

T O D A Y

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SUMMER/FALL 2008

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**ALGOMA UNIVERSITY - ONTARIO'S NEWEST UNIVERSITY!**



*Special Independence Issue*



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On Saturday, June 14th, 2008, Algoma University hosted Convocation 2008, its largest convocation ever, conferring degrees upon more than two hundred students. Shown are the graduates on the front stairs of Shingwauk Hall. More Convocation 2008 on Page 14.



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**Cover photo:** Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma U; Matt Shoemaker, AUSU Finance Commissioner; Dr. Arthur H. Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma U; and Bud Wildman, Chair of the Algoma U Board of Governors bring the era of Algoma University College to a symbolic close at the 3rd reading of the *Algoma University Act 2008* on May 29th, 2008.

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

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

Who knew 2008 would be so much fun, here at Algoma University? And yes, it feels good to say "Algoma University."

Now that the Ontario government has, in the words of the Act, dissolved Algoma University College and created in its place Algoma University, there is much to celebrate and much to do.

This is the inaugural issue of Algoma University Today, but much of it will feel familiar. We are featuring stellar alumni and highlighting the impact these people are making on their communities. This issue also includes the annual Algoma U Foundation Community Report, acknowledging the support of alumni and friends of the university. (If you are on campus please take a moment to visit the Algoma U Donor Wall. This beautiful plaque, located in the foyer of the Great West Life Amphitheatre, was created by Albert Lucarelli, a long-time employee and talented artist.)

Before long, you will see some new things happening in and around the campus. Later this summer, the new front entrance driveway to Shingwauk Hall, and the new parking lot that will stretch all the way to Mark Street, will be under construction. And you have probably already received your invitation to the Algoma University Ribbon Cutting Celebration. If not, please visit [www.algomau.ca](http://www.algomau.ca) for event scheduling information.

In September, Algoma University will be rolling out a new marketing and awareness campaign. This campaign will spread from Algoma University throughout Sault Ste. Marie and all of Ontario. We know there are many

people who are looking for the kind of university experience available at Algoma University. Through this awareness campaign, we will be actively reaching out to those students, whether they are in high school, attending another university and ready for a change, or in the workforce and planning on returning to school to finish a degree.

Can you do your part in helping Algoma University grow? Please tell people about Algoma University and your experiences here. If you have friends or family that are considering going to university, send them to our website or help arrange for a campus tour. A quick phone call to 1-800-ALGOMA-U will set it up. We are always happy to show off the beautiful campus.

Donating to the Annual Campaign, or donating to the endowment to support scholarships and bursaries is another way to show your support. Did you know that there can be some significant tax advantages to making your donation with stocks, life insurance or through your will? I'd be happy to chat with you about these options. I can be reached at 705-949-2301 ext 4115, or through [alumni@algomau.ca](mailto:alumni@algomau.ca).

Finally, if you attended classes on this campus, please remember to let us know what you are up to! Personal news, career news, family news - your classmates would like to hear about you, and current and future students also like to read about the lives of those who strode these hallways before them. Also, remember that babies look very cute wearing the new Algoma U bibs - free on request from [alumni@algomau.ca](mailto:alumni@algomau.ca).



*"We are tremendously proud now to have our own charter and to be joining the ranks of Ontario universities."*

**Dr. Celia Ross**  
President, Algoma University

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

On June 18, 2008, following all-party support in the Ontario Legislature, Lieutenant-Governor Michael Onley gave royal assent to a bill creating Algoma University, Ontario's nineteenth autonomous, publicly-funded university. This is a recognition of the more than 40 years of experience we have on this campus in providing undergraduate degrees under the umbrella of Laurentian University. Now, Algoma University has the right to expand its own programs and provide degrees as a full and equal member of the community of Ontario universities.

On campus, we were delighted to have three party support as the legislation went through Queen's Park. Tears were shed and the applause was very loud as we gathered in the Great West Life Amphitheatre and watched the quick passage of our bill - all three readings in less than one week. We are tremendously proud now to have our own charter and to be joining the ranks of Ontario universities.

Algoma's special mission, as outlined in our Charter, reads as follows:

(a) to be a teaching-oriented university that provides programs in liberal arts and sciences and professional programs, primarily at the undergraduate level, with a particular focus on the needs of northern Ontario; and

(b) to cultivate cross-cultural learning between Aboriginal communities and other communities, in keeping with the history of Algoma University College and its geographic site.

#### *What does this mission mean?*

Algoma University is primarily a teaching university - our first concern is personal, innovative and quality university education. We offer students a broad choice of programs, covering the humanities, social sciences and professional areas such as Business. Student success is our main concern, and small classes with meaningful opportunities for students to interact with professors is our trademark.

Algoma University is primarily an undergraduate university, meaning that we concentrate our resources on the undergraduate learning experience. In the future, enrolment growth will doubtless also mean the introduction of a few graduate programs in areas of Algoma U special expertise, but our emphasis will remain on creating an outstanding undergraduate experience.

Algoma University has a particular focus on the needs of Northern Ontario. There are two ways in which Algoma University will continue to contribute to the development of Northern Ontario. The first is that we pay special attention to supporting the success of students from smaller communities, including First Nations communities, who may be the first in their families to attend university. Student services on campus are designed to support these students. Many of our students also choose to study on a part-time basis; alternative modes of delivery may be introduced to serve these students better.

