

T O D A Y

# algomau

SUMMER/FALL 2010

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

**DR. CELIA ROSS  
LEAVES FOR  
NEW ADVENTURES**



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# NEWS

**Tony Ryma & Michelle Tonner**

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

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

How do you define success? I have come to realise how individual and distinctive the definition of success can be. Even for those of us who define success in ways considered traditional in our society, with words like wealth, status, longevity, the benchmarks can vary remarkably.

What is financial success? What is health? What makes you respected, admired, emulated? What will be your legacy?

As each of us works towards our own success, whatever that means, it is clear that understanding the possibilities is our key challenge. I often tell my sons, *"Keep your options open."* When they were in high school that phrase meant: *"Don't drop math or science just because you can."* Now that they are young adults it means: *"Explore. Learn. Assess."* (And frequently: *"Budget."*)

Education is the most important tool we and our children can use to explore the world. Education is a dynamic process. It is tempting to think that it is a simple transfer of knowledge: Teacher lectures, student absorbs, process complete. But anyone who has spent time around students, especially university students, knows that explanation is too simplistic. Learning happens in conversations and joint explorations of concepts and ideas. Sometimes the student leads the way and sometimes the professor is the guide. Learning also happens when students get together in formal and

informal ways and talk about the things important to them, comparing views and opinions and sharing experiences. If you are a regular reader of Algoma U Today, you have been learning yourself about the backgrounds of our students, and the opportunities many of our graduates have had over the years.

We've always thought Algoma University provided a great forum for all kinds of learning. It is an idea embedded in the history and founding of the school. That's why it was gratifying to learn, through the National Survey on Student Satisfaction, that Algoma U students think so too. Algoma U was rated highly by survey respondents as a place where meaningful conversations and interactions between students and professors takes place.

There is a lot of conversation around Algoma University right now about change. Dr. Celia Ross was President for 12 years, and finished her term on June 30th. You can read a retrospective of her term in office in this issue. The university welcomes Dr. Richard Myers as the new President of Algoma University - find a full profile on our website and look for an interview in the next issue of the magazine.

Algoma University congratulates the Class of 2010, the latest happy group to earn their degrees and head out to find their own brand of success. Join us in wishing them well, and visit the Algoma U alumni Facebook page for pictures and their stories.





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

What a wonderful twelve years I have spent in this office - in fact, Algoma has given me a total of twenty-eight years in the best workplace I could ever have imagined.

Of the many things I appreciate at Algoma University, the two “founding visions”, as I call them, have been the most sustaining to me in my leadership role.

The first vision dates back to early contact between Anishinaabe and settlers. Chief Shingwauk, of Garden River, saw the white settlers moving in, farming, mining, lumbering, and he didn’t want his people left behind. He envisaged education for his people where they would learn the European settlers’ knowledge and share their own wisdom with the settlers. He invited a missionary to come to this region to start a school, and this eventually became the Shingwauk Indian Residential School.

Unfortunately, the Residential School system did not correspond to Chief Shingwauk’s vision - he had never imagined children taken from their families at three or four years of age, forbidden to speak their language or practice their customs - he had never thought that the goal of this system would be assimilation.

But let us not underestimate the power of a vision. The children from the Residential School grew up. As part of their healing process, they have held reunions back at Shingwauk Hall. They formed an association, the Children of Shingwauk Alumni. They rediscovered the power of the vision of Chief Shingwauk.

Chief Shingwauk’s vision lives on through his descendants, like Chief Lyle Sayers of Garden River. The Shingwauk Education Trust, a provincial trust, was formed to build on the vision. Algoma University signed a Covenant with the Shingwauk Education Trust to work towards two sister institutions on this site. Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig is the start of an Anishinaabe-led institution which will bring Anishinaabe education under Anishinaabe leadership, in close and enriching cooperation with Algoma University.

The second vision that continues to sustain Algoma University dates from the 1950s and 1960s. A group of concerned citizens of our city realized that it wasn’t healthy for Sault Ste. Marie to continue relying on Algoma Steel as its sole economic engine. Convinced of the necessity for diversification, they started lobbying for a university in Sault Ste. Marie. They reasoned that the presence of higher learning would encourage young people to continue their studies, and that academic faculty in the community would contribute to the dialogue on economic development. They gathered community and political support, and the government agreed to fund an affiliate college of Laurentian University in our city. Algoma University College was born.

Benefits were quickly felt. Local teachers could upgrade their qualifications; young people could try out post-secondary in their own community. Over the years, local people have benefitted from an ever-widening array of university options for upgrading.

Looking back today, we know that 80% of our graduates have stayed in the Algoma District. Algoma grads are found throughout the workforce. They are indeed the participants - and the drivers - of a greatly diversified economy. Algoma University’s current development initiatives, such as the on-campus business incubator, and the BioSciences and Technology Convergence Centre, with over half its space reserved for community partners, continue to emphasize the economic development role of our university.

Vision is long-term. It is shared by a community of people, it transcends the individual and gives shape to human endeavors. Vision is built on values; vision inspires and engages. Unlike strategic plans, or development projects, a vision has no end-point, and doesn’t lend itself very well to “measurables”.

And, of course, all that makes me feel much better about leaving the President’s position at Algoma University. Our institution is changing. But the two visions I have described above will live on and will continue to give a deep sense of meaning to our endeavors.

I invite you to join me in supporting Algoma University by sharing your news in the magazine, attending reunions, being a generous donor to our various campaigns, promoting Algoma University in the community and to potential future students - in short, by building pride in our institution. And by so doing, we will continue to participate in Shingwauk’s vision and in our community’s vision. We too will share that sense of pride, belonging, ownership and purpose that vision brings.



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



## LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING

As we look around this world, it seems that there is a dire “call to arms” for leadership. Our world has become increasingly complex and, with that, come problems requiring leadership for resolution. Mobilizing a community - whether local or global -- requires vision, organization, inspiration and a charge of responsibility. Ultimately, it is leadership that first kindles and then galvanizes collective action. Our collective fate hangs in the balance of leadership.

While educators are often considered fundamental to a civilized and advanced society, their role as leaders is overlooked. Too often, it seems, this leadership role only becomes recognized once problems occur. Once crime or disease rates amongst a population reach epidemic proportions, only then do we awaken to the realization that education - before the problem has opportunity to emerge - is important. Educators lead that charge; they do so through research and advocacy, and public policy recommendations, and indeed, in the last place we look -- in the classroom. There is leadership in teaching AND there is teaching in leadership.

Few among us have not been inspired by a teacher. Great teachers are great leaders and great leaders are great teachers. “Teaching moments” arise many times within a day; those who seize them are great leaders. Leaders capture those unplanned opportunities to connect - to captivate others, their interests, passions and dreams. Leaders live in an eternal state of readiness -- not to lecture others about those things that they should know; rather, they are ready to lead others down a path of their choosing. Too often we are unaware of what our choices are or are simply afraid to make them. Leaders show us the way.

Leadership and teaching is about exploring both that within us and that around us. The connections forged in this exploration go beyond that between the leader and those s/he inspires; ultimately, the connection is about s/he who is inspired and the world around them. It is here that vision is realized and the charge of responsibility is undertaken.

Leaders themselves must be willing to be led; teachers themselves must be willing to



be taught. Their visions have their origins in the foresight of others, or schools of thought or philosophies or disciplines or religions. Great leaders/teachers, however, are never dogmatic in the execution of vision; instead they are always dogged in their belief and effort. The “vision” is less about sharing theirs and more about creating a shared vision, as this is the catalyst that activates others. Mobilizing others to create that vision comes with a dear cost: the price of leadership is often unpopularity and resistance. But this heat sets their colours, hardens their resolve and crystallizes a tenacity of purpose.

