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ALUMNI COUNCIL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

By: Paul Skeggs, Chair, Algoma University Alumni Council

Algoma University continues to thrive and Algoma University's alumni continue to accomplish. The ongoing expansion and improvements to Algoma University only further guarantee its achievement of providing students with the highest level of education.

This year marks a year of further successes for the university: the university effectively competed in its first year in the Ontario University Athletics arena; growth continued for the student population; funding was announced to improve and develop the athletic facilities at the GLC; and student academic awards and scholarships were awarded to more students than in any previous year. Such are successes which demonstrate Algoma University's growth and development to become one of the leading post-secondary institutions available to any potential student: nationally or internationally.

The most noticeable successes are those of the efforts of the staff, faculty, students and supporters of Algoma University. The recent expansion over the past several years is obvious and commendable and raises the future potential of Algoma University.

These efforts are likely to continue and exponentially increase with the graduation of more alumni and supporters of the university.

As alumni, our council is the voice and mechanism to stay connected to the university. In more recent years, our council has been increasingly involved in the community and university endeavours and has become more active than ever. Over the past few years, we have made it our goal to take on bigger projects such as the *Algoma University Homecoming*, and become involved with initiatives and events like the *Thunderbirds Cancer Awareness Weekend* and the *Gathering At The Rapids Pow Wow: Honouring Life Long Learning*.

Through your council you can incite new ideas to be brought to the presence of the University. I encourage all alumni to reach out to our alumni office to become aware of all our future initiatives and to stay connected.



In the four years I have been at Algoma University, I've noticed that we have a tendency to emphasize that we are a "new" university. While it is true that we are a newly *independent* university, that is only half the story. You, our alumni, know better than anyone else that Algoma U has actually been around for quite some time. Indeed, next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of *Algoma College*.

In some ways, then, our lineage as an institution offering university programming puts us in a category that includes schools such as Laurentian (1960), Laurier (1960), Brock (1964), Trent (1964), Lakehead (1965) and Nipissing (1967). We'll certainly have lots to celebrate next year, and I look forward to sharing the plans for those celebrations as they unfold.

2015 will also mark the expiration of the University's current *Institutional Plan*. I'm pleased to note that we've had good success meeting most of the main objectives of that *Plan*. Some notable examples:

- Increase enrolment to 1420 FTE: *achieved, one year ahead of schedule*
- Increase proportion of international students to 20%: *we're now close to 30%*
- Increase the proportion of domestic students coming from out of region to 25%: *we're now at 35%*
- Increase representation of Anishinaabe people among faculty and staff: *we now have 17 employees who self-identify as Anishinaabe*
- Increase the full-time faculty complement to 58 and increase the percentage of faculty with doctorates to 90%: *both targets will be met next year*
- Move varsity athletics to the university level: *completed this year*
- Finish each fiscal year in the black: *check!*

Of course, the completion of the current planning cycle triggers the initiation of a new planning process. The Board of Governors has established a *Strategic Planning Committee* to chart a course to guide Algoma U's development as we commence our next 50 years.

This issue of the magazine tells the stories of students, alumni, faculty and staff who are studying and working outside of the traditional university setting and activities, helping Algoma U to become the best small university in Ontario. We couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments, and are excited to share them with you as we work toward the next 50 years of success at Algoma University.

If you have any advice on future directions for our University, please pass it on. We're always glad to hear from you!

Best wishes,

Dr. Richard Myers, President

BUSINESS STUDENTS TO PRESENT PAPER ON BIG STAGE

By: Rick McGee

Two graduating Honours Business Administration (Economics) students are finishing four years of academic excellence at Algoma U in impressive fashion.

Daniel Friyia and Brandon Mackinnon will co-present a paper during the *Canadian Economic Association's (CEA) 48th Annual Conference* at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver this spring.

Described as “the organization of academic economists in Canada,” the CEA advances economic knowledge by encouraging study and research, issuing publications, and fostering free and informed discussion.

