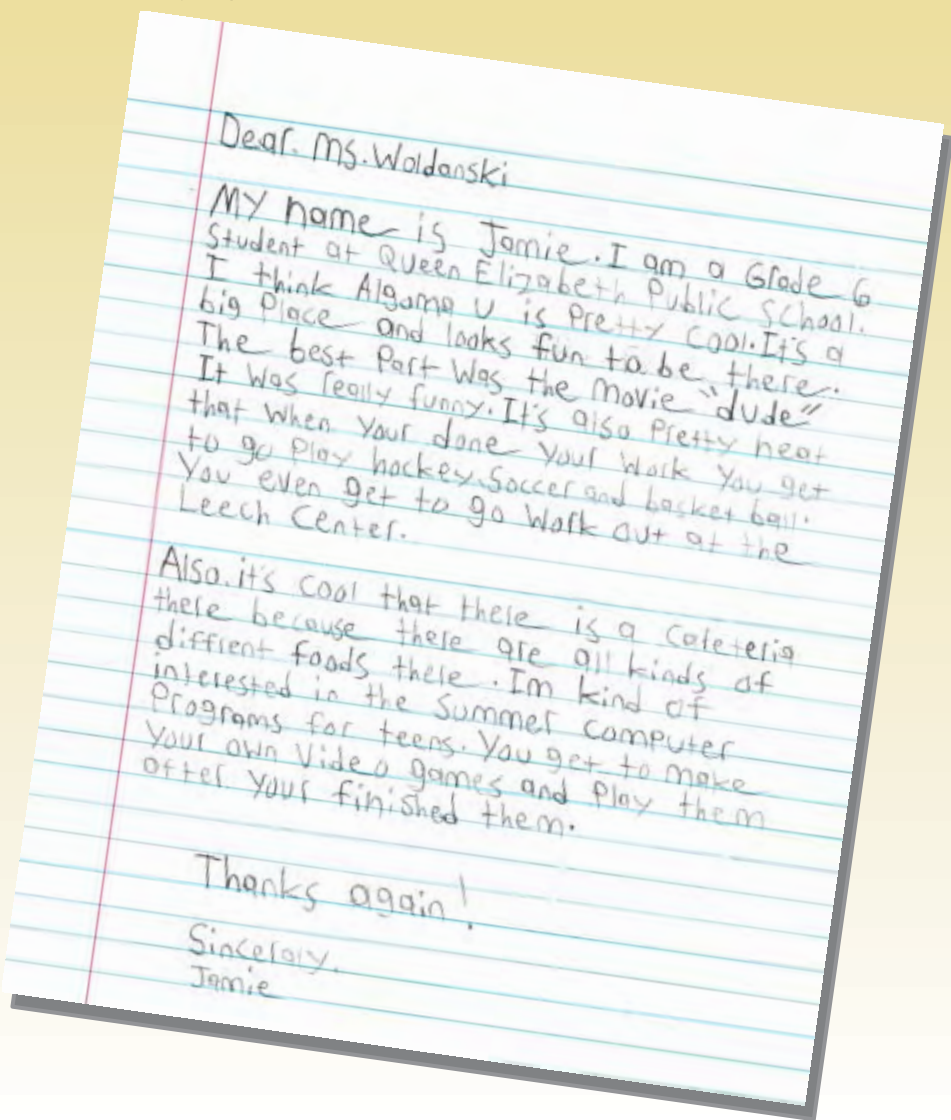
The University of Western Ontario. Some of the highlights are a full program of academic research papers in fields that apply to games research, major keynotes from academia and the games industry, practical workshops on game development and game design, thought provoking panels and roundtable discussions as well as the games exhibition competition.

One of the featured keynotes will be Ken Perlin, NYU. Ken is the creator of the Perlin Noise process that is used heavily in modern computer graphics. This won him an Academy Award in 1997. Ken has most recently been a consultant on the upcoming game "Spore" by Maxis Studios and is a world renowned speaker.

For further, up-to-the-minute information on FuturePlay, call 705-949-2301, ext. 4113 or e-mail: futureplay@auc.ca or visit the website: www.futureplay.org



↑ Justin Cooke, a Grade 7 student at Queen Elizabeth Public School, with Kerry Swanson, left and Amye Annett from imagineNATIVE Film and Media Arts Festival. More than 400 elementary school students from both the Algoma District and Huron Superior Catholic School Boards attended Algoma U's and imagineNATIVE's first ever Aboriginal Film Festival held in Algoma U's Great West Life Amphitheatre. The festival featured and screened a series of five shorts created by Canadian and American Aboriginal youth.



↑ Professor Ernesto Tornin Valdes, Head of Language Department at Higher Institute of Technology & Applied Sciences located in Havana City. This institute belongs to Ministry of Technology, Sciences and Environment of Cuba. Professor Valdes was on campus working in partnership with Algoma U's SPELL Program, attending classes, speaking with Algoma U students, and developing curriculum units for his ongoing graduate work. Pictured: Professor Ernesto Tornin Valdes and Penny Tyrell, Government Documents & Periodicals, Arthur A. Wishart Library, Algoma U.