The second way we support development in Northern Ontario is by welcoming students from across Ontario and throughout the world; we anticipate that a positive experience at Algoma University will encourage students from far and wide to make the Algoma District their home after graduation. This will bring energy, enthusiasm and skills to our region.

Algoma University will continue to respect the spirit and intent of the original trust associated with the land on which our campus sits. We will continue to assume responsibility for offering an education that respects, includes and celebrates our Anishinaabe (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) partners and communities.

The special mission outlined in our Charter will guide Algoma University for many years to come. We are committed to being an institution that truly makes a difference to students and to the communities we serve.

## INDEPENDENCE: INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS

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



What does it mean to be *independent*?  
Does it mean that you can be who you want?  
Does it mean you can do what you want?  
When you want? How you want?

It's been said of organizations, that they undergo similar developmental stages as we do as individuals. In our own lives, there are two main stages of our development that are marked by efforts toward independence.

One stage takes place as toddlers - between the ages of two and three - wherein we develop our sense of will, our sense of control and competency. While not quite self-possessed or independent, we develop defiance and determination. Of course, while few of us would remember this period of our lives, there are very few parents who wouldn't remember their children passing through this stage. What paves the way for this stage is the *expression of will* and what emerges is a modicum of self-assuredness and pride in oneself. To be sure, this stage is marked by a test of wills, a necessity for maturation.

Once again, in our adolescence, our rebellion re-emerges in an effort to identify *who we ARE* - our sense of self. Paradoxically, we look outside of ourselves to *discover* our inner self... who we are. This stage, like that while toddlers, is about forming an identity separate from the parent and both are stages of considerable self-consciousness.

In this way, regulating ourselves and our relationships are processes that both individuals and organizations undergo. That autonomy is less a single solitary achievement, and more a gradual and organic change-process, evolving over time. That independence is part of our developing identity that has emerged out of nothing less than *sheer will*. As such, after our lengthy adolescence, we have reached a turning point or watershed moment that will forever change the path of our future. The self-reliance that results from this process affords us and the University community the confidence in defining who we are and how we relate to others. Within it, the University has developed competencies, not unlike we develop in our personal bids for independence - will, self-reliance, identity - that will enable us to meet challenges head on.

The process is less about serving a parent (institution) and more about asserting who we are by solidifying deeper relationships



with those that are important to us - namely with you, our students and partners.

The process is *more* about *growing* than it is about growing up.

Independence *doesn't* mean a lack of dependence... the strength of independence is arrived at by *interdependence* - the awareness of our relationship with, and impact upon, others. Interdependence is about the realization that we are better off in community with others than functioning alone. Interdependence is about being mindful that what we have to offer to others is meaningful to them, is beneficial to them and ultimately enables them to do more by mutual-relationship, than by going it alone.

The constituent parts of a University are numerous - students, alumni, faculty, support staff, administration, community partners, municipal and provincial officials and our society-at-large. If we are not interdependent, independence is meaningless... it is meaningful in that the whole becomes

greater than the sum of its parts.

As the University is *growing*, it is clear that independence doesn't simply mean doing what one wants, when one wants or how one wants. There are rules and standards, responsibilities and accountabilities. In this next stage of development - of our growth - we shall borrow the lessons of our youth. While privileged to receive years of instruction from our parents, we are now at the stage where we have to make our own way, chart our own course. This way - our destiny - is with you - the public we serve. We are accountable to you. You are not our parents, you are our community - **you are us**. Together, we shall determine what we want, when we want it, and how we want it.

Without our relationship with you - without you that profound interdependence our independence would be hollow. We celebrate our independence with you, and look forward to the path ahead with you by our side.



**JOANNE OSWIN:  
FINANCIER OF THE FAR EAST**

Joanne Oswin, B.A. Accounting  
Class of '86

By: Rick McGee

A world of big international opportunities opened up for Joanne Oswin 10 years ago.

In 1998, the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) chartered accountant specializing in corporate restructuring accepted her employer's invitation to work in Hong Kong. She would initially help the globe's largest accounting firm respond to the Asian financial crisis.

*"I have enjoyed working here from the day I arrived,"* Joanne enthused a decade after relocating. *"Being here has given me extensive exposure to China, which is a fascinating and exciting market."*

Career progress has included advancement into the management ranks. *"I greatly value being part of my firm,"* she continued. *"One of PwC's great strengths is our ability to serve clients across borders."*

Much of Joanne's attention focuses on processes to deliver services seamlessly in different markets. *"My position involves extensive travel and regular contact with people all over the world,"* she noted.

Business responsibilities aren't the only aspects of Joanne's life with far-reaching reference points.

*"My partner of 10 years is Australian. It works well for us to be located part way between the two countries where our families reside. We and our families travel regularly to see each other. Instant internet communication also helps us to overcome the distances between us."*

Looking back, the highly successful alumna remembers *"the relaxed and collegial atmosphere of Algoma U, and the dedication of the staff and professors who made it a very comfortable institution."* The pleasant campus setting is also fondly recalled.