Both young men helped to co-author the paper conjointly with Algoma U Department of Business and Economics faculty, Dr. Krisha Kadiyala, Dr. Hari Luitel and Dr. Gerry Mahar.

Their collaborative effort is titled “*Are the Economies of Canada and the United States Integrated? Evidence from Cointegration Analysis.*”

“For analyzing non-stationary time series, cointegration analysis first proposed by Engle and Granger has become a dominant paradigm in empirical macroeconomic research,” the abstract states. “Critics argue that cointegration analysis produces results that are at best useless and at worst dangerous. This research is the first step to uncover the fallacious arguments advanced in Engle and Granger’s 1987 paper. In this research, we apply time series cointegration analysis and present statistical evidence supporting the proposition that the economies of Canada and the United States are integrated. We conclude this paper by laying out foundation to criticize the cointegration analysis in our subsequent research.”

Brandon and Daniel will discuss the first of three Algoma U papers to be presented under the heading of “*Critical Essays on Use of Cointegration Analysis in Economics.*”

Dr. Mahar and Dr. Luitel will follow with related presentations.

Ultimately, the papers conclude that using cointegration analysis in economic research will likely lead to findings and subsequent policy recommendations that may be unsound, misleading and harmful for both the United States and Canada.

“The paper Daniel and I will present ends up saying that maybe the way that people look



From left to right: Daniel Friyia and Brandon Mackinnon.

at the integration between the countries -- that is, the analysis -- is flawed,” said Brandon. “If something big happens in the United States -- say a policy failure -- it will affect Canada.”

The U.S. government receives its policy information from academics in that country, the paper states. Policies formulated and decisions made based on poor academic scholarship will result in negative consequences for the economies and populations of both nations.

Brandon and Daniel (both are 21) contributed to the work as research assistants.

“We started last May [2013],” said Brandon. “We’d done well in classes with Hari and that lead to this opportunity.”

Added Daniel: “Brandon and I have written a fair amount of the background/motivation part of the paper. Hari and Gerry did most of the empirical analysis. We approached the topic on a strictly conceptual level because before you establish whether two economies are cointegrated, you need to know on a theoretical level that they are, in fact, integrated -- that it’s an interdependent relationship.”

The duo value the experience which had its beginnings in May 2013.

“It’s not something we would have been able to do anywhere else at the undergraduate level,” Brandon observed. “We found out in mid-February that the conference organizers said yes to our paper and to the others that are in a series with it.”

Daniel agreed that Algoma U’s small size made everything possible. “We came to Hari with a lot of questions. That’s why we are in the position we’re in today. I don’t think that would have been possible somewhere else where the class sizes amount to hundreds of people and you have to book appointments to talk with professors.”

Naturally, Dr. Luitel is delighted with what has transpired. “I am so absolutely proud of these students. I’m excited they are presenting and that our students are very capable. This is the first time Algoma U students will be presenting at this conference. Without their help, this project would not have been successful. They did everything I asked of them.”

STUDENTS AND MENTORS GATHER AT ALGOMA U'S 8TH ANNUAL NORTHERN ONTARIO BUSINESS CASE COMPETITION

By: Marc Capancioni

In a university setting, a solid theoretical foundation is taught. These lessons help prepare students to join the workforce as professionals in their respective fields.

Algoma U's Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) program takes this approach one step further. Its fourth-year students in the Strategy and Policy course take part in an annual **Northern Ontario Business Case Competition**, a high-stress, multi-day exercise that combines their theoretical background with real-world applications.

This year's contest, held April 3 and 4, featured 10 teams of graduating Business students - eight from Algoma U, one from the school's satellite program in Brampton and one from Lakehead University in Thunder Bay. Each group is given a business paradigm and has a little less than three hours to come up with solutions and present their case to a panel of expert judges. A different paradigm is given the following day, and the exercise is repeated. With no cellphones, computers or other aids allowed, the only tools the students have are pencils, paper and the knowledge they learned up to that point.