Leadership is not the exclusive province of an occupation. Heads of state, or industry or any organization or group - while perhaps deserving of our respect for the station they have earned - are not by way-of-office, leaders. A great leader sets aside their personal interest

and advantage for the interests and advantage of others and in so doing, unifies them. Great leaders are able to show us things we don't see; they are able to open our ears to things we don't hear; they are able to help us sense/understand things we can't touch and comprehend. They sharpen our senses - our sense of self, as well as the world around us. They open our minds to possibilities. In the end, the mark of a great leader is not the inspiration to follow them; rather, it is the inspiration to lead ourselves. In this way, the “call to arms” for leadership is about igniting and enlisting the passion and action to lead ourselves. In unity, we can change our world.

I suppose it's no wonder that great teachers are great leaders and great leaders are great teachers. After all, the word *education* is derived from the Latin verb: *ducere*, which means “to lead.” *I learned that* from a great teacher and leader -- my dad.



# A Selective Retrospect of a 28-Year Career



## A progressive and transformational era at Algoma University ended on June 30, 2010.

On that date, Dr. Celia Ross left the President's position she has held during 12 years of accomplished service. Today's confident and robustly ambitious institution testifies to the effectiveness of her leadership.

Dr. Ross's association with the university began in the spring of 1982 when she accepted a position to teach French literature at Algoma University College. Responding -- reluctantly -- to parental urging, she had returned to Canada from France after finishing doctoral studies at the Universite de Bordeaux III.



*"I'd always wanted to teach," Dr. Ross recalled. "As a very young girl, I lined up all my dolls in the kitchen and gave them long lessons. My father was an English professor at the University of Guelph."*

Still, living in Northern Ontario hadn't exactly been a long-standing dream.

*"I came here under protest," Dr. Ross laughed. "But when I saw the campus on that first job interview, I fell in love with it right away. I completely changed my attitude about wanting to come to Canada."*

Other first impressions only reinforced that view. She recalls reacting positively to the sight of Tony Sharman and Bob D'Amato chatting amiably in a jam-packed Shingwauk Hall faculty office now used by recruiting staff.

Also memorable was a long conversation with Bob Ewing, the campus dean at the time, who discussed geography's impact on people and institutions.

Before long, the campus and city began to feel like home for the new professor. So, a few years later when Dr. Ross's parents asked their daughter to move to southern Ontario, the response was quick and sure.

*"I dug in my heels and said no. I said I have a home here, this is a wonderful place to be, and I want to spend some more time here. I never regretted it. When I*

*discovered I really liked living in Northern Ontario, I had no particular wish to apply to the larger universities down south or to the more prestigious jobs. It never really occurred to me."*

In 1997, Dr. Ross joined Algoma U's management ranks, becoming Academic Dean on a temporary basis for 12 months. The selection would prove beneficial for all concerned.

When the assignment's completion coincided with the search for a new President, Dr. Ross applied and was ultimately chosen for the campus's highest administrative post. Different experiences and observations had expanded her understanding of the university and how it could evolve.

*"I realized there are a large number of Anishinaabe people here and that they have a long association with the site. At the same time, they weren't really participating as actively as I thought they could in shaping what's happening today on the site. So, that was a big motivator."*

*"As well, people thought there were certain values at the university that I might be able to espouse and push forward. I agreed to be President, if selected, on condition that Jong You would be Academic Dean."*

## *Anchoring the institution*

Dr. Ross's leadership orientation focused on key beliefs. "I always wanted the institution to be in the community, for the community. There are groups of people that are particularly significant here because of geography. The Anishinaabe, the Aboriginal people, are particularly significant. How do we have a university that in very fundamental ways is their university and their place? Where it's not just here to serve them, it's here because of them, for them, with them."

The new President (effective May 1, 1998) also thought more could be done to anchor the institution in the community.

And she championed the values of trust, knowledge and wisdom that are at the core of what the university does.

Connecting economic development, innovation and commercialization agendas, Dr. Ross believes, opens doors to success.

"If we are in sync with that, then it's doing what it should do -- it's empowering people, it's empowering the community and that, in turn, empowers the institution, and they all grow.

"I love seizing an opportunity as it comes along. I love an institution that's flexible and responsive. I love an institution that really does listen -- that listens to the community, that listens to the government, that listens to opportunity and then responds to it. I love that type of progressive institution, one that's not afraid to take a leadership position. Those are the values that I have that are worked into the fabric of Algoma U, that characterize us at this stage of our history. And the ones that I'm sort of proud of."

Help and support from others have been important all along the way, Dr. Ross emphasized. "This idea that the university can be a leader comes from the Board of Governors, it comes from the faculty, it comes from the students."

In addition, the university must be seen as a friendly and accessible place of higher learning focused on preparing students for career success. Both teaching and research excellence complement and support commitments to learners and institutional leadership.

While the transition from teaching to administration wasn't overly difficult, adjustments accompanied the change.

"As a professor, you have these intense sorts of highs when you are in the classroom and then you go down to normal. And your workload through the year is really cut out. What I really noticed in becoming President is that your highs and lows are really unpredictable. They last a lot longer and there's always a problem. In the middle of everything going right, there's always a problem. So the stress levels are much higher and it's more isolating because you've got to remain the steady leader. The stress cycles are very, very different in administration and faculty. And you have to take responsibility for where things are going."

## *Algoma's bright future*

### **And what might the next 12 years bring?**

Institutional priorities that Dr. Ross believes will continue to receive attention include: further expansion of four-year programming, articulation agreements with community colleges, the use of various delivery methods, accelerated studies, work with Aboriginal partners, and being innovative.

The senior administrator sees Algoma University doubling in size, with a threefold increase in the number of students living in residence. She expects two other new buildings will follow the \$16-million Biosciences & Technology Convergence Centre now under construction, a project that will help "the science side of things grow and become a vibrant part of the institution."

New operational partnerships are ahead, she believes, and Aboriginal-led programs will one day attract First Nations students from across Canada. Algoma University will also welcome more international students as time goes on.

Continuing to look down the road, Dr. Ross foresees Sault Ste. Marie coming to consider itself a university town. The upcoming years will also mean working in close partnership with Sault College, along with other community colleges and universities throughout the province. Post-

secondary, she says, will become far more networked than it is now.

As Dr. Ross sees it, Algoma University will remain a key contributor to economic diversification locally, and serve as a vehicle to drive research and innovation. "Strong post-secondary institutions are key to international competitiveness."

The firm base that Dr. Ross leaves for her successor will shape what is to come for Algoma University. Much work has already been done to prepare for the next five years. "We are a very well planned institution and have been since I've been President," she said. "There's been a big focus on strategic planning, a big focus on operational planning -- we've gotten better and better at it."

Forward-looking decision-making has encompassed Dr. Ross's own departure.

"It's very healthy in an institution to have different enthusiasms and different visions transmitted. So it was my decision three years ago when it was time to sign a new contract to leave in 2010. Then I worked with the Board of Governors to make sure there was a very good selection process in place for our new President. It's time now for the institution to have a few years of a different vision or a different take on life from the top. Change at the top is very, very important."



What lies ahead, professionally speaking, for Algoma U's departing President hasn't been decided. "I live life day-to-day," she said. "I've never set goals or targets for myself. I've done what I've enjoyed doing and tried to do it well. I'm not the type of person who has a career plan."