Practical considerations prompted Joanne to pursue a degree in her hometown after graduating from Mount St. Joseph College. *"I wanted to finance my own education as much as possible. By choosing Algoma U, I was able to live at home. My parents kindly took care of my living expenses. A part-time job allowed me to cover my tuition, and I was largely able to self-fund my education."*

Joanne's father had encouraged a business career. An Algoma U degree provided a stepping-stone to the professional designation she sought.

Additional credentials - Chartered Insolvency and Restructuring Professional, and Canadian Trustee in Bankruptcy - followed later.

# CAUTION: Masters at play

The video game industry needs people with credentials. In just 12 months, earn your Master of Science (Computer Games Technology) from the prestigious University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland, on campus at Algoma U.

The course is delivered from Scotland through real-time videoconferencing connecting two countries into one classroom with top-notch facilities boasting extremely high bandwidth.

If you hold a computer science degree, or related degree in engineering or physics, capitalize on a career in the billion-dollar video games industry.

Join students from around the world who recognize the elite opportunity that this program provides. Apply today!



[www.algomau.ca/mastersatplay](http://www.algomau.ca/mastersatplay)



↑ Mike Cachagee with Prime Minister Steven Harper. On Wednesday, June 11th, 2008, Mike Cachagee was present in the House of Commons for the historic apology to residential school survivors by the federal government. A public viewing of the proceedings was held in the Great West Life Amphitheatre and was attended by many of Mike's fellow residential school survivors.

**MIKE CACHAGEE:  
A LIFETIME OF LEADERSHIP**

Mike Cachagee, B.A.  
Honours in Political Science  
Class of '94

By: Rick McGee

Experiences at 1520 Queen Street East have come full circle and then some during Mike Cachagee's lifetime.

As a child, he attended Shingwauk Indian Residential School. Decades later, the former resident came back to the same-but-different place for a degree. Employment at the university followed the completion of studies. Today, Mike sits on the institution's Board of Governors.

The return to familiar territory started after 30 years of work in the automotive sector. An opportunity to attend university was eagerly embraced. "I always wanted to go back," Mike recalled. "I returned to school in the late 1980s and was the oldest person in the room."

Big adjustments were needed, but he persevered. "I got to know my professors and we could relate as adults. My relationship with

*the young students and what I learned were also very rewarding. I was interested in the social sciences because I knew that things were changing."*

Fourth-year studies meant long-distance commutes to Laurentian University. Same-day drives from Sault Ste. Marie to Sudbury and back - with classes in-between - became the weekly norm.

After becoming a Native Student Advisor at Algoma U, Mike helped increase Aboriginal enrolment to over 100 students. "I had a wonderful relationship with Student Services staff, and especially (Director) Marianne Perry and (Academic Dean) Jim Gibson," Mike said. "They really encouraged and supported me."

A move to Thunder Bay followed when Mike became Dean of Native Education at Confederation College. He administered programs and services for 600-plus Native students at several campuses.

Leadership roles at all levels have dominated Mike's life for 25 years. He was Chief of his home Chapeau Cree First Nation. Other accomplishments include important roles in land claim negotiations and acting

as political advisor to the Grand Chief of Nishnawbe Aski Nation.

This alumnus helped to secure the landmark Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement in 2007. Since 2003, he has been president of the National Residential School Survivors Society.

A man deeply committed to helping others and caring for Mother Earth, Mike observes: "We need a global perspective. We live on this blue globe in space."

↓ Shingwauk IRS Sault Star article November 1957



MUSICIANS—This musical quartet gave quite a flip to festivities at the Shingwauk School Halloween party staged by the Algoma District Hotel Association Thursday night. Left to right on stage are Teddy Mark, Elsie Archibald, Helen Nisbide and Michael Cachagee. Sault Star Photo.

## ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ~ HISTORY IN THE MAKING!

On May 26th 2008 members of the Algoma U community crowded into the Great West Life Amphitheatre to watch a live broadcast of the introduction of “Bill 80, An Act to Create Algoma University” in the provincial legislature. Celebrations were held again a scant three days later on May 29th as the *Algoma University Act 2008* passed third and final reading, officially dissolving Algoma University College and creating a newly independent Algoma University.

After more than 40 years as an affiliate college of Laurentian, Algoma now becomes Northern Ontario’s fourth university and the 19th publicly-funded university in the province.



↑ Dr. Celia Ross watches intently as the *Algoma University Act 2008* is introduced for its third and final reading.

↓ A large crowd watches first reading from the Great West Life Amphitheatre on May 26th.



↑ Sault Ste. Marie Mayor John Rowsell was one of many community leaders who attended the first reading.



↑ Chief Lyle Sayers of Garden River First Nation speaks to the crowd after first reading.



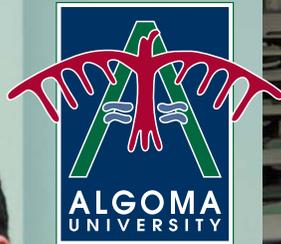
↑ Algoma U Payroll & Benefits Officer, Debra Matthews BA (Accounting) July 2004  
Algoma University Alumni commemorate a historic moment. →



↑ Indigenous Student Advisor Sarah Crowell celebrates the passage of third reading in The Speakeasy.



