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SPRING/SUMMER 2013

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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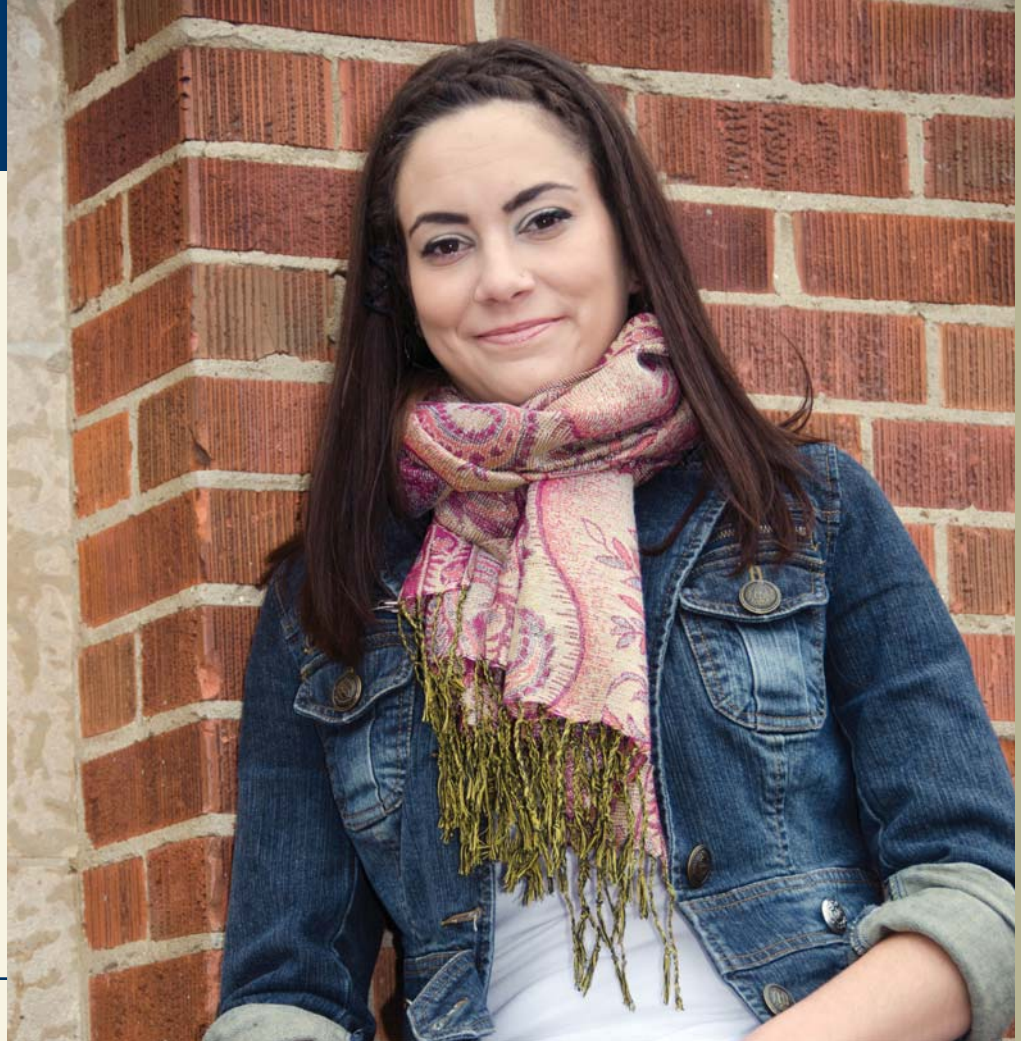
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## ALUMNI COUNCIL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

**By: Jessica Ferlino**, Chair, Algoma University Alumni Council

Friends,

This is a very exciting time to be a part of the Algoma University community. Algoma University as an institution is experiencing unprecedented growth and as a result, our Alumni family too has grown in numbers, and as a collective, we have an increasing number of events, achievements, and milestones to rally around and in support of.

This year marks the end of an era with respect to our participation with the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA), but it also marks the beginning of a new and very exciting future. Given our great varsity successes over the past several years, it is with great confidence that we move forward and accept new challenges in the Ontario University Athletics (OUA). Using the 2012-2013 season as preparation for our future with the OUA, Algoma U has introduced Cross-Country Running, Outdoor Soccer, Nordic Skiing, and Wrestling. Whether you are a member or past member of a varsity team, club team, or intramural team, athletics provides a great rallying point and can definitely elevate the university experience! I urge Alumni to take any opportunity, at home or away, to support

our teams as they compete and represent Algoma U!

I would also like to extend warm wishes and congratulations to our Brampton graduates and welcome them to the Algoma University Alumni family. As our programming continues to expand across Ontario, so too does our Alumni base. To our Alumni: stay connected and be a part of the excitement. Our success depends on our numbers and our network. It is with this in mind that we continue to work towards planning annual events, such as Homecoming, a celebration which rallies around and builds upon our Annual Alumni-Varsity Basketball games. The idea is to bring Alumni, past faculty, and staff, the Shingwauk Residential School Survivors and their families, and supporters of Algoma University back to our Sault Ste. Marie campus, bringing together our past, present, and future. Each year that passes, we grow as a school, as an institution, and as a community. Let's continue to share in this exciting time together!

Best,

*Jessica Ferlino*



This issue of the magazine celebrates our varsity program's twelve-year run in the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association.

Universities have varsity programs for a variety of reasons. First and foremost, they constitute a kind of student service. Varsity athletics, as we know it, is in some respects an Anglo-American phenomenon. It emerged as a consequence of the British and

North American practice of educating young people in residential colleges, that is, institutions where many, if not most students lived on campus. As the campus was literally the home of its students, it had to provide opportunities to meet a variety of non-academic needs, including spiritual needs (chapels), healthcare (infirmaries), and fitness (playing fields and gyms). While today's universities are largely non-sectarian, and

the state delivers our health care, universities continue to have a responsibility to provide their students with opportunities to remain physically fit. Varsity programs help us to do so, not merely by providing fitness opportunities for the varsity athletes themselves, but by encouraging broader participation by all students through the interest they generate and the facilities they leverage.

Varsity athletics also promote a strong sense of campus community by providing students, faculty, staff, and alumni with a unique opportunity for communal entertainment. It is unique insofar as the "entertainers" are not just members of the community; they wear our name on their uniforms and those of us watching cannot help but feel that their victories are "our" victories, and their losses ours as well. That can be an extraordinarily powerful way of knitting a university community together, and keeping members of the community attached to it long after graduation.

On a third level, varsity athletics is now an important part of a university's public-relations work. In most communities with universities, varsity athletics gets good local media coverage, which helps to build interest in and support for the school. A varsity program also gets the university's name in circulation among prospective students in the high schools. And it is largely for this reason that Algoma U is moving from the college league (OCAA) into the university league (OUA). We are no longer "Algoma College" or even "Algoma University College." We are Algoma University, and as a university, we need to have our varsity teams compete against university teams, not college teams.