During an extended interview, Dr. Ross spoke with an ebullience and upbeat outlook familiar to those who know her well.

But for a brief moment, a more subdued and, perhaps slightly wistful, side emerged in the response to a more personal question.

"Everything," she replied without hesitation. "I'll miss everything about being President."

(continued on Page 13)



# Tributes to a Departing President



"I have known Celia Ross for a long time. Her ability to work with people and deft leadership have brought Algoma College and ultimately Algoma University to where it is today. Her focus, determination and ability to persuade are impressive."



"Thanks and congratulations."

**Tony Martin, MP, Sault Ste. Marie and Area**



"I would like to thank Dr. Ross for her contribution to Algoma University and for her work in the community. With the largest investment in post-secondary education in over 40 years, new programs have been approved, new infrastructure built and more opportunity created for students to pursue their goals and aspirations. Our government's decision to introduce and pass legislation making Algoma University a fully independent university in Ontario was a landmark decision for the education system in Sault Ste. Marie and I was pleased to have her support on achieving this milestone."

**David Oraziotti, MPP, Sault Ste. Marie**

*"Dr. Ross was more than Algoma University's President; she was a leader, a mentor and a friend. Her tireless, endless dedication to the institution and to the students has left a memorable mark on my experience at Algoma University. She will be greatly missed but the impact she has left will always be appreciated and never be forgotten."*

*"Good luck, Celia, and thank you!"*

**Jessica Ferlino**  
Past President, Algoma University Student Union



## Board of Governors honours Dr. Ross

Unlike Celia, I know very little about French literature. But the one French author I have read, Antoine de Saint-Exupery, once said, "As for the future, your task is not to foresee it, but to enable it."

Many people have contributed to a collective vision of Algoma University's future, but no one has been more important to achieving that future than Celia Ross.

It's an exciting future of growth, new programs and improved academic offerings, of stronger relationships with our Aboriginal partners, of more meaningful contributions to the communities we serve and, most importantly, of faculty, student and alumni accomplishment.

Through Celia's leadership and hard work, it's not hard to imagine an Algoma University of the future that has thousands of students in a wide range of programs, making a difference in the long-term success of many area communities. We've come a long way... but the best is yet to come.

Given everything that has happened at Algoma University during the past few years, it is no easy task to point at a single accomplishment that best defines Celia's contribution. Instead, I would point to her extraordinary knack for striking the right balance between our future aspirations and today's realities, and in doing so, building the necessary coalitions to help us pursue our dreams.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would like to extend to Celia our deepest appreciation for her contribution to Algoma University. We genuinely hope that she takes great pride in what Algoma University is becoming, and in her legacy. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

**Brady Irwin, Chair, Board of Governors**



## High praise for Dr. Ross from Bud Wildman

Few people have worked as closely with Dr. Ross during her presidency as Bud Wildman.

Their institutional leadership guided the university through remarkably successful and historically significant times.

Mr. Wildman served as Chair of the Board of Governors from 2000 until 2008. He welcomed the opportunity to join in recognizing Dr. Ross's outstanding accomplishments.

Dr. Celia Ross' most remarkable achievement and the one for which she, above all others, deserves the most credit is the obtaining of an independent degree-granting Charter for Algoma University -- in a very short period of time. Over nine years, I have been privileged, along with the other members of the Algoma University Board of Governors and the faculty, staff and students of Algoma U to work with her on this successful initiative.

Under Celia's leadership as President of AUC, the university's budget was balanced, funding was secured from various agencies for capital expansions, increasing classroom, laboratory, office and student lounge spaces, and new residences were constructed. Competitive women's and men's varsity teams entered province-wide league play. Improving student life on campus was a priority of Celia's.

Course options were expanded and new initiatives to expand enrolment -- recruiting and retaining students from the Algoma region, from across Ontario and from abroad -- were implemented. Articulation agreements and co-operation with Sault College and other Ontario community colleges have increased opportunities for students to obtain undergraduate degrees at Algoma U. The special mission of Algoma U related to the history of the site -- Anishinaabe post-secondary education -- was and remains a high priority for Dr. Ross.

Celia was instrumental in developing Algoma U's partnership with the Shingwauk Education Trust (SET) which led to the signing of the historic Covenant, committing Algoma U and SET for the expansion of Anishinaabe education programs and the development of our sister institution, Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig. This commitment to Anishinaabe post-secondary education played a very important part in Celia's success in persuading the Ontario government to consider granting independence to Algoma U.

Dr. Ross has been a capable and effective spokesperson for Algoma U not only with officials at Queen's Park, but also in the wider community and across the province. She raised the profile of the university and garnered significant support for Algoma U by demonstrating its economic, cultural and social contributions to the region.

Because of this, Celia was able to establish partnerships with agencies of various levels of government such as the Sault Innovation Centre and the federal Great Lakes Forestry Institute and the Ontario Forestry Research Institute. And she has attracted funding to Algoma U for capital projects and student scholarships and bursaries from both the public and private sectors.

Celia's vision, energy, commitment, dedication, hard work and good humour are the main reasons that Algoma U is embarking upon its new independent path. Algoma U students and all of the people of our region owe her a great debt of gratitude. It's been an honour for me to be able to work with her. I join with all members of the Algoma U. community in wishing Celia well in her future endeavours.

**Bud Wildman, Past Chair, Board of Governors**



*"Celia has been a sincere and dedicated President. She has always been very involved with and advocated for the Anishinaabe culture. She has maintained the Anishinaabe voice on campus and created opportunities for students and potential students. SASA would like Dr. Ross to know that her efforts have not gone unnoticed and that she will be missed."*

*"Miigwetch Dr. Ross."*

**Lauren Doxtater**  
President (2009-11),  
Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students' Association



# ALGOMA university

*"Creating a new destiny for Sault Ste. Marie takes leadership, creativity, persistence and many partners on the team to make it happen. Celia Ross has been one of our most important champions who has led Algoma University's independence and transformation, which will create new talent, knowledge-based opportunities and economic development for decades to come in Sault Ste. Marie."*

**Bruce Strapp**  
CEO,  
Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation



*"The leader of an organization greatly informs what it becomes. We have had the pleasure of working with Algoma University under the guidance and leadership of Dr. Ross as it evolved into a successful and independent post-secondary partner."*

**Dr. Ron Common**  
President, Sault College



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

On behalf of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, I would like to extend my congratulations on the occasion of your retirement as president of Algoma University.

Access to excellent postsecondary education opportunities in Ontario's northern communities is now more important than ever. With the passage of provincial legislation granting Algoma University its own charter and making it Ontario's 19th newest university, students at the school will have tremendous new opportunities.

Enrolment at Algoma has more than doubled over the last decade, and now some 1,200 students are able to take advantage of more than thirty academic programs on offer. Of special importance is Algoma's commitment to providing a respectful, inclusive and innovative education experience for your First Nations' students.

You have overseen a number of key developments including the expansion of the student housing development, the opening of Algoma's Information and Technology Centre in 2005, and the recent launch of the new Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre.

Please accept my thanks for your invaluable contributions to postsecondary education in Ontario, and also my best wishes for your future endeavours.