↑ Dean Perlini and Board of Governors Chair Bud Wildman usher in a new era at Algoma University with a cake-cutting.



↓ The era of Algoma University College is brought to a symbolic close.



↑ AUSU Finance Commissioner Matt Shoemaker is in good spirits as he addresses the crowd on May 29th.



## CRAIG KOHLER: FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE

Craig Kohler, B.A. Honours in Political Science  
Class of '89

By: Liisa McMillan

Being born with cerebral palsy, a non-progressive yet often debilitating condition has never gotten in the way of anything that Algoma University alumnus Craig Kohler has set out to accomplish in life.

At age 18 months, Kohler was diagnosed with the developmental disability, and immediately began receiving daily physiotherapy. He spent most of his elementary school years in the Rotary Children's unit at William Merrifield Public School before being "mainstreamed" into a regular school in 1975.

The year 1985 marked Kohler's graduation from Sir James Dunn and his last orthopaedic surgery before commencing post-secondary education. Algoma University was his choice. Kohler had spent considerable time at the Wishart Library, and because a relative was a member of the English faculty, Kohler had attended a number of functions at the school and felt comfortable there.

*"This exposure to the institution gave me a thorough understanding of the benefits of its small size and close relationship between staff, faculty and students," Kohler said. "This was later enhanced as Algoma's then chief recruiter Marianne Perry Butcher gave me the utmost confidence that I could fit in at the University given the realities of my disabilities."*

*"My expectations could not have been more thoroughly fulfilled throughout my time at the University. It has always felt like a second home."*

After graduating from Algoma University College in 1989, Kohler transferred to the University of Western Ontario to complete his fourth-year of a political science degree. Afterwards, Kohler was granted admission to Western's faculty of law.

*"In order to cope with my learning disabilities it had been my practice to take four courses during the main year, one spring session and one at intersession, (but) this was not permitted at this time in Ontario's law schools," explained Kohler. "The increased volume of written work was more than I could cope with and after two years I left law school without completing my degree."*

Kohler then returned home to Sault Ste.

Marie to begin his career, and has since held a number of contract positions with not-for-profit organizations, generally focusing on research pertaining to disability issues, social justice and the law.

Kohler's involvement in advocating for disabled rights began in 1973, when he served as the Easter Seals' "Timmy" in an effort to assist in the annual fundraising campaign.

*"That was my first experience in dealing with how to advance the position of persons with disabilities," Kohler said. "I could not have achieved my goals in life without the assistance of fair-minded people both with and without disabilities."*

Kohler has worked tirelessly as a disabled rights activist, and his efforts have assisted in the passing of the provincial disabilities rights legislation, and in the creation of the local Accessibility Advisory Committee. He is also involved with the Sault College Advisory Committee and other community agencies dedicated to assisting individuals with disabilities.

*"It is my firm belief that individuals with disabilities must take a leadership role in the evolution of their position within society to become fully involved and active members within."*



↑ Joanna Nahwegahbow and her son, Orlando.

## HELPING WITH HEALING: JOANNA NAHWEGAHBOW

Current Algoma University student -  
Third year Community Economic Social  
Development (CESD) Program

By: Michael Ward

For decades, the painful legacy of Residential Schools has cast a shadow over Canadian history. It has only been very recently that progress began towards achieving a respectable and equitable resolution for the survivors of the residential school experience.

Helping to forge that resolution is **Joanna Nahwegahbow**, a third-year Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) student at Algoma University. Joanna is a member of the AFN Indian Residential Schools Survivors Advisory Committee, a group that is also involved with

the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The Committee has helped advise the National Chief of AFN, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada (IRSC), and Service Canada on how to best serve the interests of survivors.

Being involved with the Advisory Committee is personally meaningful to Joanna. *“On my father’s side we have a history of residential school survivors that went to the Spanish Indian Residential School. On my mother’s side my Aunt Dorothy went to the Shingwauk Indian Residential School, (where Algoma University and Shingwauk University are now located). To be on this committee is an excellent opportunity for me to be a part of and contribute to the residential school legacy,”* she says.

Joanna was present in the House of Commons when Prime Minister Stephen Harper made a historic apology to survivors of residential schools. *“After [Liberal leader] Stephane Dion spoke I was ready to cry by then and when the National Chief Phil Fontaine spoke it renewed the spark of hope. To hear the apologies provided me with hope that the relationships between the Anishinaabe people, Canadians in general and the government will enable us to move forward together in a respectful way. As well, we will always remember the survivors that are in the spirit world.”*

After graduating from Algoma University, Joanna plans to pursue an MA in either Native Studies or Education and eventually a Ph.D, with the ultimate aim of working in education.

*“The Anishinaabe culture and traditions need to be accepted within the education system,”* says Joanna. *“There needs to be a connection of the Anishinaabe way of learning with the Western way, so that both sides can be validated and have legitimacy together within the current education system.”*

For the younger generation of Anishinaabe students who have not known the pain of residential schools first-hand, Joanna advises them to do their part to remember the legacy of residential schools, while contributing to the legacy yet to be written.