We have had a great run in the OCAA. Our curlers have won gold, and both men's and women's basketball have won silvers. We've had five All-Canadian athletes and a long list of league all-stars. We leave the OCAA with some remarkable records, too, like Sammy Mohamed's incredible game against Lambton in which he hit fourteen three-pointers, and that first game of the 2011 OCAA Men's Basketball Championship at the ESSAR Centre, when over 4,000 fans came out to cheer on their Algoma University team.

The OCAA is a great organization and it has provided an excellent environment for the activities of our athletes. We thank them for all of their support over the years. We should also be grateful to my predecessor as President, Dr. Celia Ross, for getting Algoma U into the OCAA back in 2000. Given the institution's lack of financial resources at the time, it was a courageous decision to make. The wonderful experiences of our student-athletes over the past twelve years have confirmed that it was a profoundly wise decision as well.

## BALANCING BASKETBALL AND BOOKS AT ALGOMA U

By: Melanie Nolan

For **Ethan Campbell**, life at Algoma University is a balance of academics and athletics. Ethan is in his fourth year of studies, majoring in Law and Justice, and is a member of the Algoma University Thunderbirds Men's Basketball team.

Thanks to excellent time management skills and an organized study and basketball schedule, Ethan is able to excel in both areas.

*"It can certainly be a challenge," says Ethan. "I have probably spent as much time in the gym as I have the classroom and the team travels a lot."*

*"It has also been extremely rewarding and I know that I'll never forget my time here at Algoma U."*

Ethan's love of basketball was one of the reasons why he chose to attend Algoma University.

*"Algoma U offered a unique program in Law and Justice that seemed like a perfect fit, and basketball was a big factor as well," he explains. "(Thunderbirds') Coach Cory was my coach for several years when I played on the Sault Titans basketball team. I knew how successful his program at Algoma U was and wanted to be a part of it."*

Staying close to home was also important to Ethan. A St. Joseph Island resident, Ethan attended Central Algoma Secondary School (CASS) where he played basketball, volleyball, and hockey, and was Senior Athlete of the Year in 2008-09.

Ethan's academic credentials are equally impressive. In 2009-10, he received two university entrance scholarships: Algoma U's Award of Excellence (Silver) for having an 80-84.9% average in high school and The Lions Club of St. Joseph Island Scholarship for being a CASS graduate and a St. Joseph Island resident.

In 2011-12, Ethan received Algoma U's Achievement Award for obtaining high grades, and the Judge John Hay McDonald and Mrs. Vera McDonald Memorial Scholarship in recognition of his high grades obtained as a Law and Justice student.

Ethan believes that being involved in sports and extracurricular activities is an essential part of being successful in university.

*"I think that everyone needs an outlet, whatever their interests. It could be basketball or music, anything really," he explains. "I have found that just being able to 'get away' from that tough essay for a few hours or getting a workout done between classes has had a really positive effect on my education."*



Ethan is inspired by both his professors and the basketball coaching staff at Algoma U. He admires the dedication of Thunderbirds' Coach Thomas Cory and Team Manager Garnet Cory.

*"Coach Cory's dad, Pops, is our team manager. He does all of the little things that many people probably don't notice but make a huge difference," says Ethan. "He's really committed. At practice, he runs the score clock and always keeps the water bottles full. He's got a great sense of humour and I think everybody on the team knows how big a role he plays."*

As for professors, Ethan says that he can't choose just one to highlight because they have all had a great impact on his academic career.

*"The great thing about Algoma U is how well you get to know your professors because*

*of the small class sizes. I've been able to get to know each of them really well over the last four years. All of them have been extremely helpful and they seem to have a genuine desire to see their students succeed."*

Ethan will graduate from Algoma University this year and while he has been accepted to six law schools in Canada, he has decided to attend Western University to study law there. He is certain that his experience at Algoma U has helped him achieve this goal.

*"While other larger universities can also offer you an excellent education, you may get lost in the crowd. That won't happen here at Algoma U. If you want to pursue law, medicine, or perhaps an MBA, give Algoma U serious consideration. Algoma U has provided me with a great undergraduate degree and has put me in a position to excel in law school."*





From left to right:  
Anna Stilin & Lara Stilin.

## LARA STILIN: REFLECTING ON GREAT MEMORIES AND A SPORTS PASSION

By: Rick McGee

For several members of one Sault Ste. Marie family, Algoma University's 2012 Homecoming basketball games last October added to a growing tradition.

Graduate **Lara Stilin** played for the Thunderbirds women's alumni team against the 2012-2013 varsity lineup, as she had a year earlier.

Returning to familiar surroundings in the George Leach Centre proved most enjoyable, the onetime guard said.

*"The game is a good refresher. Basketball has always been a passion of mine and I love playing. It's a little bit of a family event for us. It's always tough to go out and play against those girls. But it's fun and I had the privilege this year of getting to play against my younger sister, Anna. It really is a treat and I am grateful for the opportunity to have played here as an athlete during my years and now to get to come back as an alumna and get to watch and play in those games."*

The two Stilin women followed siblings who had continued studies in their hometown after graduating from St. Basil Secondary School.

*"My two older brothers both chose Algoma U for athletics and academics,"* Lara continued. *"They graduated as well.*

*It was a clear choice for me when I saw what decisions they made and the time they had at Algoma U."*

The oldest of the four, Kellan, started the trend and completed a Geography degree in 2006.

Next came Luke, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in 2009.

Scholastic and athletic accomplishments highlighted Lara's time at Algoma U.

An outstanding Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) - Accounting student, she graduated cum laude in 2011 and earned the Edward and Frank McGrath Award for Excellence for four straight years.

Algoma varsity honours included being named Rookie of the Year, Student-Athlete of the Year, and co-Most Valuable Player.

Additionally, Lara won provincial and national student-athlete all-academic awards, and was twice a First Team OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association) All-Star selection.

Team accomplishments included a 2006-2007 OCAA West Division Championship.

Lara continues to reside in the Sault and works in KPMG's audit division.

*"I have a busy career, but I like staying physically fit and coming to watch all the games I can,"* she said. *"I am pursuing a Chartered Accountant designation and passed*

*all my professional [Canada-wide Uniform Evaluation] exams this year. Now all that hard work is behind me and I'm just looking forward to the future."*

During 2013, Lara will reach another milestone, fulfilling the three years of practical experience required for designation.

The graduate appreciates her Algoma U experiences and is proud to have contributed to the university's development.

*"I had a lot of support from my family. I put my heart into school and I put my heart into basketball, and I was rewarded. I'm very grateful for the opportunities that I had. I have seen the birth of the basketball program to where it is now. When I started at Algoma U, we had a few really successful years. Having stepped away from the game as a graduate, I'm now able to be a fan. I especially enjoy watching my younger sister play. It's awesome to see how much the basketball program has grown and I was just happy to be a small part of it along the way."* Lara then spoke appreciatively from broader perspectives.

*"We grew up here in town and it was nice that we completed all our post-secondary here and we were lucky enough to play basketball. It's been a treat for my parents [Jim and Mary] to come and watch their children play. It's really nice to see how the school is evolving. There were great times and I'm grateful for them, and there were challenging times that made me a better person. I wouldn't change any of my decisions."*

## CURLING A FAMILY AFFAIR FOR SAMMON SISTERS

By: Melanie Nolan

Sisters **Jamie and Stephanie Sammon** share more in common than just family ties. Both are Algoma U graduates and both love to curl.