Sincerely,

**John Milloy**  
Minister

04-0177 (Rev. 04/05/09)



*"Dr. Celia Ross worked in partnership on an aggressive IT growth engine with the City of Sault Ste. Marie as part of the Destiny Diversification Strategy, and this led Algoma University to the success it is having today."*

**John Rowswell**,  
The Late Mayor, City of Sault Ste. Marie



*"Celia has always been an approachable President who has welcomed the need to hear student issues. Her office door has always been open, and it has been great to work together with her on solving student issues on campus."*

**Vanessa Gastaldo**  
President (2009-10),  
Algoma University Student Union



*"Dr. Celia Ross' leadership of Algoma University has been all about 'creating a way for people to contribute to making something extraordinary happen.' Algoma University's achievement of full independent university status has certainly been 'extraordinary' and was based on Dr. Ross's capacity to encourage and motivate many others. She has provided a role model to many with her commitment to serving the students and people of Northern Ontario, and her respectful approach to working with First Nations and diverse communities. The Algoma University Senate extends its gratitude and best wishes to Dr. Ross as she embarks on the next stage of her career."*

**Dr. Gayle Broad**  
Speaker, Algoma University Senate





**MICHAEL GEKAS:  
GET INVOLVED, LEARN MORE,  
HAVE FUN**

By: Melanie Nolan

For **Michael Gekas**, choosing to get involved in extracurricular activities while attending Algoma University was easy. Focusing on just one student initiative, however, was not.

Michael attended Algoma U from 1998 to 2002, graduating with an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree in June 2002. During his time at the university, Michael participated in several student organizations.

*“One of the benefits of Algoma U’s smaller size is that it enables students to get actively involved,”* says Michael. *“Joining student clubs not only provides valuable experience, but it also helps you develop skills that you may not learn in the classroom.”*

While in his first year at Algoma U, Michael

was editor of The Sentinel, the school’s student newspaper.

In 1999, he was elected vice-president of the Algoma University Students’ Association (AUSA). The following two years, Michael served as president of the group. In this role, Michael spearheaded several exciting projects for the university including organizing and moderating an All Candidates Debate during the 2000 Federal Election.

As an advocate for the university, Michael frequently spoke and actively recruited at Sault Ste. Marie high schools and was a panellist at a community leaders’ debate for post-secondary education funding. Michael was also a member of the University Board of Governors, the University Senate and the University Foundation Board.

Michael views all of his experiences at Algoma U as invaluable and especially appreciates the opportunities he had to work with Dr. Celia Ross.

*“What impressed me the most about Dr. Ross was the respect she showed students,”*

he says. *“She took all of our requests seriously, always engaged us and listened to our point of view. Dr. Ross always made the time to meet with us and worked collaboratively to come up with solutions of mutual benefit.”*

Michael says Dr. Ross has had a significant influence not only on the school community, but also on him personally, inspiring him to strive for excellence in all endeavours.

Michael played an integral role in the creation of a student centre for Algoma U (now known as the Speak Easy). He was instrumental in helping generate the funds required to build the centre. In recognition of this contribution, Dr. Ross invited Michael to the grand opening of the Information & Communications Technology Centre.

*“Algoma U has grown and expanded under Dr. Ross’ leadership and guidance,”* explains Michael. *“The university could not have achieved independence and degree granting status without Dr. Ross’ vision and tenacity. Her belief in the school and its mission has yielded solid results for Algoma U.”*

Michael now resides in the Toronto area and is Manager of Business Operations and Strategic Initiatives at Bridgepoint Health, a publicly funded health care organization. Bridgepoint Health provides patient care, research and teaching in complex chronic disease prevention and management.

He credits much of his success to the education he received at Algoma U.

*“Professors and administrators at Algoma U are genuinely concerned for their students, and go above and beyond the call of duty to help them thrive in school,”* states Michael.

He also says Algoma University’s quality programming has benefited him greatly in his current position.

*“The BBA program’s emphasis on delivering presentations was instrumental in helping me develop my public speaking skills,”* says Michael.

*“The structure and design of the BBA program equips graduates with knowledge that is vital in the workplace. Being able to confidently articulate your thoughts and ideas and sell them to the intended audience is one of the most important skills required in the business world.”*

Michael plans to continue working in the health care field, pursuing a human resources management role.

*“I have a passion for health care. Working with nurses, therapists and physicians is inspiring and I feel the work I do has concrete benefits to the organization and to patients.”*

From his student life to his professional career, it is evident that Michael’s dedication and enthusiasm will allow him to continue to accomplish his goals.



**Sam Elliott** By: Nadine Robinson

**Sam Elliott** knows how to carry a torch. He's following in his parents' footsteps towards becoming a teacher, starting with a degree at Algoma U, and on January third he carried the Olympic torch for 300 metres down the main street in Wawa.

Elliott was chosen through an essay contest as one of 12,000 torch bearers for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics. *"It was amazing. The adrenaline grabbed me when my torch was lit and I took off at a decent pace, but then slowed down to a light jog to make it last."*

Torchbearers get to keep the windbreaker, wind pants, Olympic hat and mitts from their run, and have the option to buy the torch they carry. *"It was over in a couple of minutes, but it's something I'll never forget, especially since my whole family came and watched."*

Currently in his third year of Biology at Algoma University, the Korah Collegiate grad started his postsecondary education at Ottawa University. *"I had friends going, and got a bit of a scholarship... but I got there and felt very isolated,"* commented Elliott. *"I didn't like being one of 500 in a class - my teacher never spoke to me and didn't know who I was. It didn't feel right, so I transferred to Algoma U."*

While taking his courses, he shadows his mom at Tarentorus (Cathy, BA 1982 Psychology) and dad at Greenwood Public School (Chris, BA 1991 Political Science). He also hopes to teach at the elementary school level. *"Every day can be different when you are teaching, there is a lot of flexibility and I like that."*

Elliott says the dynamics at Algoma U are better suited to him and his learning style. *"Here I know my teachers and all the other students in the class... and we all work together. I feel more at home at Algoma U."*



**Bharati Mukherjee** By: Nadine Robinson



Before Algoma University, **Bharati Mukherjee** was known as many things; wife, mother, barrister, linguist, scholar, and Bee-Bee, to her friends. Since graduating with a BA English Honours in 2007 from Algoma University, she has added another title to her life list: author.

Bee-Bee wrote the first four chapters of *That European Summer* as assignments in her creative writing classes, and credits the completion of her novel to the encouragement she received from faculty. *"This book couldn't have happened without being here. My professors gave me the confidence and guidance to write, polish, and publish the book."* She is very honoured that her book is being used within the curriculum of the program. *"Don't give up on your dreams."*

Her book is in part based on her fascinating life. Raised in India, Bee-Bee attended the UK's prestigious Lincoln's Inn School of Law, is fluent in seven languages, and has had the privilege of working with Mother Theresa. *"Having studied on three continents, I feel confident saying Algoma U's professors are excellent, world-class. They make me feel so welcome, and have helped me move towards my dreams."*

Bee-Bee continues to take courses for pleasure, including music and languages. *"I love being here. I love the campus and main building, I love the many classrooms that look out on nature... it reminds me that school shouldn't just be rooms and books."*

She radiates a positive glow and a passion for life. *"This university keeps me young. I have joie de vivre here."*

**Dann Goedhard** By: Nadine Robinson

**Dann Goedhard** is in his second year of the *Community Economic and Social Development* program. Raised in Schreiber/Terrace Bay, he hopes to take his knowledge back to the twin communities and move forward the *Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG)* that he helped found.