*“The youth need to remember what happened, how it happened, why it happened, and what the survivors went through along with their understanding of how they fit in,”* she says. *“So that someday we can say this is what happened, this is where we are at and this is where we are going as one wise Anishinaabe elder told me.”*



## JANICE (BOWMAN) GIBSON: FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

Janice (Bowman) Gibson, B.B.A.  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
Class of '92

By: Liisa McMillan

Algoma University alumna **Janice Gibson** had been working at Citibank Canada in Toronto for nearly seven years when she received an interesting call: it was her former boss on the phone, and she wanted to know if Gibson was interested in working for her in The Bahamas.

*"I'll never forget that day because there was a blizzard in Toronto and it was extremely cold," Gibson said. "My response was, 'When do you want me to be there?' That's how simple it was."*

That was nearly nine years ago, and since then, Gibson's job with one of the largest financial services companies in the world has only gotten better.

Gibson is currently the Director of Human Resources for Citi in The Bahamas and the Cayman Islands, as well as the Global Human Resources Generalist for Citi's international trust and fiduciary division.

"When you think of HR, most people think of the HR department of twenty years ago or rather the 'Personnel Department'," said Gibson. "They think we hire and fire and process payroll. In fact, HR is about much

more than that, but in order to get a seat at the table you have to prove your worth and demonstrate that you understand the business and its drivers and be able to align your HR strategy to the overall business strategy."

It was a Human Resources Management course at Algoma U that Gibson credits for stimulating an interest in the field. After graduating with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, Gibson enrolled in a one-year certificate program in Human Resources Management at Seneca College.

*"Other courses I took (at Algoma U), like Operations Management, have assisted me when I look at organizational design and at individual job descriptions," she said. "I think with an undergraduate business degree you get to know the basics in all areas of business management. HR is very similar. It is one of the departments in an organization where you get to see a little of all the other areas."*

Since moving to The Bahamas, Gibson met and married her husband, and has two children, ages three and two. When time allows, Gibson plans on teaching a course in Human Resources Management at the College of The Bahamas, located directly across the street from her office. Her job is "fulfilling," and Gibson has no intentions of leaving the place that has welcomed her since the day she arrived.

*"Being an expatriate within Citi is a significant achievement," said Gibson. "Due to the large expense associated with transferring employees and their families to new locations and all the associated costs, only a select few get the opportunity. The fact that they have moved me three times means that my contributions are valued and that is what every employee wants to feel - valued."*



## ANDREW ROSS: WORKING TO KEEP THE NORTH IN BUSINESS

Andrew Ross, B.B.A.  
Bachelor of Business Administration  
Class of '04

By: Algoma U Staff

Andrew Ross's calendar hasn't had many empty days on it since he graduated from the BBA program in 2004. The former AUSU president has found work at Enterprise Centre Sault Ste. Marie where he is currently the acting manager. He has also volunteered his time with the Sault International Youth Association and with the Algoma U Alumni Council, of which he is the current Chair.

Working to keep youth in Northern Ontario is a key focus of both Ross's career and voluntary work. "Youth retention is a big issue in a lot of Northern Communities, and I think we are all aware of the problems here," he says. "With the Youth Association, we don't necessarily say that all youth must stay in the Sault and find jobs and so forth. What we do suggest is that we create a community that offers choices to our youth, and hopefully by

doing so they might stay, or even better, they leave town and experience the bigger world, only to return when they are ready to settle down and raise a family."

Promoting entrepreneurship and reviewing business plans forms a major part of Ross's work with Enterprise Centre - something he feels that his undergraduate education at Algoma U has well-prepared him for. "Case study analysis is a major portion of the BBA program and the process for good analysis is hammered home to students all the time. I felt more than prepared from day one at Enterprise Centre and I credit my training through the Business program for that. Besides, if you can survive a Pelham Matthews exam or come through the Shoe Game with Dave Galotta relatively unscathed, then you can take on most anything the 'real' world can throw at you."

While a student at Algoma U, Ross was active in university life. He was the first president of AUSU when it changed over from a student association to a student union and was also involved in the planning for the construction of the student life centre. However, Ross's involvement at Algoma U stretches back to well before he became an undergrad.

"My mom, who retired I believe last January or so, worked for Algoma U from the day she left High School and when I was young would bring us kids to all sorts of family events at the University," says Ross. "One of the oldest memories I have is from when I was seven or eight and being at a Staff Christmas party in the T-Bird lounge. Someone (ahem, Bruno?) dressed like Santa and gave out presents to all the little kids like me. Little did they know that the best gift was the degree they gave me some 16 years later. Kind of a sappy statement from me, but the reality is I wouldn't be as well set up in my chosen career path as I am without the teachings and guidance of the best program at Algoma U."

# algomaU

## Convocation 2008

On Saturday, June 14th, Algoma University hosted its largest convocation ever, conferring degrees upon more than two hundred students. Also honoured at the ceremony were a number of dignitaries, including Errol Caldwell, Dr. Thomas Allaway, Ron Francis, David Jones and Dr. Laurie Bloomfield.