*“Our parents always encouraged us to stay active,” explains Stephanie. “Our family loves to watch curling on TV and one year, we decided to give it a try. Since the minute we stepped out onto the ice, I was 10 and Jamie was 6, we have never left the sport.”*

Stephanie graduated from Algoma U in 2008 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (BBA), and received the Algoma University College 2008 BBA Accounting Gold Medal in recognition of achieving the highest overall average mark in the program. Jamie obtained her Bachelor of Arts in 2011, majoring in History and Law and Justice.

Both women played on curling teams at Algoma U, with Stephanie even helping to bring women’s curling to the university in 2004.

Stephanie played on Algoma University’s Women’s Curling Team from 2004 to 2008 and competed at the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) Championships for three out of the four years. During that time, Stephanie’s team medaled twice, once in 2006-07 with Stephanie playing Third, and again in 2007-08 with Stephanie playing Skip and Jamie playing Third.

*“I am so proud to have represented Algoma U and been on the first women’s curling team to have ever medaled at the OCAA competition,” says Stephanie. “I believe the teams at Algoma U have excelled above the others due to our commitment, teamwork, skill, and ability to communicate. Having Jamie on the team was great—she gave me the confidence to believe in myself and my decision-making on the ice.”*

For Jamie’s last three years at Algoma U, she played as Vice-Skip on mixed curling teams at the University. These teams medaled every year at the OCAA competition: winning the gold medal in 2008-09, the silver medal in 2009-10, and the bronze medal in 2010-11. Jamie vividly remembers winning first place in 2008-09.

*“It was incredible to be able to stand in front of our school’s banner wearing gold medals, knowing that we were bringing the trophy back for the whole Algoma U community,” says Jamie.*

Jamie really enjoyed the sense of community that curling at Algoma U provided.

*“Being on a team allows you to get to know people outside of the classroom, so you have the opportunity to build real, lasting relationships with both teammates and coaches,” she explains. “Even when I was home for Christmas break last year, I curled with the new Algoma U women’s curling team on Wednesdays and Saturdays.”*

Stephanie shares Jamie’s enthusiasm for the sport.

*“We had great coaches and teammates that helped us every step of the way. Anyone can curl. It is a great sport to stay active, socialize, and build teamwork skills. Curling also has a way of bringing friends and families together,” adds Stephanie.*

Stephanie liked curling at Algoma U so much that she has now taken on the role of Assistant Coach of the women’s curling team. When Head Coach Bob Lewis approached Stephanie about the position, she did not hesitate to take it on. Bob coached both Stephanie and Jamie in the past, and Stephanie continues to curl with him in one of the Soo Curlers Association leagues.

*“Algoma U is investing more into their athletes. They are expanding the number of sports teams and attracting great coaches,” says Stephanie. “The teams now are well-outfitted in the school colours, participate in many leagues and bonspiels, and have players in the Learn to Curl program. The committed curling teams in the past have been very successful with multiple wins against stiff competition. The University is bringing in wonderful coaches with years of experience.”*

Jamie now attends Ave Maria School of Law in Naples, Florida and doesn’t get the opportunity to curl as much as she would like. She takes advantage of her visits home and curls with her sister and the Algoma U team.

Stephanie works in the accounting department of Community Living Algoma and plans on curling for years to come.

*“Curling is close to my heart and I want to continue to inspire others to get involved and share the love for the sport that I have.”*



↑ Stephanie Sammon ↓ Jamie Sammon





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## TEAM JACOBS: THE PINNACLE OF SUCCESS

By: Meaghan Smith

From their sporting of the green and yellow Northern Ontario jersey, to their donning of the symbolic red maple leaf on their backs, **Team Jacobs** has made Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie, and Canada, incredibly proud. Together, these four young men based out of the Sault Curlers rink, took on not only Canada's best, but also the world's most elite curlers over the past two months, becoming national icons and international curling sensations. Call them what you will - be it Team Jacobs, Team Northern Ontario, or most recently, Team Canada - they have demonstrated showmanship, skill, and prowess at the 2013 Tim Horton's Brier and the Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2013.

For Skip **Brad Jacobs**, Second **E. J. Harnden**, Lead **Ryan Harnden**, and Third **Ryan Fry**, the past few months have come to represent an array of ups and downs, an emotional and moving experience, and ultimately a dream come true. Together they have become masters of the curling world, "*reaching the pinnacle of the sport,*" claims Brad. On Sunday, March 10, 2013, Brad successfully skipped his team to an 11-4 win over Jeff Stoughton's Manitoba rink at the 2013 Tim Horton's Brier in Edmonton. Just under a month later, on Sunday, April 7, they were receiving silver medals for their impressive second-place finish at the Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2013 in Victoria.



Photo by Michael Burns/WCF courtesy of The Curling News

Since their childhood, each member of the Jacobs rink has had a broom in their hands and been sliding rocks down a polished sheet of ice. Ryan Harnden and his brother E.J. have been curling since they were four years old: "*my father would take us on the ice with our hockey helmets,*" claims Ryan. Brad was slightly older, starting at the age of 10. The three have been curling together now for 10 years. Yet despite their early start, each had dreams of competing at an international level, and winning elite competitions. "*It has always been a long-term goal of ours to play at that*

*level and do as well as we did at the Worlds. And it has been an incredible ride to accomplish these dreams,*" adds Brad.

But even in their wildest dreams as children, never did Team Jacobs fathom the experience of the Worlds. The Jacobs rink had a once in a lifetime opportunity this year - they had the privilege to play in front of thousands on home soil. "*The Worlds was a totally different feeling than the Brier when it comes to fan support,*" Ryan begins. "*Having played the Worlds in Canada we had the whole building cheering for us, which was an amazing feeling. Wearing that maple leaf on your back is an honour and something I'll never forget.*" And the support in Victoria's Save-On-Foods Memorial Centre was only a portion of the support Team Jacobs received. Back home, thousands watched televised games daily, showered the team in support on social media outlets, and over 2000 gathered at the welcome home ceremony held at the ESSAR Centre. "*The support from home is unreal. I'm proud to have been able to represent the Sault and to provide entertainment for the Sault. I'll never forget seeing people smiling, applauding, and cheering. And it was all for us,*" adds Brad.

Three of the four players are members of the Algoma University community. Ryan Harnden is currently completing his Bachelor of Arts in Geography, set to graduate in June 2014, while his brother E.J. graduated in 2006 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree in Marketing. Brad graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography. Brad also skipped the Thunderbirds Men's OCAA Championship game, bringing home the gold medal for the University in 2004, with a 6-0 performance in the round robin competition. This was the first-ever OCAA medal for the University.

Photo by Michael Burns/WCF  
courtesy of The Curling News



↑ Team Jacobs L-R: Ryan Fry; brothers E.J. Harnden (back) & Ryan Harnden (front); Brad Jacobs.