INVISIBLE PEOPLE: JESSE DOEHLER-KNOX - CESD STUDENT AT ALGOMA U

By: Liisa McMillan

When the issue of homelessness comes to mind, does Sault Ste. Marie enter the picture as well? Not here, you might think. One doesn't drive down Queen Street on any given night and see a homeless person huddled in a doorway, struggling to keep warm.

They don't panhandle in our downtown area, or sleep in cardboard boxes at night. Thanks to community agencies like Pauline's Place and Vincent Place, the Sault's homeless have a place to lay their head at night. They are the homeless that we don't see.

Jesse Doehler-Knox, a Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) student at Algoma U, is trying to shed some light on this not-so-visible problem in Sault Ste. Marie through his documentary "Invisible People."

The film's purpose is to show that homelessness exists in the community, and to reduce stigmas attached to homelessness and poverty.

"I have always been interested in social, economic and environmental justice," Doehler-Knox said. *"My inspiration comes from within, and from history's heroes in these fields (including my Opa)."*

"I was blown away by the theoretical teachings we learn in our core CESD courses. These became my inspiration as they added an entirely new perspective on how a film could be produced."

Doehler-Knox's idea for the 40-minute film came while working at the Soup Kitchen Community Centre for his third-year placement. With encouragement from Soup Kitchen co-ordinator Calna McGoldrick, and Dree Pauze of the City's social services department, Doehler-Knox was successful in securing \$2,500 from the Canadian Millennium Scholarship to make the film. Doehler-Knox then enlisted the help of friend Mike Portoghese, (co-director, co-editor, music, director of photography) and Samantha Mandamin, an Algoma U student, to assist with developing the concept into a finished product.

"I wanted to do something that would help the community," Doehler-Knox said. *"Alleviating homelessness is a fairly recent*

initiative that organizations have taken on. It is not widely recognized in the city that homelessness exists, so it seemed like the perfect topic to use."

"I also wanted to show that globalization has caused more homelessness in smaller cities and towns, especially natural resource based ones – it's no longer just a big city issue. Finally, I hope to show that CESD philosophies can be applied not only to development, but to films as well."

Doehler-Knox began by holding focus groups with the very people who were the inspiration for the documentary: the Sault's homeless. The goal? To determine what they thought were important issues to talk about, and ways to reduce the stigmas surrounding homelessness.

With the help of social agencies, Doehler-Knox was able to find the interviewees for his film, and was surprised at how willing people were to talk about the issues facing them.

"I wanted people to know that this was their film and not just me invading their lives for personal gain," he said. *"I was really surprised at how co-operative people were. I realized that even I had some stigmas and I was worried that I would be met with hostility. The total opposite was true; people were so helpful."*

So, how can people help out with the problem of homelessness?

"On a personal level, people can be more understanding of what those who are homeless go through," he said. *"There is a fine line between sympathy and being stigmatizing. Often we feel bad or sorry for someone, but it's just the sympathetic side of the stigma because we are seeing them as being lower than us, as opposed to an equal person under different circumstances. We have to realize that homelessness should be seen as a transition. It is someone's present state, but not who someone is. People may need our help and support, but they do not need our pity."*

To find out how to obtain a copy of Invisible People, e-mail: kontakt_cd@yahoo.com

SAULT STE. MARIE STATS

From 2004 – 2005

- 22,869 meals were served at the Soup Kitchen (2,954 were to children)
- 376 women and 242 children accessed Women in Crisis
- 695 people accessed Vincent Place (520 were from Sault Ste. Marie)
- 94 youth accessed Pauline's Place

Algoma U: Alive with Creative Ambition



CONFIDENCE IS OK: DAVE JONES

By: Liisa McMillan

Growing up

For Dave Jones, Algoma U alumnus and founder of Turtle Concepts: Options for People, being confident meant having to constantly defend his choices as a child, a teenager, and even now as an adult.

Imagine growing up and having the confidence to present yourself to society in your entirety, without fear of being ostracized for the life you have chosen to lead. What if you wanted to break out of what was considered the “norm” for your culture because it just wasn’t you?

This was Jones’ childhood experience. As a member of Garden River First Nation, he grew up keen on school, achieving good grades and playing sports. He even had a flair for fashion.

Jones was taught by his parents to be respectful, kind, and confident in who he was and where he came from. His mother’s philosophy for life, the concept of balance in school and home life, was something he took to heart and never forgot.

As a teenager, he didn’t indulge in drugs or alcohol, and for this decision, he says, he was ostracized by his peers.

When in Grade Eight he chose to attend St. Mary’s College, then an all-boys school, Jones was teased mercilessly by many.