### Errol Caldwell - Senate Award

Errol Caldwell, Director of Science Enterprise Algoma (SeA) and recently retired from a lengthy career at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, was honoured with the Senate Award of Honorary Member of Algoma U for his distinctive and distinguished service. Mr. Caldwell has participated in program planning consultation at Algoma U as we develop our Biology program. He has assisted in securing resources that have contributed significantly to science development at the university and in the community, and continues to work tirelessly to see the establishment of new research chairs at Algoma U in the science areas. Through SeA, the organization that Mr. Caldwell founded and currently directs, participant organizations are brought together to build exciting new projects such as the proposed BioSciences and Technology Centre. Mr. Caldwell's commitment to science and to education at the municipal, provincial and federal levels is praiseworthy. His leadership is a gift to the university. Mr. Caldwell embodies the values of the university, our faculty and our Senate.

### Dr. Thomas Allaway - Distinguished Faculty Award

Dr. Thomas Allaway has been an Associate Professor of Psychology at Algoma U since August of 1975. He earned his B.A. from Swarthmore College (Phi Beta Kappa) in 1966, his M.A. (1967) and Ph.D. (1971) from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Allaway's administrative service has been both longstanding and notable. Dr. Allaway served as Algoma University College's first Academic Dean from 1982-1988. He has also served on the Algoma U Board of Governors, as one of two elected members of the Senate as Speaker of the Senate and as Chair of the Sciences Division. He has also been active on important institutional committees including Academic Planning and Priorities Committee, Curriculum Committee and Peer Review Committee.



**Ron Francis - Honorary Degree Recipient**

Mr. Ronald Francis was born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie and has many family and friends who still live in the city. During his National Hockey League career, Ron achieved many professional highlights and has translated them with professionalism on and off the ice. He has become a true ambassador for the sport of hockey. Throughout his hockey career, Ron Francis has given back to his community with his leadership and has been instrumental in local charities, specifically the Special Olympics. He has applied the core values of hockey commitment, perseverance and team work to improve the lives of people in the community. Ron has demonstrated over and over the principle, of giving to those less fortunate.



↑ From left: Dr. Arthur H. Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma U; Bud Wildman, Chair of the Algoma U Board of Governors; Dr. Judith Woodsworth, President, Laurentian University; Ron Francis, Honorary Degree Recipient; Errol Caldwell, Senate Award; & Dr. Celia Ross, President, Algoma U.

Ron has raised monies for his local charities through golf tournaments and charity auctions and has given his time to disadvantaged children and their families. In 2002, Ron Francis became the first member of the Carolina Hurricanes organization to capture the King Clancy Memorial Trophy. The King Clancy Memorial Trophy is awarded annually to the NHL player who best exemplifies leadership qualities on and off the ice and who has made a significant humanitarian contribution in his community. Ron, who has a brother with a learning disability, is currently involved in a program at Duke Children’s Hospital in Durham, North Carolina that helps patients and their families cope.

Ron has not only established himself as a leader in his field but also in the guidance and respect he has demonstrated at the local level. His distinguished contribution to sport and community in the city of Sault Ste. Marie will forever be remembered.

**Dave Jones - Distinguished Alumni Award**

Dave Jones, BA 1989 (Sociology) was awarded the 2008 Algoma U Distinguished Alumni Award. David is the founder of Turtle Concepts. He is presently an entrepreneur, researcher and motivational speaker.

Dave strongly believes in his traditional Anishinaabe teachings. Since 1999, Turtle Concepts has traveled worldwide with the message that “you have a right to feel good about yourself” and to “celebrate your successes”.

Dave holds a degree in Sociology from Algoma U and a degree in Education. He is currently applying to be a Ph.D. candidate; Dave plans to research the effects of gaining confidence and how difficult that may be, specifically for Anishinaabe (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) People.

Dave is a founding member and moderator for the Youth Panel for the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers, the director for the Canadian Aboriginal Fashion Show, a board member of the National Aboriginal Music Awards and a former elected member of the Garden River First Nation Council.

**Dr. Laurie Bloomfield - Alumni Achievement Award**

Dr. Laurie Bloomfield, BA Honours 2000 (Psychology) is the recipient of the 2008 Algoma U Alumni Achievement Award.

Laurie grew up in Sault Ste. Marie and attended Algoma U from 1996 to 2000. Her honours thesis project was entitled, *Temperature Effects on Foraging Behaviour in Black-capped Chickadees*.

In September of 2000 she began work on her Master’s degree at Queen’s University with Dr. Ronald Weisman. She went on to receive the Canadian Psychological Association Award for Academic Excellence for her thesis project entitled, *Production and Perception of Chickadee Calls: A Comparative Analysis*.

After completing her Masters, Laurie was awarded an NSERC scholarship and an Alberta Ingenuity Studentship to work at the University of Alberta with Dr. Christopher Sturdy.

Following the completion of her Ph.D. in June 2007, Dr. Laurie Bloomfield moved back to the Sault to begin her position of Assistant Professor at Algoma University.



**BUD WILDMAN:  
PROVIDING STEWARDSHIP  
INTO A NEW ERA**

By: Algoma U Staff

**Bud Wildman** negotiated his way through a 24 year career in the Ontario Legislature. Now helping to negotiate an independent Algoma University can be added to his list of accomplishments.

Wildman became the Chair of the Algoma U Board of Governors in 2000. He will be stepping down at the end of 2008 in accordance with board bylaws. During that time many advances were made at the university, ultimately culminating in independence in the spring of 2008.