## REFLECTING ON 12 YEARS IN THE OCAA By: Nadine Robinson

As Algoma U looks forward to the OUA, it's timely that **Mark Kontulainen**, Athletics and Recreation Director, reflects back on Algoma U's years in the OCAA. *"The OCAA was instrumental in the development of Algoma U and its Varsity Athletic Program,"* Kontulainen said. *"All I have are fond memories of the amazing student-athletes and their families, the coaches, officials, fans, the OCAA staff, and other OCAA schools."*

Twelve years ago, it was then President Dr. Celia Ross that pushed for the creation of the athletics program as part of her strategic plan. Bruno Barban, then Director of University Services, and Mark took it from there and they successfully pitched Algoma U's membership proposal to the OCAA.

Disadvantaged by the school's size and location, Algoma U was still able to develop quality teams and players over the years. *"I attribute our success to our coaches who recruited student-athletes who then arrived here to find out it is a wonderful place to get their education and play their varsity sport,"* said Mark. *"Many still live here after graduating."*

Athletic highlights of those twelve years include the first Gold Medal won by the Men's Curling team (Brad Jacobs, Scott Seabrook, Matt Seabrook and Andrew Silk) in 2003, the Women's Basketball Team taking the Silver Medal (2006/07), and the Men's Basketball Team Silver Medal (2007/08).

Mark also saw the recent OCAA Men's Provincial Basketball Championship in 2011 as a milestone for Algoma U in the OCAA: *"The opening game was held at the ESSAR Centre where we played in front of more than 4,000 fans, unfortunately we lost that close game."* Algoma U also stepped up to host OCAA Curling and Cross-Country Running Provincial Championships as well as the OCAA Annual General Meeting.

While there have been many individual Academic and Athletic All-Star awards recipients over the years, for Mark, two come quickly to mind: *"Danielle D'Ettorre won the OCAA and the CCAA (Canadian College Athletic Association) Female Basketball Player of the Year in 2006/07, and Jovain Wilson won the OCAA and CCAA Male Basketball Player of the Year 2011/12. Not to mention that*

*Brad Jacobs recently won the 2013 Tim Horton's Brier and took home the Men's silver medal in the Ford World Men's Curling Championship 2013."*

*"The Algoma U coaches' dedication has been commendable given they started with only small stipends, and equally small travel budgets and small change rooms, and a rubber floor for the basketball court,"* said Mark. It was the Men's Basketball Coach Thomas Cory and Tourism Sault Ste. Marie Algoma who were able to secure a wooden basketball floor. *"The quality of the facility and equipment is not only important to train athletes to their best potential and reduce injuries, but it is also a factor in recruiting student-athletes,"* Mark added.

Even with improved budgets, facilities, and equipment, Mark is quick to note that it is the people who made Algoma U's athletics program what it is. *"I am very grateful for the vision and support that the varsity program has received from the President, Management, and the Board. We also have a great staff, and Brian Leahy (GLC, Coordinator of Operations) is truly one of the reasons we have achieved*



↑ Mark Kontulainen, Athletics and Recreation Director.

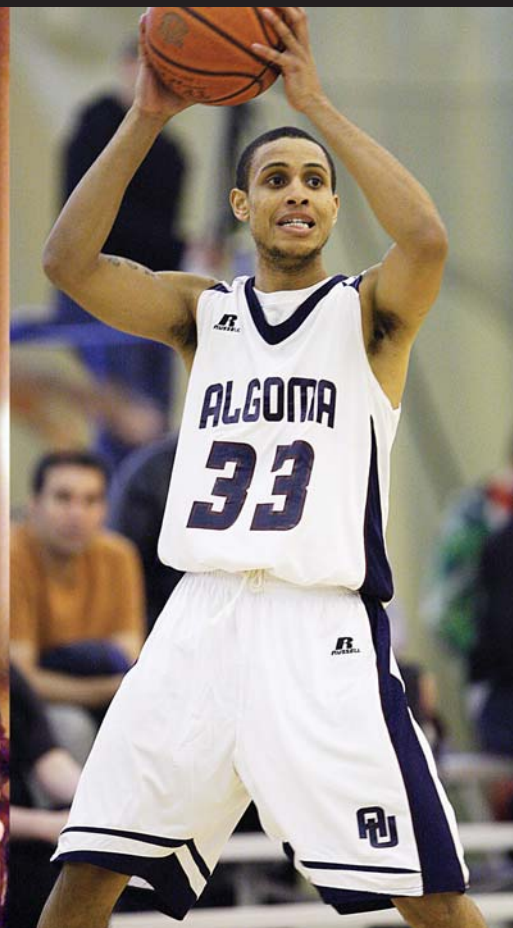
↓ Danielle D’Ettorre

↓ Jovain Wilson

success in the OCAA. He understands how important varsity sport is to student life and the University.”

Mark’s role is also undeniable. “For over two decades, Mark has consistently gone above and beyond to expand and improve athletic and recreational opportunities for the students of Algoma University,” commented Brian Leahy. “His dedication, enthusiasm, and ongoing commitment established the foundation for success that will help pave the way for continued excellence as we shift our focus to participating as full-standing members of the OUA.”

Brian and Mark are both Algoma U alums. Brian has a BA (Economics) 1998, and Mark has a BA (Psychology) 1989. While studying at Algoma U in the 1980’s, Mark played several sports for George Leach and it was George himself who hired Mark as a Fitness Consultant: “Algoma U feels like a second home, so I take great pride as the University grows and the Algoma U Varsity Athletics Program grows along with it.”



# SPORTS PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE AT ALGOMA U

By: Nadine Robinson



Whether students participate in varsity or club sports, it's a great way for them to improve their fitness, reduce stress levels, and experience team camaraderie. The non-athletes' student-life is also enhanced with games for spectators, including those for Algoma U's well-established basketball teams.

In addition to basketball, in order to join the OUA, Algoma University chose to field 2013-2014 teams for soccer, wrestling, curling, Nordic skiing, cross-country running, and soccer. Algoma U also has a variety of club teams including women's hockey and Powderpuff Football.

Bill Howe, with his distinguished soccer background, was hired as the Women's Varsity Soccer team's head coach in April 2012. *"We're preparing a team of OUA level, building from scratch, trying to attract a camp of 25 to 30 players from across the province. Locally, students are looking for US scholarships*

*and many don't know that Algoma U has a team, let alone that we have financial awards. We can provide a high level of soccer for our girls right here where they have support from home."* Bill's two local assistant coaches, Deandra Franzisi and Aniela Pulice, played division 2 in the USA on scholarships, and they know what is required of individual players and the team. Bill acknowledges the challenges ahead and reminds his team: *"You can be outplayed, but don't be outworked."*

Appointed at the same time as Bill, Neil Ovey coaches the 21 Men's soccer players, including a number of international students. *"We're learning about each others' cultures as well as the game of soccer,"* said Neil. They'll be competing against established programs from other universities, but Neil is conveying the motto of: *"Believe"* and encouraging them to *"Work hard and enjoy what you are doing."*





Trevor Manchester, a former university wrestler himself, is the Men's and Women's Wrestling coach. "Wrestling is a sport that allows people with all different body types to succeed," said Trevor. He's looking for 15 to 20 wrestlers and his motto is: "Hard work beats talent – when talent doesn't work hard."