The competition was initiated in 2007 by Associate Professor **Cathy Denomme**, Chair of Algoma U's Department of Business and Economics. She wanted to create an exercise that helped students prepare for the often high-stress environment of the corporate world. Now in its eighth season, and with positive feedback given since its inception, it's clear that her mission has been accomplished.

"It's an amazing transition for the students," says Prof. Denomme, an Algoma U graduate who later earned a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Windsor before returning home to work in Sault Ste. Marie. *"It's hard to imagine the stress they're under. And it allows them to show the judges what they learned in the Business program."*

Another benefit of the Northern Ontario Business Case Competition is that it brings together students with judges who are experts in the field. The relationships forged have generated positive results over the years.

"It's great exposure for the students and a great networking opportunity," says Prof. Denomme. *"Students get to talk to the people who could potentially hire them after they graduate. It's an opportunity for them to show the business community what kind of employee they would be. It's a win for everyone involved."*

Donna Hilsinger, a former judge in the competition, would certainly agree. Impressed with the scope of the event, the General Manager of Algoma's Water Tower Inn & Suites decided to get further involved a few years back. She became co-organizer, and her hotel and resort now hosts the contest.

"It's an important event because the students are exposed to real-world decision analysis and thinking," said Donna, who's knowledge of entrepreneurship and the accommodations sector led her to become, among other volunteer roles, Past-Chair of the Tourism Sault Ste. Marie Management Committee. *"Also, they're able to network with many business people in our community, which provides excellent mentoring and potential job prospects."*

Among her many organizing duties, Donna helps bring in local and visiting judges.

In past years, these have included business experts like Amanda Lang, Co-anchor of The Lang & O'Leary Exchange on CBC News Network, and Diane Buckner, host of CBC's Dragons' Den reality show.

The 2014 Northern Ontario Business Case Competition featured 20 judges, including a pair of very special guests. The first day featured Preet Banerjee, a personal finance expert and host of the television show Million Dollar Neighbourhood, which airs on the Oprah Winfrey Network. On the second day, Craig Kielburger, Co-founder of the charity organization Free the Children, judged and gave a keynote speech.

"Both visiting judges did a wonderful job at engaging the students," said Prof. Denomme. *"I thank all the judges and the business community for their support. Without them, we wouldn't be able to do it."*



↑ Prof. Cathy Denomme, Chair of Algoma U's Department of Business and Economics.



↑ Donna Hilsinger, Co-organizer of the annual Northern Ontario Business Case Competition

Algoma U Business graduate Andrew Ross, who's now General Manager of Enterprise Services for the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation, has been involved in the competition as a judge for several years. He sees the event as a way for him to give back to the university and also network with aspiring entrepreneurs.

"I strongly believe in the benefits of the competition - for the students and everyone else involved," says Andrew, who's also Past-Chair and current member of the Algoma U Alumni Council. *"Theory is fantastic, but until you have an opportunity to put it into practice, it's hard to see the full value of what you've learned. The competition helps students prepare for the real world, and it gives the business community an opportunity to see some fresh, new talent."*

What does the future hold for the Northern Ontario Business Case Competition? Growth is certainly on the radar screen. What began as a one-day event involving local Algoma U students has blossomed to a multi-day contest featuring special judges and teams from three campuses. Organizers eventually want all universities in Northern Ontario to participate.

Given the overwhelming success and positive feedback for the competition so far, further growth seems all but inevitable.

The 2014 Northern Ontario Business Case Competition winners were:

- **1st (Algoma U):** Shawn Hennessy, Jasmine O'Connor, Riki Olszewski and Thy Ta
- **2nd (Lakehead U):** Madison Rizzuto, Aryanna Amos and Derek Wentzell
- **3rd (Algoma U):** Nilah Bowles, Cassandra Liedke, Shane Skow Geertsen and Bingqian Wang



↑ 1st Place Team (Algoma U): Jasmine O'Connor, Shawn Hennessy, Riki Olszewski, Thy Ta with special guest speaker Craig Kielburger, Co-founder of Free the Children (centre).