Among the most important achievements Wildman cites during his tenure is the signing of the Covenant with the Shingwauk Education Trust (SET) to establish both Algoma University and Shingwauk University side-by-side on the same site, working together co-operatively without duplication for the benefit of students. *“This resulted in a unique proposal that put us in good stead for independence,”* he says.

*“When I began with the Board we outlined three major goals we wanted to work towards: that the university should grow and develop, that we should do so without incurring deficits and that we should search out additional sources of revenue from other government agencies and the private sector and from additional programs, such as the ESL courses and satellite campus delivery of curriculum.”*

When the push for independence began in earnest, Wildman’s political experience became an important asset. *“My contribution was that over a period of several years I explained to my contacts in all three parties what Algoma U wanted to accomplish and why,”* he says.

Wildman was present in Toronto when Algoma U’s independence legislation was introduced. Even a Queen’s Park veteran like him couldn’t help but be impressed with how quickly the Legislature passed the bill into law.

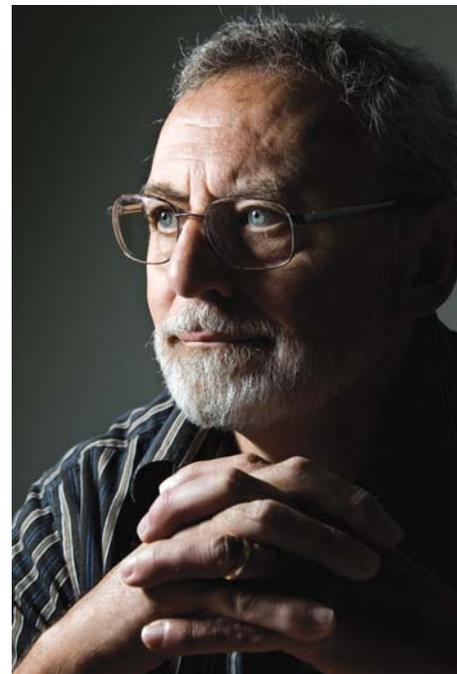
*“The speed with which the legislation was passed surprised me. I had emphasized that it would be beneficial to Algoma U if the legislation was passed before the end of June. That it was is a testament to the work done by Dr. Ross in forging links with the staff at MTCU (Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities) and to the support of (Sault Ste. Marie MPP) David Oraziatti.”*

With all the excitement around Algoma U during the past few years, Wildman remains committed to the future and focusing on the work that still needs to be done. *“Independence is not an end, it is a means,”* he says. *“The goal is to provide an expanded and diversified set of programs to better serve the needs of our students and the community.”*

*“One of the major tasks will be to expand our science programs and facilities for students,”* continues Wildman. *“Another major undertaking will be the Algoma U Foundation’s work to increase our endowment for student scholarships and bursaries and for new capital projects at Algoma U.”*

With almost nine years of service as Board Chair now drawing to a close, Wildman feels that it is in some ways an appropriate time for a changing of the guard.

*“I’ve enjoyed being on the Board. The heavy work-load that comes with the job has never been a problem for me because I have so enjoyed working with community leaders, the other members of the Board, Dr. Ross and administration and staff, SET Board members, Dr. Perlini and members of the Senate and faculty and students at Algoma U.”*



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## KEEPING IN TOUCH - A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE



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

It's official! After much work and anticipation the day has finally arrived - the birth of Algoma University!! As alumni I know you share in the excitement and pride of your alma mater becoming a fully independent degree-granting university. Thank you to everyone who shared words of support and congratulatory comments with us. From our first alumni to our most recent grads, the message was the same - elation that this long sought-after goal has been accomplished.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors to the Algoma U Annual Campaign for their contributions. From alumni, staff and faculty to community partners and friends, your gifts to the Annual Campaign are having a direct impact on our students. Investing in our students is an investment in the future. Thank you so much for your support!!

Algoma U's extended family continues to grow. This year we welcomed our largest graduating class into the ranks of Algoma U alumni. It was particularly special for me this year, as many of the students who graduated were first year students when I came to Algoma U. I have had the distinct pleasure to get to know many of them and it was very emotional to watch them cross the stage to receive their degrees. Keep in touch and let us know how you are making your mark on the world.

Algoma's success has been built on providing a personalized university experience with a feeling of genuine community. From the class of 1971 to the class of 2008, Algoma University is your university - be proud!

For more information, contact Bev Teller at (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125 or by e-mail at: [bev.teller@algotmau.ca](mailto:bev.teller@algotmau.ca).



### ↑ OUR 2007 ALGOMA UNIVERSITY BABIES

From left, Cameron Kontulainen, son of Mark Kontulainen (Alumni and Athletics Director, George Leach Centre) and Bobbi-Jo (Alumni); Henry Allard, son of Mark Allard (Alumni and International Student Advisor); Wesley Elmore, son of Dawn Elmore (Executive Assistant to the President); Declan Gallivan, son of Tiffany Gallavin (Alumni and Accounting Officer); Kai Pearson, son of Krista Pearson (Registrar & Director of Enrolment Management); and Max Shillingford, son of Racquel Lehto (Learning Strategist).