The Algoma University Powderpuff Football team "Blitz This" often fundraises with bake sales and pubs to pay for jerseys and travel costs to the annual Powderpuff Flag Football Tournament in Windsor. The tournament is about football, but also raises funds and awareness for breast cancer research. Head Coach Kofi Osei, who plays for the Sault Steelers, is proud of the 22 player team. "When you think about women's athletics, football isn't exactly the first thing that pops into your head, and it catches a lot of people off guard," said Kofi. "The fact that these girls are playing in the cold with just sweaters, toques, and gloves just shows how tough they are."

The curling teams are well established at Algoma U. Both the Men's and Women's teams recently attended the OCAA Curling Championships, their last before competing in the OUA.

"There is a lot of rotation on and off the team and it's seldom that you have a team that stays together for more than two years," said the Women's team Head Coach Bob Lewis.

Part of his solution is to bring on Assistant Coach Stephanie Sammon, to help build out eight or 10 players in league play and then take one team away for competitions.

Another team in its inaugural year is Coach Terry Bordin's Women's Club Hockey team. "This is a hockey town, and we're building the foundation now, knowing that we can field a great team over the years. It's the commitment

of the current players and our trainers/assistants Lyn Mazzonello and Lisa Turco that are making a strong foundation for taking us to the next level."

"Sports are a key character builder that I

feel should be mandatory," said Terry. "Sports, like life, are about building fun memories through successes and learning from failures while on the path to achieving the goals we set out."





## AN ONGOING CONNECTION RAISES THE BAR AND AWARENESS

By: Rick McGee

Although **Pat Murray** graduated from Algoma University two years ago, he is an almost daily presence on campus. The Sault Ste. Marie native continues to support his alma mater's advancement in several areas.

A volunteer member of the Alumni Council, the 2011 Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) - Accounting

graduate helped to plan Homecoming 2012. Then he participated in both alumni basketball games that were the first-time event's highlights.

As Assistant Coach for Women's Basketball, Pat was on the bench as the 2012-2013 Thunderbirds competed against members of past teams. When that game ended, the mentor joined other graduates to play for the men's alumni team.

In 2006, academic and basketball opportunities convinced the St. Mary's College graduate to pursue post-secondary studies locally.

*"It's been a good road and I'm glad that it's not ending... that I have the ability to keep going on with the university in coaching," Pat said. "I don't see it ending in the near future, which makes me happy. It's grown into a good relationship with pretty much everybody in the school – with professors and with faculty, not just athletics. It's a good family atmosphere that we have here and it's good for the community."*

During five years of varsity basketball, Pat was a member of the Thunderbirds team that made four OCAA (Ontario Colleges Athletic Association) Championship appearances. The 2007-2008 squad won the silver medal.

A forward, Pat was a First Team All-Star in 2009-2010 and a Second Team All-Star twice. In addition, he won several major Algoma U Athletic awards – including Male Student-Athlete of the Year and the Dr. Lou Lukenda Service Award. In 2009-2010, Pat and Dele Oworu shared Most Valuable Player honours.

Career success has followed graduation. Pat joined BDO Canada in the Sault and is working towards designation as a Certified General Accountant.

An enduring relationship with Algoma U has meant seeing big changes firsthand.

*"It's nice to see progress not only in athletics but to see the whole school moving forward and growing," Pat enthused. "Now, we see more buildings, more faces, more friends to meet and more families to meet and engage with."*

As a "basketball guy," Pat is pleased that alumni games will be the centerpiece attraction as Homecoming moves ahead in future years.

*"It's nice that we have that established now and hopefully it will continue to grow at the school. As long as my legs keep going, I hope to have a couple more games on the alumni team," he chuckled.*

Algoma U's basketball program is personally significant for Pat in other ways, too. Under his leadership, two annual games have become fundraisers and awareness builders for breast cancer and prostate cancer. His father succumbed to the latter in 2006.

Algoma U's move to the OUA (Ontario University Athletics) this fall is eagerly anticipated, Pat said.

*"Going forward, it's going to be more competitive. I think we're setting the bar higher so that we can strive for a higher goal. It's going to get busier and it's going to be a lot more work for all the coaches and all the players. None of us have a problem with that and we're really looking forward to putting more time and energy into it because we really all enjoy what we're doing."*



## HOMEcoming - ALUMNI BASKETBALL

By: Rick McGee

Two alumni basketball games emerged as lead events during Algoma University's first Homecoming as an independent institution held October 19 and 20, 2012.

Former Thunderbirds played the 2012-2013 varsity men's and women's teams.

*"For a number of years, we have hosted the alumni games and every year they seem to be getting a little bit bigger with more athletes coming back and you see a few new faces that haven't been on campus for a long time returning to watch the games,"* said Brian Leahy, the George Leach Centre's Coordinator of Operations. *"And this year, I noticed that we reached the next level. Although it was still small, relatively speaking, there were a lot of people I hadn't seen on campus for a long time, so it was really nice."*

An International Food Tasting presentation held in conjunction with the games also attracted interest.

Men's Varsity Head Coach Thomas Cory said basketball and Homecoming nicely complement each other.

*"It's a good opportunity for the former players and the new players to try to mesh.*

*It lets us keep building a tradition that bigger universities have. It's also a good way to bring back some more people and draw in some former athletes who maybe don't get back to the Sault as much as they'd like to."*

Ryan Vetrie, the women's Head Coach, echoed those sentiments.

*"We will have more sports teams as we move to the OUA [Ontario University Athletics]. Now that we'll have more teams and more players, the alumni will start to grow. It's good for our current players to meet the alumni - to know who they are and what they did when they played."*

Kristy Aloe enjoyed varsity ball at Algoma U for three years as an Honours Business Administration - Accounting student. She played with fellow alumni in 2011 and 2012.

*"You kind of want to win and show the team that you still have it and that you can keep up with them,"* Kristy chuckled. *"We stay close for about half of it. Then we all get tired. Basically, you run out of steam by the end. It's fun to get out there and play with some of your old friends and teammates."*

An Accountant with BDO in the Sault, Kristy is happy her former team is doing well and attends many games.

Adam Carpenter graduated in 2007 with an Honours Business Administration -

Accounting degree. The Certified Management Accountant works in Algoma Central Corporation's Property Division.

He always looks forward to the alumni game. *"It's definitely always fun. You get to see some players you used to play with and some players that played after you. I stay in shape for that every year, just to be sure. I play in the summer league at the university, too. It's good to see the progression of how the university is growing."*

The 2012-2013 Thunderbirds women won their game 82-36 and the men prevailed 91-65.

Homecoming included a visit to the Mockingbird Hill Farm Corn Maze, an Open-Mic night, pancake breakfast, Elder's Gathering and campus tours.

*"I think it was a small start but a good start,"* said Alumni Council Chair Jessica Ferlaino. *"It was a stepping stone to the future."*



# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

## REWARDING SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

By: Marc Capancioni

Last winter, when checking her mail during the holiday season, Tara Burrell noticed a letter from Algoma University. The third-year Sociology student assumed it was a bill, possibly related to next semester's tuition.