↑ 2nd Place Team (Lakehead U): Aryanna Amos, Derek Wentzell, and Madison Rizzuto.



↑ Special guest speaker: Preet Banerjee (left) with student competitor, Thomas Hotchkiss.



PROVIDING A PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS IN THE NORTH

By: Nadine Robinson

When Algoma University simultaneously launched the Honours Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Community Development in both Sault Ste. Marie and in Timmins back in 2010, they started small.

Now that the first cohort has graduated from the program and the accreditation process has been completed, the university is happy to watch enrolment increasing: *“We have doubled over last year and believe we will double again this year,”* said Dr. Gayle Broad, Associate Professor in the CESD Department. *“We have good representation from Anishinaabe and Francophone communities and are attracting students from communities across the North East including from Kirkland Lake to Kapuskasing, and*



↑ From left: Angèle Lafrenière, Angela Julian and Suzanne Thompson.

Englehart all the way up to the James Bay coastal communities.”

Looking back, it was a community advisory committee that kick-started the development of the programs. The committee was made up of Northern College in Timmins, Sault College, Algoma University and members of the community at large. They identified a strong need for a social work degree regionally. Dr. Linda-Savory Gordon (Professor Emerita) was instrumental in developing the program.

“Northern’s enthusiasm to ensure that their graduates have a pathway to a degree has been truly motivating,” commented Helen Allen, Acting Director of the Social Work Program. *“They really understand the needs of the North and the extensive social work requirements.”*

Leveraging Northern College’s infrastructure and resources, the program offerings allow Algoma U to reach remote rural and aboriginal students who otherwise would not have access to university education without leaving home. *“We’re proud to be making university education much more accessible to the more Northern reaches of North-East Ontario,”* said Dr. Broad.

The four year honours BSW includes a field placement component of 700 hours, such that students of the program graduate as professional social workers. However, as determined in the original needs assessment, not all students are suited or desire a four year degree, and as such, Social Work and CESD jointly developed their strengths into a three-year Bachelor of Arts in Community Development. *“A general BA is seen as an asset to Timmins and the Northern communities, and as very desirable to be able to obtain right there in the community,”* said Dr. Broad.

Building on the strength of Northern College’s programming, Algoma U doesn’t offer the full degree; students must complete a two- or three-year diploma first. Students

from any program at Northern College can access either degree, but the high affinity programs such as Social Service Worker or Child and Youth Worker have preferred articulation agreements.

“I’m really impressed with the students,” said Prof. Allen. *“Most are working professionals; mature, diverse, and very interesting people.”* Dr. Broad added: *“The students are highly motivated and well prepared by Northern College for university work. They are taking their studies seriously and yet they are having fun while they learn. We are looking at other Northern programs to offer similar favourable articulation agreements for more programs, given the quality of the students.”*

“As First Nations communities are taking over providing their own child welfare services, the demand for this program is only going to increase, not to mention that NEOFACS is encouraging their staff to obtain the professional degree and/or become more qualified in order to step into management and supervisory roles. Many have been working in these roles for years, and are now returning to flexible part-time or full-time studies with Algoma U, through Northern College to complete their studies.”

“Having a Bachelor of Arts degree has also proven to be highly desirable to employers as a general foundation for workers to then take on leadership and management positions in government and private industry. We’re proud that our Community Development degree meets that need for the community and beyond.”

Some classes are taught locally at Northern, and others are video conferenced. The advances in video conferencing technology allows Algoma U to scale the program and potentially further extend it to Northern College’s other sites in Kapuskasing and Moosonee.

ALGOMA U STUDENT FOCUSES ON THE ART OF HELPING OTHERS

By: Melanie Nolan

Tara Yeates believes in the healing power of art. Art therapy is a means of offering a creative outlet for those who feel the need to approach difficult emotions. Tara is in her second year of the Bachelor of Social Work program at Algoma University and plans on pursuing art therapy after graduation.