All of his choices didn’t mean that Jones shunned his Ojibwe heritage (in fact, he grew up very much in tune with his culture and its beliefs), only that he wanted to be known for something other than being native. “His people”, he says, often misinterpreted this.

It was then, at such a young age, that Jones knew his destiny. The time or the place may not have been determined yet, but he understood his purpose here in life: to teach other Aboriginal youth that to grow up having confidence is ok.

“One of the most important decisions I made was choosing to speak publicly about what confused me as an Aboriginal child.”

“People think it’s a yellow brick road we come from, but we made the yellow bricks in our road,” Jones said.

Teaching, not telling

After graduating from Algoma U with a B.A. in Sociology in 1989, Jones continued his education at Nipissing University, where he received his B. Ed.

Turtle Concepts unofficially began while Jones was teaching in Moose Factory, a remote island community located near the southern tip of James Bay. It was his first teaching position, and Jones made a commitment early on to the community and to its youth.

While there, he was disheartened to learn that Aboriginal youth were facing the very same issues he had faced as a child. So, with his hard-earned lessons in hand, Jones began teaching confidence courses part-time to the community’s youth.

“The kids there were looking for a role model,” Jones said. *“I had such a wonderful life, and I wanted to show other Aboriginal kids what they could do.”*

Even after leaving Moose Factory to teach in Sault Ste. Marie for a few years, Jones later returned to continue his earlier work through special initiatives focusing entirely on confidence. His dream to be a “teacher of the world” started in that tiny community.

Creating Turtles

Since its beginning, Turtle Concepts has brought Jones to over 400 communities around the world. With the influence of his brother (and executive officer of the business), Dan Jones, a fashion design graduate from George Brown College, fashion has become an integral part of their confidence courses.

For the last 10 years, Jones has invited 60 of his former “Turtles” to the annual Canadian Aboriginal Festival, where the youth get the opportunity to participate in a fashion show at Toronto’s Rogers Centre (formerly the Sky Dome). “We use fashion as a catalyst to demonstrate confidence.”

In the winter of 2005, Jones and several of his students graced the front cover of Spirit of Aboriginal Youth (SAY) magazine. The headline read “Is Confidence Ok?” and for the first time in the magazine’s history, it sold out.

Recently, Jones appeared on APTN’s National News Daytime, where he spoke about the goals of Turtle Concepts within Canada and North America, as well as his newest initiative.

With his new campaign “Get Some Guts,” Jones is sending the message that saying no every once in a while can have a big impact. Why just once in a while? *“Because I can’t make someone go from black to white in one campaign, but by saying no just every once in a while, it can lead to big changes.”*

Jones is aware that he’s taken on issues that have, essentially, spanned ages, but by visiting community after community, reaching youth after youth, he’s slowly making an impact with his lessons in confidence.

“This is why my creator put me here. He knows I’m strong enough to handle this.”

What propels Jones to continue?

“It is the youth and the public supporters who had the guts to say ‘that’s my story too.’”



Photo credit: Keesic Douglas



CARRIE-ANN SMITH: JUST A GOOD ITALIAN GIRL FROM THE SAULT

By: Liisa McMillan

Algoma U's solid reputation for producing talented, successful people continues to hold true in alumna and Sault native **Carrie-Ann Smith**.

As Manager of Pier 21 National Historic Site in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Smith is creating a name for herself throughout the library community, not only nationally, but also in the United States.

In March, Smith was named one of Library Journal's 100 Movers and Shakers for 2006; one of few Canadians to make the American publication's list.

"There weren't any Canadians named last year so it is a tremendous honour," Smith said.

Since 1998, Smith has been concentrating her efforts on the Pier 21 Society, a registered non-profit organization that relies on donations to operate the National Historic Site.

Pier 21, open from 1928 to 1971, was known as Canada's "front door" to over a million immigrants, wartime evacuees,

refugees, troops, war brides and their children.

Contributing to publications like "Pier 21: Gateway of Hope" by Linda Granfield, "Pier 21 - In War and Peace" by Debi van de Wiel and Alexa Thompson, and the film project "Stories from Pier 21" (Topsail Entertainment for History Television, 2001) Smith has dedicated herself to advancing the national and international reputation of Pier 21.

A Sault native, Smith recounts memories from her mostly Italian upbringing (she was devastated to learn as a child that she possessed only one-quarter Italian heritage) in a comical short story contribution to Maria Coletta McLean's book "Mamma Mia: Good Italian Girls Talk Back."

Smith enjoyed writing the story so much that she began another one, this time on the unexpected courtship of her husband. Soon after submitting it as a writing exercise for school, her professor asked if she had anything to contribute to a book being written by Madeleine Lefebvre, entitled "The Romance of Libraries."

"I got up my courage up and showed my husband the story, and, being a good sport, he said that I should submit it."

Although Smith has found success outside her hometown, she attributes this to a unique learning experience at Algoma U.