However, when she opened it, she was caught off guard. Instead of a bill, the letter contained a cheque. Tara learned she was the recipient of the Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU) Students Helping Students Bursary.

*"I was flabbergasted,"* she said. *"I couldn't stop crying. It felt absolutely awesome to receive that."*

The AUSU bursary is awarded based on both academics and financial need. As a mother of six-year-old twins, the funds certainly came in handy for Tara.

Soon after receiving the bursary, the 33-year-old wrote a letter to AUSU President Robert Totime, thanking him and the student body for establishing the bursary. She also expressed her appreciation to the entire institution.

*"To have a university that focuses on helping students is great,"* said Tara. *"Everyone is incredible, from the Financial Aid Office to the faculty. They want you to succeed and help you to succeed. They're awesome."*

Tara is a prime example of the need and importance of student bursaries at Algoma U. There is no shortage of deserving candidates who can use extra assistance to help them reach the finish line.

Such bursaries and scholarships are of critical importance, according to Bev Teller, the University's Alumni & Development Officer. *"The ultimate goal is to help students graduate. A strong awards program helps to relieve some of the financial strain that students face in their pursuit of their post-secondary goals."*

Under its ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS Campaign, Algoma University is looking to raise \$2.5 million for scholarship and bursary programs.

*"There's always a need for more,"*

said Bev. *"We welcome the opportunity to bring donors' philanthropic goals together with the needs of our students. It's very rewarding to see the expression on donors' faces when they get to meet the students who are benefiting from the award that they have established."*

One particular area the University is focusing on is related to athletics.

Algoma U is expanding its varsity program next year when its teams begin competing in Ontario University Athletics (OUA). The University is looking to expand its scholarships and bursaries to its growing number of student athletes.

One such athlete is Michael Jackman, a fourth-year student enrolled in the Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program. Last December, he received the Dr. Lou & Mae Lukenda Charitable Foundation Award, an honour given out based on academic success and volunteer experience.

*"I was humbled and thankful,"* said Michael, who used the award funds to help with groceries, rent and other living expenses. *"It really means a lot. And it feels nice to be appreciated."*

Hailing from Toronto, Michael headed north to Algoma U to study and play varsity basketball for the Thunderbirds. *"The CESD program seemed unique, and it caught my interest,"* he said. *"So I took a stab at it."*



*From left: Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Tara Burrell, Kaitlyn Teller, AUSU Vice President External, Robert Totime, AUSU President and Farrukh Asif Khan, AUSU Vice President Internal*

After getting to know the community, he decided to get involved, becoming a coach with the Superior Heights high school basketball team, along with the girls' team at Holy Family elementary school. Volunteering and community engagement is a big part of his life.

Michael and Tara are two examples of the importance and need to have both scholarships and bursaries at the University. With continued backing from alumni, local businesses, and support from the community and beyond, Algoma U hopes to replicate these success stories many times over.



# ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

## ACCESS ALGOMA U SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

Scholarships that honour students' proven capabilities and potential bring motivated, committed young people to study in Sault Ste. Marie. A well-funded scholarship and bursary program makes Algoma University inviting to talented students whose presence in the classroom and the research lab enriches the learning environment for all.

Increasing bursary awards makes a quality education available to students who might otherwise find the financial burden of a university education an overwhelming obstacle.

Donations to the Algoma University Foundation endowment program help provide student awards through investments that are held in perpetuity. Capital invested in the Foundation through donations ensures that student awards will be available as long as the university is in existence. This legacy will carry forward each donor's commitment to supporting education far into the future.

A strong commitment to student support through investments in the University's endowment is a fundamental priority for the

Algoma University Foundation and a key component of ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: The Campaign for Algoma U.

In support of this core mission priority, ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: The Campaign for Algoma U will raise funds to:

- Provide scholarships which reward academic achievement and provide incentives for the best and brightest of our young people to attend Algoma University; and
- Fund bursaries that help students with financial limitations to continue their education.

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

Bev Teller, CFRE  
Alumni & Development Officer  
Algoma University, 1520 Queen St. E. SSM, ON P6A 2G4  
Ph: 705-949-2301, Ext. 4125

*Photo on right, from left: Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, Michael Maniacco, 2012 John R. Rhodes Scholarship recipient and Dr. David Schantz, Vice President Academics*

*Below Photo, from left: Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean, presents the Dr. Lou and Mae Lukenda Charitable Foundation Award to Michael Jackman, Tina Newell and Elspeth Sare at the 2012 Student Awards*



## ALGOMA UNIVERSITY'S NEWEST ADDITION

By: Rick McGee

Algoma U's most recently completed building is keeping the University ahead of the on-campus student housing curve and contributing significantly to rapid enrolment growth.

The 96-bed residence, **New Dormitory** opened in September 2012 with 65 first-year students. Full occupancy is expected when the 2013-2014 academic year begins.

*"I am very pleased that the Board of Governors supported us on this initiative,"* said Algoma University President Dr. Richard Myers.

*"My view is that if you want to grow your enrolment and you have aggressive targets, and you're located eight hours from population centres, you absolutely have to be able to promise the students that you're recruiting that they have a guaranteed place in residence. Otherwise, their parents will never let them go to your institution."*

The \$8 million, four-storey structure provides what today's high school graduates are looking for – private rooms.

*"We are very lucky in that our housing stock is new,"* Dr. Myers continued. *"It has all been built on the principle that students really ought to have privacy - that's kind of a 21st century standard. So we are, I think, unique in that we're in the position to be able to say every student gets a single room. That is huge. Nobody else in the province can make that promise. I know from focus groups that students will tell you, 'That's one of the reasons I came here.'"*

**Caleb Smikle** is one such student. The 19-year-old from Oshawa delights in everything about his living quarters.



*"I love the new residence. My parents wanted me to be living on my own but still be close to people. The way our rooms are set up, there's my room, a connecting washroom and then there's another student's room. So, if I want my own independence or if I want to feel like I'm alone, I just close the door."*

At the same time, Caleb enjoys living among peers from near and distant places, including Brazil, China, and Saudi Arabia.

*"There are a lot of people from different cultures and it's so cool experiencing things that I never would have known,"* he said.

Calling the University's latest addition *"a very handsome building,"* Dr. Myers added, *"I thought the architects did a very nice job in terms of the entryway which is quite consciously evocative of the entrance to Shingwauk Hall."*

A blend of the University's traditional red brick and a more contemporary finish adds to the visual appeal.

Student-focused amenities include pleasant dining facilities, common rooms, and a large gathering area for special events.



*"We wanted to build something that is designed to meet students' needs, is efficient, is affordable and is aesthetically pleasing,"* said Dr. Myers. *"We've got all of those things."*

While the structure was nearing completion immediately north of the George Leach Centre, the nearby Spirit Village International Dormitory was acquiring kitchens. Being able to cook some of their own meals lets occupants move to a reduced meal plan. The flexibility is especially welcomed by international students.

*"We're calling it the International Dormitory and suggesting this could be a good place if you're from the Middle East, Japan or China,"* Dr. Myers noted. *"You'll still see the convenience of having some meals in the cafeteria but you'd also like the opportunity to make a good old-fashioned Chinese meal, or Middle Eastern meal of some sort. You may also find that it's nice to be in a residential community where everybody who's there has chosen it because they wanted to live in an international community. The kitchens are the hub of that kind of residence."*

The University's newest residence expands the total housing capacity, combining the main campus and the Windsor Park downtown, to 283 beds.