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# algoma alumni notes

## ALUMNI UPDATES, NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS 2008

**Kristina Bourdage**, BA 2004 (Psychology) is a Teacher of the Deaf for the Sir James Whitney School for the Deaf in Belleville, Ontario. She teaches grade 9 prep, special needs class. During the prep year, the focus is on language and math to assist with the transition into a typical grade 9 class. All lessons are taught in ASL, which Kristina is also learning. In addition to teaching, Kristina enjoys coaching the volleyball and basketball teams.

**Steven Meincke**, BBA 2003 (Accounting) was married on May 31, 2008 in London, ON, to Kristen Stewart. After graduation Steven did a one year contract position through FedNor with the Economic Development Corporation in Blind River. This is where he met his wife, Kristen. Steven and Kristen reside in London, ON where Steven is working as a Customer Service Supervisor and continues to update his qualifications in order to pursue a career in the financial planning field.

**Bhasker Garudadri**, BSc 2003, (Computer Science). Bhasker came to Algoma U in 2002 to complete an accelerated computer science degree. Upon completion of his degree he accepted a position as a Programmer Analyst with the Group Health Centre. Bhasker said, "I am a proud alumnus of Algoma U and have been a resident of Sault Ste. Marie now for 6 years. I look forward to connecting with my professors one day soon. The professors and staff are very friendly and supportive people".

**Jane Scott Barsanti**, BA 1993 (English). Jane Scott Barsanti is a well known Canadian artist and graphic designer who has been painting in the watercolour medium for over 30 years. Jane's work has been exhibited in many local and provincial exhibitions and collections. Jane and her husband Ray moved to Bolton, Ontario in May 2007. Since relocating to Bolton, Jane has been featured in a number of art exhibitions, including the juried exhibition, Hills of the Headwaters and the Alton Mill in Alton, Ontario. "Although the Sault will always be part of us - my art work (watercolours) is being featured in this area, and we really enjoy living closer to our sons and grandchildren." For more information on Jane's work, visit her website at [www.janescottbarsanti.com](http://www.janescottbarsanti.com)



**Nicole (Leed) Muskaluk**, BBA 2007 (Marketing and Economics). Nicole can still be found on campus. These days Nicole is busy promoting the world of computer gaming and recruiting students for the prestigious Master of Science (Computer Games Technology) degree. Nicole accepted the position of the MSc (CGT) Promotions and Conference Coordinator in August of 2007. As if that doesn't keep her busy enough, Nicole and her husband Joel Muskaluk were recently married in a beautiful ceremony on June 6, 2008. The happy couple honeymooned in Punta Cana for a week and now reside together in Sault Ste. Marie. Congratulations Nicole and Joel.

**Meisha Rossetto**, BA 2001 (Psychology) and **Mark Rossetto**, BA 2001 (Law & Justice) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Nicholas Daniel Rossetto, born on August 2, 2008. Meisha works at Algoma U in the Enrolment Management Department and Mark is a police officer with the Sault Ste. Marie Police Services. Congratulations Meisha and Mark!

**Amanda Knuff**, BA 2007 (Psychology) is the Youth Outreach Worker with the YMCA Youth Gambling Awareness Program. This program aims to help students understand the signs of problem gambling. The YMCA Youth Gambling Program provides free services including curriculum support, risk assessment and signs of problem gambling and provides presentations and workshops for parents, teachers, health professionals and agencies and organizations that work with youth and adults. Amanda is continuing her education and is currently working towards earning her MSW from Grand Valley State University. Now a permanent resident of Sault Ste. Marie, Amanda is proud to have just purchased her first house.

**Taylor Sayers**, BBA 2008 (Marketing). Taylor Sayers recently accepted the position of Marketing and Resource Development Intern for Weengushk Film Institute in M'Chigeeng on Manitoulin Island. Taylor who graduated in June with her BBA (Marketing) has been working as an Indigenous Outreach Officer for Algoma U for the past two years. Congratulations Taylor - you will be missed!

**Allison Horne-Grisdale**, BA 1998 (Administration). White Blossom Farms was the perfect setting for a beautiful outdoor wedding as Allison Horne and Jim Grisdale exchanged wedding vows on June 7, 2008. The happy couple welcomed family and friends to their farm on Leighs Bay Road to share in their celebration. Since purchasing the property over 4 years ago, Allison and Jim have been operating White Blossom Farms; a U-pick strawberry and produce farm. White Blossom Farms is open for business from 8 am to 8 pm 7 days a week during strawberry season and weekends August thru September from 9 am to 3 pm for all other produce.

**Marnie Antoniow**, BA 2000 (History) Marnie and her partner relocated to Southern Ontario in the Kitchener/Waterloo area. They are proud parents of a beautiful baby girl, named Ada Jean Speck, born 10 months ago. Marnie recently returned to work as the Academic Support Centre Assistant, Aboriginal Services Office for St. Paul's United College in Waterloo.

**Eric Groulx**, BA 1986 (Psychology) returned home from Afghanistan on July 14, 2008. Eric spent the last six months in Afghanistan serving with the Canadian Forces. Prior to leaving for his mission in late December 2007, Eric was the Commanding Officer of the Sault Ste. Marie's 49th Field Artillery Regiment. Welcome home Eric!!

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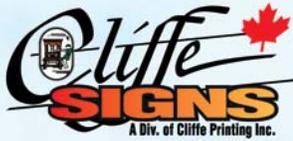


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