SERG plans to implement five wind turbines, totalling 10 megawatts, enough to power 2,500 homes annually. *"Community power generation, paired with the current community-owned distribution, would give us important control. Local members would benefit from lower energy prices and from selling surplus energy back to the grid."*

Goedhard credits the CESD program for helping him towards his non-profit co-op goal, enabling him to get the education he needs, and to be more sensitive to oppressions within a community. *"Major job losses from CPR and forestry affected morale and self-esteem in the community. Beyond the economic pluses, I now see the social benefits as well - SERG could help instil hope in the community, help us address our own problems with our own creative solutions, and then take pride in those accomplishments and ownership."*

Goedhard feels like his voice is heard at Algoma U. *"I feel like doors are opening up an almost infinite number of possibilities of what I can do here."*



# ALGOMA U's STUDENT CLUBS OFFER ENRICHING EXPERIENCES

By: Melanie Nolan

## *One Campus Ministry-Focus on Spiritual Discovery*

Students seeking to celebrate their spirituality, help others, and have fun can look to ONE Campus Ministry, an Evangelical Christian student organization.

*"I encourage students to get involved with the group because it is a great way to make connections with peers, develop life-long friendships and do some soul searching,"* explains Paul Quesnele, club director.

The multi-denominational organization hosts life pods that encourage members to think critically about relevant moral and biblical content and how it can be applied to the issues that impact their lives.

The group also organizes monthly action pods aimed at meeting practical, local needs on campus and in the community.

During the November action pod, club members cleaned the kitchens of Algoma U students living in townhouses on campus. The goal of the event was to show appreciation for the campus and help alleviate some of the students' stress.

It is through such random acts of kindness that the group plans to increase awareness of the services and opportunities it provides.



## *History Society Helps Students Learn From the Past*

Algoma U's History Society helps students prepare for the future while experiencing a bit of the past.

As one of the most active clubs at Algoma University, the History Society provides an excellent opportunity for new and returning students to become involved with extra-curricular activities and meet fellow students with similar academic interests.

*"Developing relations with other students in your selected concentration can prove to be a valuable asset during the course of your university career,"* says Josh Wilson, History Society president.

The club meets regularly to assist incoming students with their transition into university and provide support for upper-year students.

Every year, the group organizes a trip to a different locale to take in museums and historical buildings. This February, club members travelled to Cuba, where they visited museums in Varadero and Havana and went on a double-decker bus tour of both cities.

The group wants to continue learning through first-hand experiences next year.

## *Algoma Multicultural Student Association Celebrates Diversity*

Members of the Algoma Multicultural Student Association (AMSA) may come from diverse backgrounds, but they all have a common goal in mind—to increase awareness of multiculturalism on campus through a variety of cultural and religious events.



AMSA president Lance Adjetey says the group seeks to, *"expose students and faculty to the ethnic diversity that exists on campus and educate them on the beauty that exists within each culture."*

The group consists of about 30 students, representing a variety of countries including Angola, Nigeria, Ghana, India, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Canada, Japan, China, Ukraine, Somalia, and Korea.

The club offers students opportunities to learn first-hand about other cultures, their traditions, food, and cultural garments.

Being a part of AMSA also allows students to enjoy a variety of events such as guest speakers during Black History Month and a Japanese Night consisting of karaoke entertainment and a sushi dinner.

AMSA's events are among the most attended on campus and Lance hopes the club will continue to thrive.

## *The Business Society-Networking at Its Best*

Knowing how to make connections and sell your ideas is one of the keys to success in the business world. The Algoma University Business Society helps students enhance these skills by providing opportunities to interact with peers and network with the local business community.

The club meets weekly to plan projects for the year, including the Guest Speaker series featuring in-class presentations from a variety of professionals. As well, the group has organized tours of local companies including Flakeboard, Brookfield Power's Wind Farm and ESSAR Steel.

*"These experiences not only enable students to gain valuable insight from professionals in the workplace, but also allow them to establish invaluable contacts in the business community,"* explains Scott Chartrand, president.

The club also assists with an annual business case competition by recruiting local professionals to judge the competition and sponsors for the awards ceremony.

The group's goal is to continue helping students build lasting working relationships with both faculty members and the business community.





(continued from Page 7)

**1982** Dr. Celia Ross joins Algoma University College faculty as a French professor.

**1997** Dr. Ross moves into administration as Academic Dean.

**1998** AUC appoints Dr. Ross President effective May 1.

**2000** 180-seat lecture theatre, two multi-purpose wired classrooms and six faculty offices built with \$460,000 provincial SuperBuild funding.

**2001** Phase II of Spirit Village Residences completed; opening ceremonies in January 2002.



Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program announced; classes start January 7, 2002.

**2003** Residence dormitory built. West wing renovations completed.

**2004** Living Learning Campaign launched: institution's first million-dollar and matching funds drive.

Mary Guyon Memorial Biology Laboratory opens at Great Lakes Forestry Centre.



**2005** \$6.1 million Information Communication Technology Centre opens with new cafeteria and student centre.

\$1.75 million federal government grant establishes Algoma U's first research chair; Dr. Jenny Cory is widely recognized as the world's authority on molecular biology.

Algoma U presents FuturePlay, an International Academic Conference on the future of game design and technology.

Downtown Windsor Park Retirement Home and HSBC building donated to Algoma U by Dr. Lou Lukenda, his family and associates.

**2006** Living Learning Campaign raises \$1 million for Algoma U Foundation's Endowment Fund.

Algoma U and Shingwauk Education Trust signed a covenant pledging pursuit of a common

vision: Algoma University has a strong mandate to provide education to First Nation communities.

First master's-level degree in Computer Games Technology in Canada; Algoma U becomes the exclusive North American host for the M.Sc. Computer Games Technology (CGT) program offered by the University of Abertay Dundee, Scotland.

New ceremonial arbour built.

**2007** New Master of Computer Gaming lab accommodates first MSc CGT students.

Provincial government announces support for an independent Algoma University.

Algoma U celebrates 40 years – Algoma University College began offering first-year university-level courses to 80 students in 1967.



**2008** OFRI (Ontario Forest Research Institute) and Algoma U sign memorandum of understanding pledging to share expertise and resources in life science development.

New four-year Fine Arts honours program starts.

An Act (Bill 80) to create Algoma University is introduced in Ontario Legislature on May 26. The Bill passes third and final reading, officially dissolving Algoma University College and establishing newly independent Algoma University on May 29.



On June 18 with all-party support, Lieutenant-Governor David Onley gives royal assent to Bill 80 creating Algoma University. Algoma U becomes Northern Ontario's fourth university and Ontario's 19th publicly funded university.

Over \$1 million received for health informatics research chair.

**2009** On July 13 Algoma University celebrates its first graduating class as an independent university. New Presidential regalia and mace introduced.

Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) announces \$461,800 for youth-based ProtoLaunch video gaming project under auspices of Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre in collaboration with Algoma U and other partners.

Ontario Native Welfare Administrators' Association (ONWAA) announces partnership agreement to provide academic instruction for First Nation Social Services Administrators.

September 11 groundbreaking ceremony marks construction start for new \$16 million Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre slated for March 2011 completion.

Northern Ontario Medical School and Algoma U announce agreement to collaborate on research of benefiting the health of Northern Ontarians.

Algoma University celebrates launch of programs at Brampton satellite campus.

Dr. Ross named a 2008 recipient of the City of Sault Ste. Marie's Medal of Merit.

**2010** Algoma U plans September opening of new Algoma University Downtown Student Centre.

Applications soar with a 54% increase.

June 23 Algoma honours Dr. Ross as she prepares to step down effective June 30. She is succeeded by Dr. Richard Myers.