That number is certain to grow sooner rather than later, and various options are being considered to ensure Algoma U stays ahead of the curve.





## BEHIND THE SCENES IN THE OCAA: BRAD THE "STATS GUY"

By: Meaghan Smith

When Brad Coccimiglio attended Algoma University, he split his time between the study of literature, where he was immersed in the likes of Shakespeare and other great writers and poets, and the gym, where he became involved in the administrative side of sports. He didn't necessarily realize it then, but his extra-curricular activities as the "stats guy" for Algoma U basketball would lead him to a career in sports journalism.

Brad admits that he has always had a passion for sports. He was an active participant in various athletic endeavours growing up, and wanted to continue on in sport in some capacity at the University level. Not possessing the typical basketball height prevented him from succeeding on the court with the Thunderbirds, so he took his act to the sidelines, working in an administrative capacity for the teams, with the help of Director of Athletics Mark Kontulainen.

In 2005, Brad graduated from Algoma University with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. Over the course of his four years at the University, Brad would become the "stats guy", responsible for keeping up-to-date statistics on the team and its players, and

attending all home games. He maintained his position for the duration of his four years at Algoma U.

Brad was involved with Algoma University's basketball teams in their early years in the OCAA. Both the men's and women's teams were in their infancy, struggling to become prominent members of the league. Although the teams had few victories in their earlier seasons, Brad enjoyed being a part of building a foundation that would lead to future success: *"The few wins we did have those first years were big because you got the feeling the program was on the right track going forward. It was just going to take some time to get there."*

While attending Algoma University, Brad began to more seriously consider a career in sports journalism. This path was made easier and attainable by the help of staff and faculty. *"All of the professors I had while I was there were really supportive and helped whenever they could."* Brad attributes his success primarily to Dr. Karl Jirgens and Dr. Jim Gibson, two former Algoma University professors with the Department of English. Being self-conscious with his work, Brad looked to professors for assistance and reassurance, and they helped him to improve his writing significantly over the course of his degree.

After graduating from Algoma University, Brad attended Loyalist College in Belleville

for three years, where he actively pursued a major in Print Journalism and a post-graduate diploma in Sports Journalism. At Loyalist College, he continued his job as stats person for both the varsity basketball and volleyball teams there. Today, he is a successful sports journalist for the popular Sault Ste. Marie online media outlet SooToday.com, where he profiles the lives of local athletes and covers sporting competitions. He has been involved with SooToday.com for seven years now, his earliest articles dating back to his time at Algoma University. While with SooToday.com, he has been fortunate enough to cover exciting national events like The Scotties Tournament of Hearts, which was held in Sault Ste. Marie in 2010, and the 2011 and 2012 Memorial Cups. He plans to cover this event again this year in Saskatoon.

Aside from working with SooToday.com, Brad has been doing freelance work with the Canadian Press over the past two years. He is also a sports newscaster, doing radio broadcasts of local hockey games, including those of Lake Superior State University and the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds. Brad also continues to work to improve his writing by studying the craft and looking for innovative techniques to help him stand apart from other journalists. *"I love my job,"* he says. *"And without the opportunities I had at Algoma U, I honestly don't know if I would be doing this today."*



**ALGOMA U AT  
BRAMPTON CONVOCATION**

By: Marc Capancioni

For **Ariyan Gaffuri**, the choice to attend Algoma University’s off-site location in Brampton was easy. Having graduated in the fall of 2012 at the first Brampton convocation, he looks back with nothing but fondness.

Hailing from Mississauga, Ariyan was looking for a university to continue his post-secondary education. Until recently, the only viable option was a long, expensive commute to Toronto. But that all changed in 2010 when Algoma U established programming in Brampton.

Ariyan jumped at the opportunity and enrolled at the southern Ontario location, which offers a Bachelor of Business Administration degree with minors in Accounting, Human Resources, and Marketing.

*“Convenience was the biggest thing for me,”* said the 29-year-old, who only had a 20-minute drive from home to school. *“What intrigued me was that I’d be among the first batch of students. I wanted to see what it was like.”*

Last fall, Ariyan was one of 20 students who graduated from Brampton’s inaugural convocation. Algoma U Registrar David Marasco looks forward to many more.

*“Convocation is an important part of a student’s educational experience,”* he said.

*“Celebrating the accomplishments of our graduates in Brampton is an exciting occasion they can share with their family and friends.”*

Meanwhile, Algoma U’s Brampton program was designed to target students who graduated from a college with a business-related diploma. The option was a perfect fit for Ariyan, who was thrilled with his decision to study close to home, especially given the small class sizes.

*“It was really easy to interact with the professors, and they went out of their way to*

*help,”* he said. *“It’s a close-knit group and a real family atmosphere.”*

Today, about 95 students are enrolled at Algoma U in Brampton. The university also offers off-site programming in St. Thomas and Timmins.

*“The growth at our extension programming sites is exciting as we meet the needs of student and societal demand for university education in communities that currently do not have a university presence,”* said Dr. Richard Myers, President of Algoma University.



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



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

Athletics is an important part of the university experience. This is a concept that was well understood by Algoma University College's first Athletic Director, George Leach. George was hired in 1972 and his hard work set the tone for the development of the athletic department we have in place today. His concern with the educational experience of all students and athletes and his belief that a *"healthy body equals a healthy mind"* was his motivation. While he knew that *"not every athlete would go on to significant careers in sports, he believed that their involvement in the Algoma University athletic program would help them to get the most out of their Algoma U experience."*

George was well respected and his love of athletics would be fondly remembered after his passing in 1986. *"The George Leach Centre, built in 1992, was named in his honour and is a fitting tribute to the man who brought athletics to the community of Algoma University College."*

George's passion and commitment to athletics has been well stewarded. In the article *"Reflecting on 12 years in the OCAA,"* Mark Kontulainen, Athletics and Recreation Director, shares how he, Dr. Celia Ross, along with Bruno Barban, took George's vision to the next level by creating a formal athletics program and moving our athletes into the ranks of the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA).

Algoma U's student-athletes have been very successful in the OCAA, bringing home Provincial medals in competitive league sports such as men's (2007/08 Silver Medal) and women's basketball (2006/07 Silver Medal). On the curling front, our men's team staked their claim early on, with Brad Jacobs leading his team to a Gold Medal victory in 2003/04. Our women's curling team was not to be outdone, capturing back-to-back Provincial Silver Medals in 2006/07 and 2007/08. The mixed curling teams took home the Gold in 2008/09, Silver in 2009/10 and Bronze 2010/11.

Our student-athletes have also received a wide range of individual accolades for their athletic and academic performances. A few highlights include the accomplishments of Danielle D'Ettorre, Corina Bruni, and Jovain Wilson. Danielle was named an OCAA First Team All-Star as well as the OCAA & CCAA Women's Basketball Player of the Year during the 2006-07 season. Corina Bruni was named an OCAA First Team All-Star, a CCAA All Canadian for both the 2011-12 and 2012-13 seasons. Jovain Wilson from the Men's basketball program was honoured as an OCAA First Team All-Star as well as the OCAA & CCAA Men's Basketball Player of the Year in 2011-12.