"At Algoma I got to study history with veterans and romantic poetry with steelworkers," Smith said. *"I don't think that would have happened anywhere else."*

"If I hadn't taken Bob d'Amato's theatre class in fourth year, I don't think I would have ever had the courage to apply to Dalhousie University in Halifax where I did my Masters in Library and Information Studies. Making myself get up on stage for that class gave me the confidence I needed to pick up everything and start over alone in a new city. I have always been grateful to Algoma U and Dr. d'Amato for that."

For Smith, her upcoming tribute to the experiences of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma U will surely be a painful, if not unforgettable experience in itself.

"I've been working on a bit of an autobiography in tattoos around my ankle, and actually have plans to add a thunderbird, because I want something that represents the Sault and the University," she said. *"So far I've paid tribute in ink to grad school, Pier 21, and my husband."*

"I am very happy in Halifax, but miss my family, best friend, and the Sault, so I hope that the future will allow me to spend more time back home."



↑ Sisters and Algoma U students Sandy Jacko and Louise Jacko from Whitefish Lake First Nation, put cedar and tobacco onto a fire in Algoma U's new ceremonial arbour. (photo courtesy of the Sault Star)

↓ Dr. Celia Ross, President Algoma U, Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma U congratulate scholarship recipients at the President's Award of Excellence Reception.



↑ Clem Marshall, keynote speaker at Black History Month commemorations at Algoma U in Algoma U's Wishart Library.



↑ Algoma U students, faculty and staff at the Eid Dinner held in Algoma U's Student Centre, The Speak Easy.

→ Algoma U students Yoshimi and Camellia celebrate Chinese New Year.



**JOHN R. RHODES
SCHOLARSHIP DINNER
FEATURING THE HONOURABLE
RONALD A. IRWIN,
2005 JOHN R. RHODES SPEAKER
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2005
BEST WESTERN GREAT NORTHERN
- SAULT STE. MARIE**

The 2005 Algoma U Foundation Dinner was a full night of warm reminiscences about John Rhodes and his contributions to the community and the province, followed by insights into the special relationship between Canada and the US as delivered by a former Canadian Ambassador. The Honourable Ronald A. Irwin was the 2005 John R Rhodes speaker and drew on his years of international service to Canada as Ambassador and Consul General to examine the relationship between Canada and its closest and most influential neighbour.

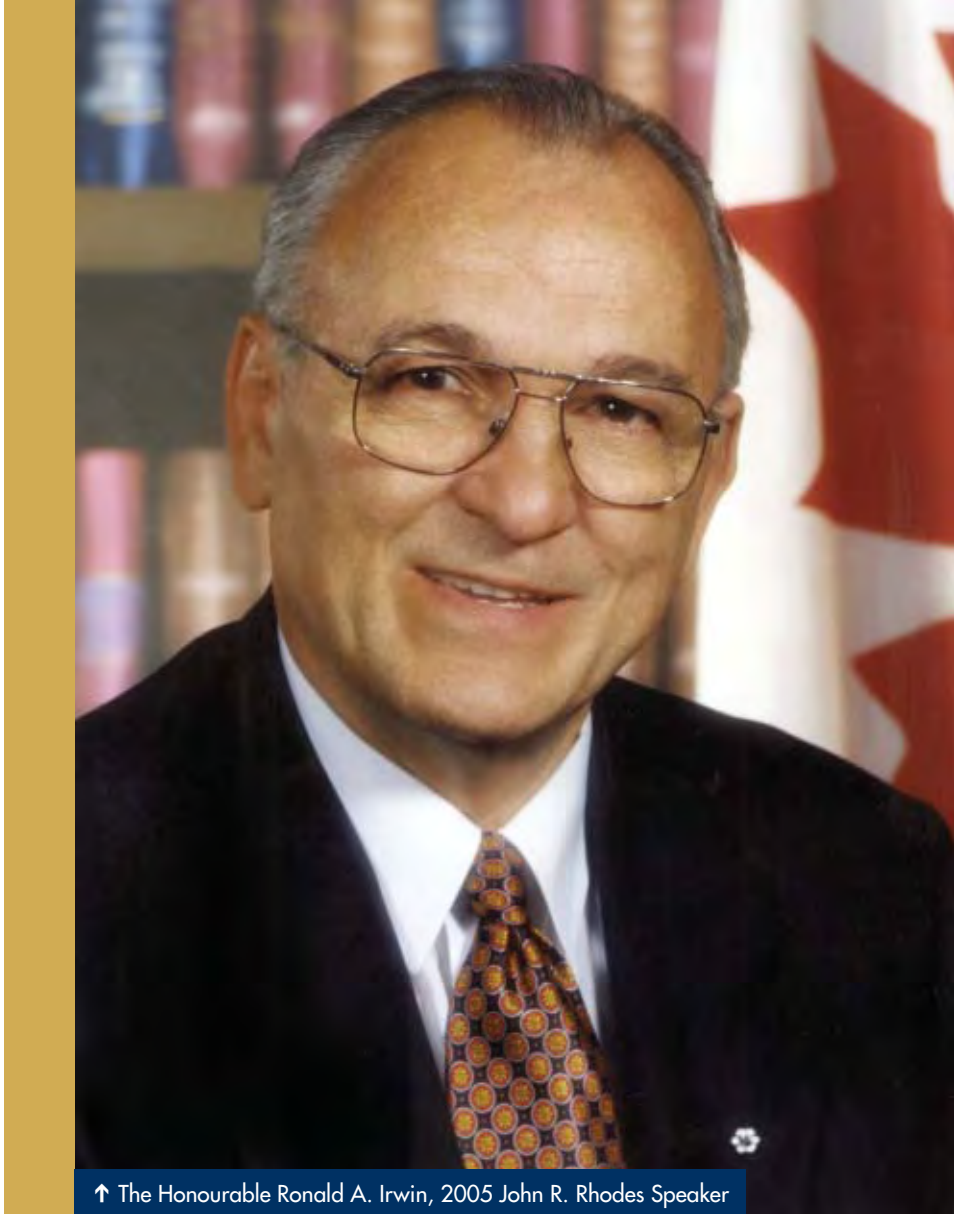
The John R. Rhodes Scholarship was established in 1979 by friends and family members to memorialize and continue the principles of community service that John Rhodes so exemplified. First year students at Algoma U who have demonstrated academic achievement and community leadership while involved in political, social, or academic activities are eligible for this scholarship, and may carry it throughout their time at Algoma U.