*28 Years of Achievements*  
TIMELINE



## BREAKING NEWS: ALGOMA UNIVERSITY WILL BEGIN OFFERING A FOUR-YEAR HONOURS BSc IN BIOLOGY IN FALL 2010

By: Nadine Robinson

As the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre's foundation is budding out of the soil behind the residence buildings, so is the Biology department's faculty count, both in preparation for a four year program in Biology. *"Now in the final stages of the approval process, this will put Algoma University on the map: a strong Biology department will provide leadership not only in teaching, but in science,"* says **Dr. Pedro Antunes**, the newly appointed research chair of invasive species biology.

Dr. Antunes joined Algoma University in January as Research Chair, jointly funded by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Algoma University. *"Invasive species are here now, all around us, and they will continue to come, especially with increased trade with economically emerging nations and climate change. Research is needed to understand their consequences as our local, native diversity is put at risk with invasive species."*

Dr. Antunes joins Dr. Istvan Imre and Dr. Brandon Schamp in charting the future of the department. *"This really is a researcher's dream - to be here at such an exciting time, helping to design the new laboratory space in the Convergence Centre, and contributing to the strategic direction of the Department of Biology. After all, what is going to happen in the future is going to depend on the people here now, and we have a great team."*

Through the university's Invasive Species Research Institute (ISRI), Dr. Antunes will establish and develop a network of scientists, academics, organizations and individuals who share an interest in invasion ecology. ISRI will focus on acquiring and disseminating scientific knowledge on the biology and ecology of invasive species and will conduct invasive species research on critical priorities in Ontario.

Dr. Antunes' personal research focuses on the roles that naturally-occurring, or indigenous, soil organisms play in controlling or facilitating invasion by non-native organisms. *"Most invasion research is done above ground, but a big component of the plant is below, and interacts with a number of organisms. There is a lot happening below ground, and that is where I am looking: at soil microbial - plant interactions."*

According to the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research, losses caused by invasive species in Canada average \$7.5 billion annually. That figure is expected to at least double over the next five years. *"Garlic mustard, for example, is a noxious weed that*



↑ Dr. Pedro Antunes, Research Chair, Invasive Species Research Institute, Algoma University.

*releases compounds capable of destroying beneficial organisms that native plants such as sugar maple forests depend on." Imagine, an invasive species could jeopardize maple syrup production!"*

Dr. Antunes is currently putting together a lab at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre (GLFC), which will be relocated to the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre when it is completed in 2011. The \$16 million Centre, which has received federal and provincial funding through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program and Ontario's 2009 Budget, will bring together teaching, research and commercial activities. *"Teaching and research labs, areas to store samples, cold rooms, and everything you need to do research right, are being planned into the design."*

"Naturally gifted" is Sault Ste. Marie's slogan, and perhaps nothing could be more natural than Algoma University using its gifts

towards a national leadership role in biology, including invasion ecology research.

*"This is undoubtedly one of the best places in the world to study invasive species right now. We have the researchers at the Ontario Forestry Research Institute, the GLFC and the university, excellent facilities that include greenhouse space, all located at this particular zone of the transition Deciduous-Boreal forest. The critical mass is here, and the new building and four-year Biology program are on the way. I believe that students will surely follow, recognizing the unique opportunity we offer here."*

- Follow the building's construction online through a webcam updated every 60 seconds at: <http://www.algomau.ca/biosciences-webcam>
- Dr. Antunes keeps a links page on invasive species at: <http://people.auc.ca/antunes/>



# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma U*



Mr. Brian Curran, CEO of PUC Inc., Chair of the Essential Elements Campaign, Algoma University Foundation

*“With new facilities, the arts and sciences will have state-of-the-art teaching and learning environments to help grow and expand.”*

## *R*oom to Grow

By: Algoma U staff

*“Algoma University has ambitious goals,” says Brian Curran, chair of the Essential Elements Campaign, a major fundraising initiative launched by the Algoma U Foundation. “Key to achieving them is a strong curriculum and top-notch instruction, both of which are already here. With expanded facilities, Algoma U will have the necessary space to establish centres of excellence to attract and support the best and brightest students.”*

The Essential Elements campaign is a three-year fundraising project that will result in significant investments in the endowment and two capital expansion projects.

The Bioscience and Technology Convergence Centre broke ground September 2009 on the north side of the Algoma U campus. Scheduled for completion in March 2011, the Centre will bring together teaching, learning, research and commercial activities in a dynamic new atmosphere. The Convergence Centre will also provide the lab and research infrastructure to support the work of the research chairs for the Health Informatics and Invasive Species Research Institutes (*see facing page article*).

Not only will the Centre provide for teaching and faculty research, it will also promote collaborative and interdisciplinary research programs with space for established partners such as the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and the Community Geomatics Centre, internationally recognized enterprises which will anchor the facility. Also located in the complex will be Algoma Games for Health, a video game development studio that designs and markets serious games for health and rehabilitation. The Centre’s design will promote the synergies and partnerships between the university and private sector that help drive the new knowledge-based economy in Sault Ste. Marie and the region.

Donations to the Essential Elements Campaign will provide the resources to equip the laboratories and classrooms and guarantee that current and future students have access to the very best science facilities.

The Fine Arts and Music Education Centre will provide a new home for the Bachelor of Fine Arts program. Specialized studios, classrooms, galleries and student space will be retrofitted into the former Windsor Park Hotel. Donations to the Essential Elements Campaign will help build this complex to showcase the arts and student success.



**ELISE AHENKORAH,  
BA LAW & JUSTICE:  
CLASS OF '07**

By: Rick McGee

Because international perspectives matter so deeply to **Elise Ahenkorah**, Sault Ste. Marie has retained a lasting benefit from her time as an Algoma U student.

After involving herself in the Algoma Multicultural Centre and Algoma University's Diversity Advisory Committee, she was chosen to help the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration launch the municipality's web portal for newcomers and immigrants.

Elise had come north after graduating with honours from St. Ignatius of Loyola Secondary School in Oakville.

*"I applied to Algoma U because it was one of only a few schools that had an undergraduate law program. As well, Algoma U offered me a very competitive entrance scholarship."*

Other institutional strengths helped the admittedly then-timid teenager adapt to new surroundings.

*"Initially, I was homesick and discouraged. It was quite the change. I had come from a very diverse community in Oakville and Toronto. But the beautiful thing about Algoma U is that because it's so small and there's such a close-knit community, it's easy to socialize with people and feel very welcomed. Algoma U quickly became a second home to me."*

*This wouldn't have been possible without Algoma U's administration and staff being as welcoming and encouraging as they are."*

Following graduation, Elise worked for six months as a research assistant with NORDIK. The assignment included accompanying Dr. Gayle Broad and senior researchers on a three-week economic development project in Colombia.

*"It was absolutely amazing," Elise said. "Such opportunities are few and far between. The fact that I got it is a testament to Algoma U."*

That and other international-related experiences, combined with an Algoma University degree, helped Elise continue her career in southern Ontario. She is a Special Projects Coordinator in the Town of Oakville's Multicultural and Newcomer Settlement Services department.

Elise also serves on the Halton Region Newcomer Settlement Strategy Committee and volunteers as a youth representative with the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Last fall, the 23-year-old's accomplishments were honoured during the ninth annual Ghanaian-Canadian Achievement Awards Night in Toronto.

Elise - who was 3 when her family moved from Ghana to Canada - received a national award recognizing her academic and community development successes.

*"Algoma U was recognized as a contributor to my educational growth," she enthused. "During the ceremony, I met Governor General Michaëlle Jean and former Ontario Progressive Conservative Leader John Tory."*

Additional academic awards may follow. In the upcoming years, Elise hopes to pursue graduate studies in alternative dispute resolution at York University and a law degree at Osgoode Hall.