The Alumni Council is proud to actively support our student-athletes. From raising funds to purchase equipment, creating the Thunderbird Athletics Varsity Wall of Fame, hosting events, serving on athletic committees, and engaging alumni to support our athletes and the ongoing development of varsity programming, the Council plays an integral role in the ongoing development of varsity athletics at Algoma U. We are particularly proud of our alumni who have continued to excel in the athletic world beyond their days as students of Algoma University, including Patrick Murray, the first individual athlete inducted onto the Algoma University Thunderbird Athletics Varsity Wall of Fame and Team Jacobs who have made Algoma University, our community and the country proud with their outstanding showings at the 2013 Tim Horton's Brier and the 2013 Ford World Men's Curling Championship.

This fall, Algoma University athletes will enter the next phase of competition as the newest members of the Ontario University Athletics (OUA). We wish all our student-athletes success and will be proud to cheer them on in their respective sport.

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)



### CONGRATULATIONS!

These up and coming girls are wearing the latest fashions in Algoma U baby bibs. *Looking good girls!*



↑ **Lily King**, daughter of Brent King, BBA (Economics) 2009 and Mandy Ying-Cheng Ho King.



↑ **Penelope Holmes**, daughter of Brian and Monique Holmes, BA (Hons) (Fine Arts) 2007.



# Algoma University News

## Northern Ontario BBA Students Impress CBC Personality

*Evan Solomon Headlines 7th Annual Northern Ontario Case Competition*

Students from across Northern Ontario were tested on April 5 in the Seventh Annual Northern Ontario Case Competition, hosted by Algoma University at Algoma's Water Tower Inn and Suites. The sunrise to sunset event showcased Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) students from Algoma University, Algoma University's satellite program in Brampton, Lakehead University, and Laurentian University, solving unknown business cases, and being judged by business professionals, including celebrity **Evan Solomon**, host of CBC's *Power & Politics*, and *The House*.

After finishing their first case, students were entertained by Solomon, who spoke about the difficulties of being an entrepreneur in today's economy. Solomon himself is an entrepreneur who has started all of his own businesses, including the highly successful *Shift Magazine*. His talk, titled "The 'New Normal': Change and Change Again", emphasised how students must highlight the "why" and "how" in their strategies in order to survive in the radically changing world of business.



## Annual Athletics Banquet Recognises Algoma Thunderbirds' Prowess

*Bruni and Scarpino Receive Prestigious Student-Athlete of the Year Award*

On April 6, Algoma University and the George Leach Centre (GLC) recognised the hard work, dedication, skill, and academic achievements of their Thunderbirds varsity athletes at the Annual Athletics Banquet, at the Croatia Hall. The banquet honoured top performers in basketball, soccer, cross-country running, and curling.

Amongst the elite performers were Corina Bruni and Daniel Scarpino, who were deemed Female Student-Athlete of the Year and Male Student-Athlete of the Year, respectively. Bruni, who is graduating this year, was this year's Lady Thunderbirds' leading scorer, named to the OCAA West Region first All-Star team, and was also recognised by the OCAA as an All-Canadian. Scarpino, was a proficient scorer and Captain of the Men's Soccer team, who conducted himself in a positive manner on and off the soccer pitch. Dan also ran on the Cross-Country Running team, placing 46 overall, the highest finishing position for the Thunderbirds.

Patrick Murray was also inducted into the Thunderbird Wall of Fame for his contributions to Thunderbirds athletics in basketball. He played for five years with the Thunderbirds from 2006-11, and made four appearances at the OCAA Championships. He was also an OCAA Men's Basketball Provincial Silver Medalist in 2007/08, named to the OCAA First Team All-Star in 2009/10, and OCAA Second Team All-Star in 2008/09, and again in 2010/11.

## Former Exchange Students Return to Algoma U

Two former Japanese exchange students from Kyoto Sangyo University (KSU) returned for the week of March 3 to visit Algoma University and Sault Ste. Marie, after successfully completing their studies in Japan. Both have returned to the area as part of a vacation abroad.



*L-R: Fuka Kakemura & Ayumi Tokuda*

**Ayumi Tokuda** and **Fuka Kakemura** are both 22-year old Japanese KSU International Relations graduates who attended Algoma University in 2010 for a three-week intensive English experience. From February 21 until March 12, 2010, they were immersed in Canadian and English culture, took courses at the University, and volunteered within the community at the YMCA and the local Soup Kitchen, sharing their culture, language, and experiences with the people of Sault Ste. Marie.

## Congratulations Algoma U Anishinaabe Graduates! Luncheon Honours 22 Graduating Students



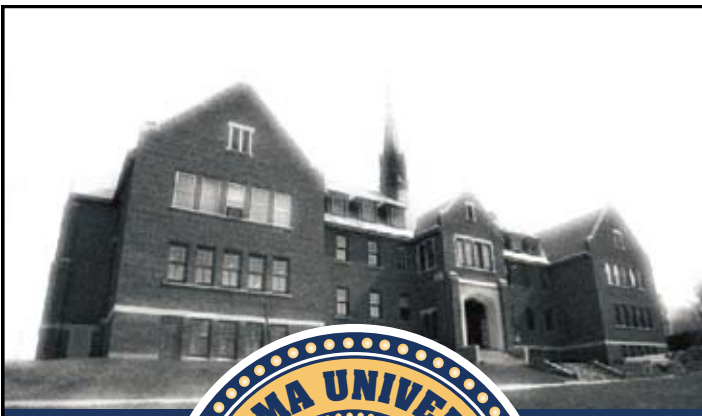
*Elizabeth Edgar-Webkamigad - Three-year Anishinaabemowin graduate.*

**Elizabeth Edgar-Webkamigad** along with 21 other Anishinaabe students at Algoma University were honoured on April 9, as part of the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division luncheon to celebrate the achievements and success of the 2013 Anishinaabe graduating class.

Elizabeth is the first member of her family to obtain a post-secondary education. In the past three years, she has managed to balance the difficulties of completing two degrees: she has been actively taking courses at Algoma U and working toward finishing her Bachelor of Education from Queen's University, which she is set to complete in April 2014. In addition to being a full-time student, Elizabeth also works full-time as a manager at Bawating Family Health Team, and balances the gifts of being a wife and a mother to four children.

Elizabeth, who is a third-year Anishinaabemowin student, was joined by students in programs such as Community Economic Social Development, Computer Science, Visual Arts, Sociology, Law and Politics, Social Work, History, Economics, and Liberal Science. Students were honoured in a special ceremony that featured a welcome address from Director of Anishinaabe Student Services Judy Syrette, a speech from University President Dr. Richard Myers, and a song from a men's hand-drum group.

For more "Algoma U News" visit: [www.algomau.ca/news-events](http://www.algomau.ca/news-events)



*Coming October 2013*

**For details contact:**  
**Bev Teller, CFRE**  
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Please submit letter of interest, and biography to:

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