For the next five years, funds raised at the Algoma U Foundation Dinner will help provide this prestigious scholarship and will help build an endowment of \$250,000 to provide this award in perpetuity. Donors to the John R. Rhodes Scholarship Fund will receive a charitable tax receipt for 100% of the donation.

Thank you to the 2005 Foundation Dinner Organizing Committee:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Orlando Rosa | Robert Cohen |
| Mickey Contini | Vin Greco |
| Jim McAuley | Don Mitchell |
| Bud Wildman | Doug Rhodes |
| Adele Perugini-Dudgeon | |

The 2006 Foundation John R Rhodes Scholarship Dinner will be in October 2006. Donations to the fund are accepted throughout the year. Watch for more details, or call Deborah Loosemore at 705-949-2301, ext. 4115 for information.



↑ The Honourable Ronald A. Irwin, 2005 John R. Rhodes Speaker

**GOLFING 'FORE' EDUCATION
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Please call Bev. Teller at 705-949-2301, ext. 4125 for registration or sponsorship information.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE FOUNDATION**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Algoma University College Foundation, the Board reluctantly said good-bye to Adele Perugini-Dudgeon, Joe Ruscio and Melanie Borowicz-Sibenik, who either finished their terms of office or resigned. Anthony Rossi, Les Dunbar and Dave Pitcher joined the Board of Directors.

**LIVING LEARNING
CAMPAIGN**

The Board of Directors of the Algoma University College Foundation announced recently that more than \$1 million has been raised through the Living Learning Campaign.

"This campaign was launched to take advantage of the provincial government's matching gift program," said Robert Dumanski, Chair of the Algoma U Foundation, *"and our goal was to raise \$784,000 in total. We've surpassed that by a wide margin."*

Dumanski said that donations totaling more than \$520,000 and the province's matching funds will together add more than \$1 million to the Foundation's endowment. *"This means that we will be able to provide more than \$50,000 in new money for student financial aid,"* said Dumanski.

Living Learning Campaign Committee:
Brian Curran, Mike Tulloch, Cathy Shunock

Thank you to the donors who established the following endowed bursary funds as part of this campaign. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

- Paul and Bricken Dalseg, Pioneers of Lake-of-The-Woods Student Award**
- Johanna Bischooping Award**
- Scotiabank Student Assistance Fund**
- Askin Family Bursary**
- Alexander M. Ross Bursary**
- Indigenous Students Assistance Fund**
- Living Learning Student Assistance Fund**
- Gerald E. Nori QC Student Assistance Fund**
- Great-West Life Student Assistance Fund for Indigenous Students**
- Great-West Life Student Assistance Fund**
- Shingwauk Aboriginal Students Association Student Fund**
- Sar-gin Developments (Sault) Ltd. Student Award**
- Dr. Ken McLarty Research Award**
- Steelworkers 2251 Student Award established by John Kallio**
- Brookfield Power First Nations Environmental Science Award**
- Dr. Robert V. d'Amato Student Award established by Theatre Algoma**
- Algoma Steel Inc Student Award**
- Sault Recreation Hockey Association Fun through Recreation Award**
- Tulloch Engineering Student Award**

Further donations to any one of these funds will also be matched by the Ontario government through the Ontario Trust Fund for Student Support.



↑ Deborah Loosemore and Frank Barban looking at the Donor recognition.

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Wishart Law Firm LLP

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Mr. and Mrs. Andy Pavoni Jr.