But when looking back, Elise especially appreciates one person. *"The leadership that Dr. Ross exudes is remarkable. Had it not been for Dr. Ross, I can definitely say that I would not be where I am today."*



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There are many options available to you which can help to meet your philanthropic goals today and possibly provide you and your estate considerable tax savings in the future. Such options include gifts through:

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Your commitment to excellence in education can continue with a gift that is planned today to prepare for the future. Please consider discussing with your financial advisors today, how you can plan to maintain your legacy and commitment to Algoma University.

For information on how you can leave your legacy, and possibly receive considerable tax benefits please

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**Deborah Loosemore, CFRE,**  
Executive Director  
Algoma University Foundation  
1520 Queen St, E,  
Sault Ste Marie, ON P6A 2G4

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**ALGOMA**  
university





## ALGOMA U ALUMNI UPDATES

**Brent King**, BBA 2009 (Economics) is continuing his studies working on obtaining his MA, International Business in Management at the University of Westminster London, UK.

**Daniel Reid**, BSc, 2003 (Computer Science) and his wife Avy welcomed the newest addition to their family-Naomi Danielle Reid born on Friday, September 11, 2009 weighing 6 lbs., 12oz. and 19" long. Congratulations to the Reid Family!

**Meagan (Styles) Keranen**, BA, 2003 (Psychology) and her husband Hannu were thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Ava Elizabeth, born on July 17, 2009. Ava weighed 8 lbs., 11 oz. and was 21 1/4" long. Congratulations Meagan and Hannu!

**Dan (Christie) Ran**, BBA 2009 (Administration) After graduating from Algoma University, Christie moved to Toronto, ON and accepted a position with St. Bond International Inc. as a Marketing Developer and Education Consultant. Her job involves recruiting international students to Canadian Universities.



Christie Ran

**Karen Smyth**, BA 2000 (Double Major - Psychology and Law & Justice) Karen moved to Sault Ste. Marie 15 years ago from Southern Ontario. At the time, Karen was a single mother with two girls and unable to find a job. Karen made the decision to go back to school and earned her degree at Algoma U. After graduating, she accepted a job as Banking Consultant with Manulife, carving out a successful career for her and her family. She transferred to Georgetown in November 2009 to be closer to her mother but has wonderful memories of her time at Algoma University.



**Gannon Vaughan**, BBA 1998 and his wife Brigitte became the proud parents of a baby girl, Madison Faith, born on April 23, 2009. Madison proudly models her Algoma U bib. A future Algoma University alumni in waiting. *Congratulations to the Vaughan family!*



Madison Faith Vaughan

Congratulations to **Mark Pitcher**, BBA 2007 (Accounting) and **Erika Adam**, BBA 2008 (Accounting) for successfully completing the Uniform Final Examination, a major accomplishment on the road to becoming a Chartered Accountant.

*It's a boy!!!* **Ivana Bruni**, BBA 1999, husband Sam and big sister Alicia are thrilled to welcome the newest addition to the Bruni family. Aidan Nicholas was born on May 17, 2010 at 5:29 a.m., weighing 5 lbs. and 13 ounces. *Congratulations to the Bruni family!*



Aidan Nicholas Bruni

**Jeanine Laity**, BBA 2005 (Accounting) was appointed to the position of Manager of Accounting and Assurance Services for BDO Dunwoody in Sault Ste. Marie. Jeanine joined BDO in 2002, receiving her Chartered Accountant's designation in 2006.

**Jesse Doehler-Knox**, BA 2006 (CESD) is working as a Community Outreach Officer for the constituency office of Member of Provincial Parliament Rosario Marchese in Toronto. Jesse produced the award winning documentary "Invisible People" which focused on homelessness in Sault Ste. Marie, during his field placement as a CESD student.

**David Thompson**, BA 2008 (CESD) was one of 4 recipients of the CSEHub, "Emerging Leaders in the Social Economy Research Scholarship Program". The Program provides scholarships up to \$3,000 per recipient and is intended to promote original research by emerging leaders in the Social Economy. David's research focused on the impact of the labour movement on the social economy in Sault Ste. Marie and celebrates the major contribution that labour has made to the community. David is currently completing an MBA in Community Economic Development at Cape Breton University.

**Michael Biocchi**, MSc (CGT) 2009 is making good use of his degree. Michael is teaching computer related courses at Algoma University and Sault College. He recently started his own company, CHAMFERED Technology, in which he does consulting. Michael is a Ph.D student focusing his research on Education Technology and E-Learning and is using his Masters Degree in Computer Games Technology to develop educational games for young children. In his spare time, Michael coaches football with the Soo Minor Football Association, and also volunteers with the Big Brother Association.

**Vinay Yarlagada**, MSc (CGT) 2009 and **Jason Shaver**, MSc (CGT) 2009 are working for Algoma Games for Health as Video Game Programmers. Algoma Games for Health is a video game development studio designed to create and market products for the serious game industry. The studio targets games for the health care sector. Vinay and Jason were two of the first graduates from the MSc in Computer Games Technology program offered on Algoma University's campus by the University of Abertay Dundee, Scotland.

## HELP US IDENTIFY THESE PEOPLE!

*Please contact:*

**Bev Teller**, CFRE, Alumni & Development Officer  
at (705) 949-2301, ext. 4125  
or by e-mail at: [alumni@algomau.ca](mailto:alumni@algomau.ca)  
if you can identify any of these people.



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



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

I cannot begin to tell you how special it is to hear from our alums and to hear where life has taken them since they graduated from Algoma U. I recently met with one of our grads who is now living in southern Ontario and working for a major food and beverage company, setting up new stores across Canada and in the United States. It was really exciting to hear where his career path has taken him, what his plans are for the future and how his degree is helping him to achieve his goals.

I know I am not alone in the pride that we as an Algoma University family have in our students and our graduates. Over the years, I have heard members of our staff, professors, administrators and our President all share stories of students they remember, students who have gone on to achieve wonderful success in their personal and professional lives.

I love having the chance to keep in touch with our alums, to celebrate their achievements and to hear how their professors prepared them for the opportunities that they now have. I appreciate how they so willingly share their stories. It is very rewarding when I ask our grads to provide a testimonial, participate in a student recruitment event, or even be interviewed for a story in this magazine. The answer is almost always yes. Why? Because our grads have a very strong tie and sense of belonging to this university.

When asked what the best part of being a student at Algoma University was, the answer is usually the small class size. I think what that really means is being part of a family. A family that knows you, wants to help you be the best you can be, one that supports you during the highs and lows and is always there to encourage you and celebrate your accomplishments. That is what Algoma University is, and that is why people love it here!

For more information, contact **Bev Teller, CFRE, Alumni & Development Officer** at (705) 949-2301, ext. 4125 or by e-mail at: [bev.teller@algomau.ca](mailto:bev.teller@algomau.ca)

## Algoma University Foundation

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## 2010 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner

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**Reception and Dinner 5:30 pm**

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*Algoma U extends congratulations to all student-athletes and coaches for their outstanding efforts during the 2009-10 school year. The athletic accomplishments this past year range from winning provincial medals, major tournaments and OCAA "Team Of The Week" recognition awards to individual awards for athletic and academic achievements, including 12 OCAA All Academic winners. With even bigger and better things planned for 2010-2011 the Algoma U Thunderbird Athletics Department is committed to raising the profile of our institution through their accomplishments.*

### Student Athlete Profile: Carolyn Fragale

Carolyn Fragale has achieved more in two years than most student athletes would over their entire careers. The Thunder Bay native and 2010 Algoma University Female Student Athlete of the Year was the MVP of both the Women's Basketball and Indoor Soccer teams, as well as the skip of the Women's curling team. She was named the OCAA Athlete of the Week on January 25th, 2010, and is Algoma's first three-sport Varsity Student Athlete. Even with her busy sport schedule, Fragale's dedication to her studies in Psychology has made her an OCAA Academic and Athletic Achievement Award recipient.