Tara wants to support those in need of guidance and moral compassion who seek to better themselves physically, mentally and emotionally. Her experience at Algoma U is helping her realize that goal.

In addition to her degree requirements, Tara is taking courses in psychology and a minor in art studies to ensure she is well-prepared for her post-graduate studies.

When asked why she chose to pursue social work, Tara explains, *"it is important that there are people who are willing to work to bridge some of the major gaps that can keep people from succeeding."*

Tara is a member of the Métis Advisory Committee that is developing a Métis course to incorporate into Algoma U's social work program for the 2015 winter semester. The committee consists of researchers, people from the community and staff and students who are either Anishinaabek or Métis.

As a Métis student studying social work, Tara was eager to join the committee and provide input to help meet the diverse needs of Métis citizens.

"As Social Work students, we are always encouraged to look for ways to broaden our understanding of ourselves and engage in community change. I am passionate about education and this focus on Métis citizens will offer encouragement, enlightenment, inclusion and awareness."

"Often, Métis citizens are not always acknowledged or valued as well as they could be and I feel that this is an important step in creating a sense of community among Métis citizens. There are many commonalities as well as great differences between Anishnaabek and Métis students. This course will encourage a greater voice among Métis students as well as offer recognition in education."

Tara says she is inspired by all of her instructors - particularly her art and sociology professors. *"They seem to really know how to ignite something inside me and help me see my potential for growth. This inspires me to make changes within my community."*



Tara is a member of Algoma U's social work club and has recently become interested in developing an art program for street youth in Sault Ste. Marie. She is also involved in many local activist groups.

A recent visit and presentation at Algoma U from Rodney Konopaki, an art professor at Emily Carr University in Vancouver, also motivated Tara. *"He taught me that 'inspiration does not come to the lazy'."*

Tara has really enjoyed her experience at Algoma U so far.

"The one-on-one attention that you receive at Algoma U is really beneficial to your emotional growth. You acquire quality education from some really down-to-earth, compassionate and inspiring people and at the same time you receive all of the support and attention you need to ensure success."

Tara plans on obtaining an art therapy certification from the Vancouver Art Therapy Institute after she graduates. The 15-month program includes online courses and

in-person testing in Vancouver. After this, she plans to enrol in an advanced program to obtain a Master's degree in art therapy. Her final goal will be to obtain a doctorate in the same field.

She hopes to work within correctional facilities offering art as a tool for rehabilitation.

"Art therapy is an alternative to expressing yourself through words and can even be offered to those who have mental and physical disabilities. For example, I was surprised to learn that paint can be texturized so that people with visual impairments can participate in this type of therapy as well."

Tara also really enjoys research and will focus more on this area in the future.

Although she is not certain where her career will lead her, Tara says she will likely work in different areas of Canada. This is great news for those across the country who are in need of support from a compassionate individual dedicated to helping others.



↑ From left to right: Darren Vaughan, Benjamin Miller, Andrea Miller, Nicole Gajda, Hanna Lin, Shaune Rice, Tori Zultek, Tyler Pollard, & Ildiko Horvath.

A BIG STEP FORWARD FOR ESL@ALGOMA

By: Rick McGee

Milestones achieved serve as important markers of Algoma University's continuing evolution.

Another major advancement occurred on February 28, 2014. Algoma U's English as a Second Language program -- known as **ESL@Algoma** -- was officially accredited by Languages Canada, an internationally recognized organization that promotes English and French language training.

"It was a very exciting day for us and was the culmination of a process that had begun in the fall of 2012," recalled Dr. Hanna Lin, the university's English for Academic Purposes Officer, who oversaw the effort.

Early process work included upgrading teachers' qualifications to meet Languages Canada's requirements, such as the attainment of a TESL Canada or TESL Ontario certificate. Algoma U's ESL instructors are: Denise Lafontaine, Nicole Gajda, Shaune Rice, Ben Miller, Andrea Miller, Tori Zultek, Darren Vaughan and Ildiko Horvath.