Vyrn Peterson

Linda (Lynn) Seniw

Alfio Spadoni

We apologize to those supporters who were not properly recognized for their donations to the Gerald E Nori QC Student Assistance Fund in the Algoma U Foundation's Community Report.

Algoma U Foundation's *Living Learning Campaign*

Campaign Goal: To create new endowed funds to provide financial aid to Algoma U students.

The Algoma U Foundation would like to thank the following donors for creating new endowed bursary funds to benefit Algoma U students.



→ Andy McPhee, Vice President Ontario Operations for Brookfield Power, presents a donation of \$40,000 to Robert Dumanski, Chair of the Algoma U Foundation and Dr. Celia Ross, President of Algoma U. The donation will establish the Brookfield Power First Nations Environmental Science Student Award, for Indigenous students studying biology or chemistry at Algoma U.



← Aboriginal students at Algoma U will be eligible for the SASA Student Award, established with a generous donation of \$6,950 to the Algoma University College Foundation by the Algoma U Shingwauk Aboriginal Students Association.

SASA Executive members (left to right) Tausha Esquega, Louise Jacko, Melissa Caibiossai, Juliette Ozawaminiki, and Sandy Jacko present SASA's donation to Deborah Loosemore, Algoma U's Director of Advancement and External Relations, on behalf of past and current members of SASA.



→ A generous donation from Theatre Algoma of \$18,000 to the Algoma University College Foundation has established the Dr. Robert V. d'Amato Student Award.

This endowed bursary fund will provide financial awards to Algoma U students in English, Fine Arts or Music. Dr. Celia Ross, President of Algoma U (second from right) accepts the cheque on behalf of the Algoma U Foundation from Dr. Robert Ollikkala, Dr. Alanna Bondar, Professor Tom O'Flanagan, Professor Jim Gibson, and Dr. Linda Burnett.



← The Sault Recreation Hockey Association Fun through Recreation Award has been created with a generous donation of \$30,000 to the Algoma University College Foundation. The SRHA was formed over 25 years ago and has provided hockey and Ringette to thousands of Sault Ste Marie children, including teams from Thessalon and Desbarats, thanks to the dedication of many volunteers.

Now that the remaining SRHA teams have been absorbed into the Sault Pee Wee Hockey Association, a portion of the funds remaining in the organization have been used to establish this award, and will continue to benefit the youth of the community forever.

SRHA President Craig Knight and First VP and Little Pro Chair Cathy Chelbus present their donation to Deborah Loosemore, Algoma U's Director of Advancement and External Relations.

The Algoma U Foundation's mandate is to support Algoma University College by:

- Providing funding for annual entrance scholarships and special projects through the Annual Campaign
- Providing funding for capital projects, maintenance and support through annual and endowed gifts
- Increasing the Foundation's endowment to meet the needs of Algoma University College and its students
- Managing endowment funds and other assets for maximum effectiveness

The Algoma U Foundation's Board of Directors:

Robert J. Dumanski, Chair, Anthony Pucci, Vice-Chair, Suzanne Priddle-Luck, Peter Vaudry, Mark Lajambe, Michael Tulloch, Brian Curran, Les Dunbar, Anthony Rossi, David Pitcher, Bud Wildman, Mark Pitcher, Dr. Celia Ross, Deborah Loosemore.

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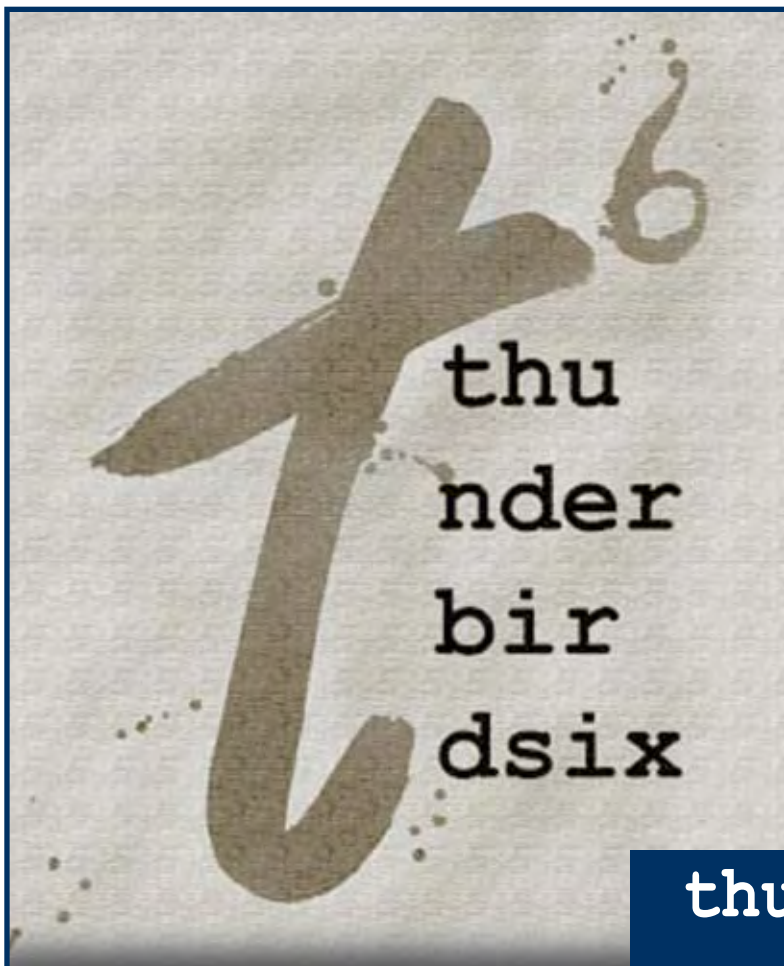
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ALGOMA U ALUMNI NOTES