### Men's Basketball

The Men's team continued their playoff tradition, making it three straight appearances in the Provincial Final Eight. Before losing in the first round to eventual Bronze Medalists St. Lawrence College, the Thunderbirds compiled an impressive 12-6 regular season record, including 2 dominating wins over cross-town rival Sault College. Patrick Murray was a West Region First Team All-Star, and Dele Oworu was named a Second-Team All-Star.



### Women's Basketball

Under new head coach Winston Ivey, the Women secured their 4th consecutive playoff appearance by finishing 6th place in the West Region, were named the OCAA Team of the Week (Jan.11, 2010), and won the 2010 St. Lawrence College Tournament. The team also featured the West Region rookie of the Year in Brianna Mandolesi and West Region Second Team All-Star Carolyn Fragale.

### Curling

Algoma University successfully co-hosted the OCAA Provincial Curling Championships, which saw over 100 Student Athletes from 9 OCAA schools take part in the event at the Sault Curling Club. The Mixed team of Sara Bennett, Brendan Hodgson, Jamie Sammon, and Clint Cudmore won a Provincial Silver Medal, while the Women's team made their first appearance in two years.





## Indoor Soccer

Despite not advancing to the OCAA Provincials both the Men's and Women's Indoor Soccer Teams had their best showings ever at the OCAA West Region Tournament under first-year coaches Brad Duquette (Men's) and Bob Erickson along with Phil Brazil (Women's).

## Cancer Awareness Event A Success

On a special weekend in January, the *men's and women's Thunderbirds Basketball teams* took the opportunity to give back to the community by raising money and awareness for a great cause. Organized by Thunderbird Forward Patrick Murray, who lost his father to prostate cancer 4 years ago, the **Algoma University Thunderbirds Cancer Awareness Weekend** saw over 700 fans attend both men's and women's basketball games, with over \$1,300 raised for the fight against cancer. With the help of sponsors *Boston Pizza, Wireless Wave and Russell Athletics*, the Thunderbirds are hoping to make the weekend an annual event. Thanks and congratulations to Patrick, Coach Cory, and Thunderbird Athletics for showing their true Algoma U colours for such a worthy cause.



## Awards

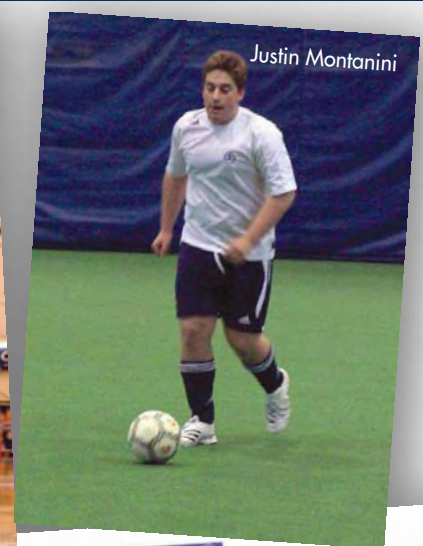
**Varsity Student - Athlete of the Year (Male)**  
Patrick Murray (*Men's Varsity Basketball*)

**Varsity Student - Athlete of the Year (Female)**  
Carolyn Fragale  
(*Women's Varsity Basketball, Women's Curling & Women's Indoor Soccer*)

**Dr. Lou Lukenda Service Award**  
Patrick Murray

**Thunderbird Award**  
Justin Montanini (*Indoor Soccer*)  
Miranda Chaimbrone (*Basketball*)  
Abby DiDonato (*Basketball*)  
Lara Stilin (*Basketball*)  
James Tusingwire (*Basketball*)

**Wall of Fame Induction**  
Ray Barsanti  
Dave Bourgeault



Algoma University Hockey



Powderpuff Football Team





↑ Brad Jacobs and E.J. Harnden along side Ryan Harnden and Caleb Flaxey.

## ALGOMA U FOSTERS COMPETITION AND TRADITION

By: Melanie Nolan

Most people will never get to experience the excitement of having 8,000 spectators watching your every move as you compete in a televised national sporting event. For Algoma U alumni **Brad Jacobs** and **E.J. Harnden**, current student **Ryan Harnden**, and former student **Caleb Flaxey**, that adventure was a reality when they represented Northern Ontario at the **Tim Hortons Brier** in Halifax in March.

Team skip Brad, BA Geography, 2007, recounts playing in the Page 1 vs. 2 game against the Ontario team as his most memorable experience at the competition.

*"We were the only game on the ice and the stands were filled-just having everyone's eyes on our game was a very exciting feeling,"* he explains. *"That was our first time being in that situation and it was the thrill of a lifetime."*

Brad is cousins with brothers E.J. and Ryan and the trio have curled together for several years, starting when they were at the junior level. Brad estimates that they have participated in at least 30 competitions and played over 300 games together. Caleb, a long-time friend, began curling in high school and played with E.J. throughout this time.

Curling is definitely a family tradition for the group. Ryan and E.J.'s father, Eric Harnden, introduced them to curling when they were as young as four years old. Their uncle Al Harnden was also an avid curler.

Brad first learned how to slide and deliver a curling stone from Tom Coulterman, the

team's current coach. He describes curling as one of his biggest passions.

*"I love the strategy, challenge and teamwork that curling involves,"* Brad explains. *"I like that games are often unpredictable and can go either way."*

This past season marked the team's second year playing with Brad as skip, E.J. in third position, Ryan as second, and Caleb in lead. It proved to be a successful line-up for them as the team won third place in the Brier.

This success is especially impressive as the rink was the youngest team in the tournament this year, with Brad, 24, being the youngest skip in the competition. The team also made history as their standing marked the first time a Northern Ontario rink has made it to the playoffs at the Brier since 1993.



As well, E.J. was selected for the second all-star team for the event. He achieved the second highest shooting percentage throughout the tournament, as well as a very high plus/minus score for out-curling the opposing team third each game by 5 percentage points or more.

E.J., a Brand Manager with the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation, graduated from Algoma in 2006 with a BA in Business, specializing in marketing. Ryan is currently attending Algoma U, majoring in business and working toward becoming a real estate appraiser. Caleb also attended Algoma U in 2006.

Brad appreciates all the encouragement the university has showed the team.

*"I would like to thank the staff and faculty at Algoma U for always supporting our curling team,"* says Brad. *"It was a pleasure to attend Algoma U for four years and I always look forward to visiting and seeing familiar faces."*

Brad says he would definitely recommend Algoma U to others.

*"Small class sizes and personal interaction with teachers make the school experience very enjoyable and not overwhelming,"* he explains. *"Algoma U is a smaller university, which makes everyone feel like they're part of a family, not just a number. Teachers seem to care a lot and want to help students succeed."*

Brad hopes to continue competing on the World Curling Tour against the top teams in Canada for many years to come.

*"We would like to wear the moose on our backs and represent Northern Ontario at as many Briers as possible and hopefully stand atop the podium one day,"* says Brad.

The Algoma University community will gladly continue to cheer on Team Jacobs as they strive for success on the ice and off.



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