Alumni Updates, News and Announcements

Dr. P. Michel Chevrier, BA Hons 1986 (English), BA 1993 (French) currently resides in Ottawa with his wife Karen and their two children Zoe and Stephane. After graduating from Algoma U, Michel went on to complete his M.A. in Comparative Literature in 1995 and in 2004 he earned his Phd, also in Comparative Literature at Carleton University in Ottawa. His dissertation is entitled *The Oral Stage: A Comparative Study of Franco-Ontarian Theatre from 1970 to 2000*. Dr. Chevrier accepted a full-time post at Carleton University in the French Department.

Michael G. Gekas, BBA 2002 (Admin) completed his CMA designation in the summer of 2005. Michael is currently employed as a Program Financial Consultant at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto.

Joan M. Foster, BA 1976 (Psychology). Having survived lung cancer from second hand smoke (2003), Joan is now actively involved with a fundraising project called the Cup of Comfort. The Cup of Comfort is a collectible china rose patterned mug and comes with candy and a poem. Proceeds to support the local Cancer Care Program.

Ann-Marie Ciaschini, BA 1981 (Sociology) is teaching grades 1 & 2 at Kiwedin Public School in Sault Ste. Marie. Ann-Marie has dedicated 24 years to her career and was recognized for her achievements by receiving the Educator of the Year Award in 1992. Ann-Marie is married and has two children.

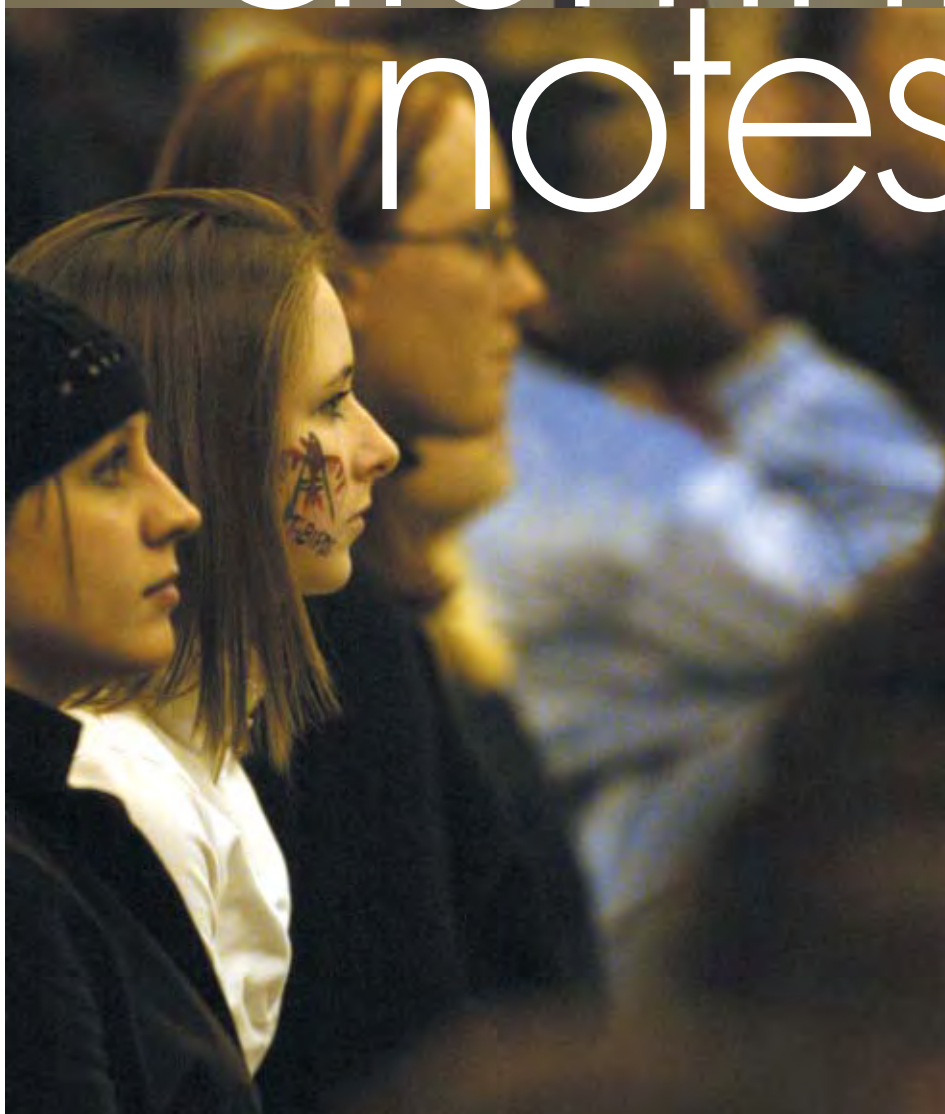
Lisa Carolyn Mauro, BA 1994 (Sociology) recently moved back to Sault Ste. Marie, after being away for 10 years. Lisa is working at Tenaris Algoma Tubes as the Tenaris University Regional Coordinator.

Julie Schryer, 1984 (Music) is a co-founder of the Algoma Traditional Music and Dance Family Camp (ALGOMATRAD), now in its third year of operation. The camp is designed to promote interest in the study of traditional music and dance that are part of the roots of Ontario and Canadian culture. More information can be found on their website at: www.algomatrad.ca

Andy Pavoni, BA 1979 (Psychology) is a teacher with the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board. Andy is married to Cheryl Pavoni, Executive Director of the Sault Area Hospital Foundation. They have two sons who both play hockey and basketball.



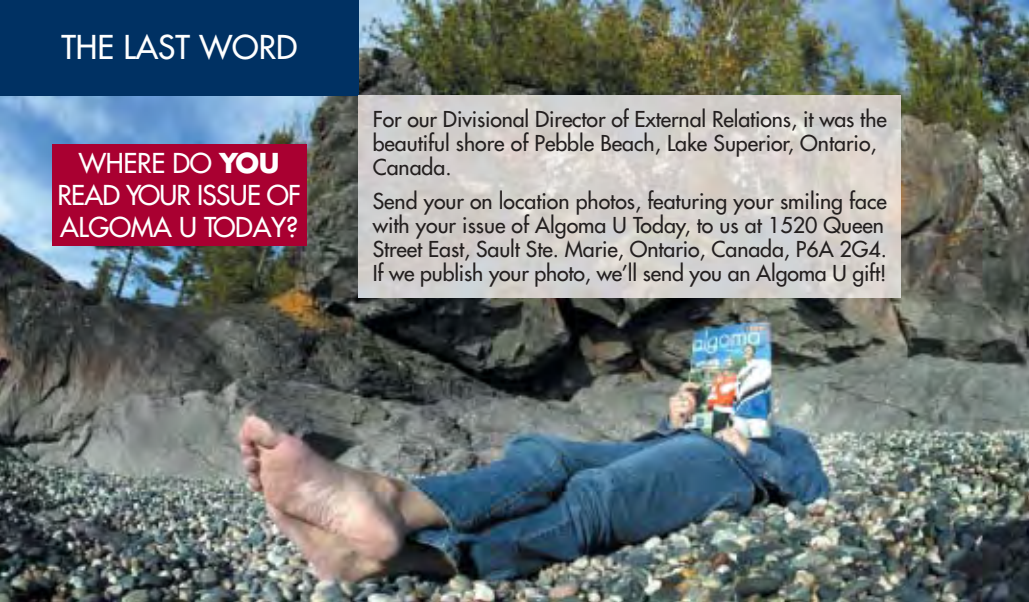
alumni notes



**WHERE DO YOU
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For our Divisional Director of External Relations, it was the beautiful shore of Pebble Beach, Lake Superior, Ontario, Canada.

Send your on location photos, featuring your smiling face with your issue of Algoma U Today, to us at 1520 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada, P6A 2G4. If we publish your photo, we'll send you an Algoma U gift!



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ALUMNI COUNCIL MEMBERS:

- Chair - **David Pitcher**, (BA, Law & Justice, 2000)
- Vice Chair - **Bruce Lenton**, (BA, Psychology, 1979)
- Past Chair - **Les Dunbar**, (BA, Economics, 1980)
- Pat Fremlin**, (BA, Geography, 1976)
- Craig Kohler**, (BA, Political Science, 1989)
- Cheryl Rancourt**, (BA, Economics, 1990)
- Suzanne Perigord**, (BA, French, 1980)
- Shirley Wight**, (BA, Psychology, 1971)
- Marnie Antoniow**, (BA, History, 2000)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Alumni Pub** - (to be announced)
- Algoma U Classic Golf Tournament** - Monday, June 19th, 2006
- Alumni BBQ & Dance** - September 2006

For more details, check the Alumni section of the Algoma U website: www.algomau.ca

For further information please contact: Bev. Teller, Alumni & Development Officer, at (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125, or: alumni@auc.ca



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