"After that, we started to deal with the application process," Hanna continued. "The package was really big."

Tyler Pollard, Algoma U's International Student Support Officer, worked closely with her.

"We started in the spring of 2013," he said. "We sent the package to Languages Canada on September 25. They reviewed it and accepted it."

The next step involved a November 27 on-site review by a Languages Canada auditor.

"When the auditor arrived, she said we were already 80 per cent accepted," Hanna recalled. "But she needed to check out the other 20 per cent. She needed to ensure that we really do what we claim."

"That was a big day," Tyler said. "It went really well. She also interviewed staff and students to get feedback from them. That was important for the final stage of the evaluation."

Final approval followed three months later. Algoma U is accredited until 2018, when another review will take place.

Language Canada's endorsement is crucial to the university's future, Hanna explained.

"Many of our clients send thousands of students to Canada and the United States every year. To be competitive with other ESL programs, you have to meet Languages Canada's requirements. For example, when we met with Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau officials in March 2013, the first thing they wanted to know was whether Algoma U was certified by Languages Canada."

With hundreds of North American schools offering ESL, it is important that ESL@Algoma stands out by offering substantial programming.

"We rebuilt our curriculum, basically starting from square one," Tyler said. "We added a bridging program for students who complete Level 4 of ESL but still need a little more application and transition time before moving into their degree studies."

All together, ESL@Algoma receives 100 to

120 students annually. Major countries of origin include Brazil, China, Chile, Colombia, Japan, Korea and Mexico. Languages Canada accreditation is expected to boost international enrolment by 30 per cent -- to 150 students -- next year.

The university's Homestay program, coordinated by Tyler, contributes substantially to students' success at Algoma U. About 60 Sault Ste. Marie families participate in the program and welcome newcomers from afar into their homes.

"Students get access to three meals a day, they live with a Canadian family, and they get to enjoy Canadian culture," Tyler noted. "In addition, they get to practice English at home."

Algoma U also offers a short-term ESL program, with students staying from three to five weeks. Each February a group of students arrives from Japan's Kyoto Sangyo University. The 2014 contingent learned much through a variety of volunteer activities in the community.

Whether international students come for years or weeks, a rich experience awaits them.

"Students like Algoma U's small classes," Hanna said. "We are small enough to be very personalized."

"The most difficult challenge is actually getting students to commit to going to a smaller town, but once they get here they don't want to leave," added Tyler. "Once they get here, students settle in quite nicely, especially in the Homestay program. They become our ambassadors after they have been here to see first-hand what we are all about."

EXPERIENCING THE WORLD THROUGH STUDENT EXCHANGE

By: Meaghan Smith

This year, eight students from Algoma University packed their bags and headed on the adventure of a lifetime to faraway, foreign lands, to get a glimpse of life on the other side of the globe. With students travelling to countries such as Denmark, Finland, England, Germany, South Korea, Sweden, and Austria, it is no surprise to hear of them writing home with tales of grand adventure and blossoming friendships, all while inspiring more students to take up the opportunity to study at one of Algoma U's partner schools. Whether choosing to study for an entire academic year (eight months) or one semester (three to five months), Algoma U's exchange students have acquired the taste for travel and are already planning their return overseas.

For **Deanna Riching** and **Jessica Ivison**, two close friends and third-year Psychology students, the opportunity to travel together and study abroad in Aalborg, Denmark, promised a lifetime of memories and laughs, as well as the strengthening of their already close bond. Together, the two arrived in Denmark at the beginning of February, set to study at Aalborg University until late June. While their time abroad has only just begun, they have already explored Northern Ireland, countless castles and palaces, been to the Titanic's graving dock, and explored Copenhagen, which is home of the tale of the Little Mermaid. Later on in their year, both plan to extensively travel Europe: "*Deanna and I plan on getting a 15-day Eurail Globe Pass in May so that we can travel anywhere in Europe that we want to,*" says Jessica.

Since arriving in February, however, Deanna and Jessica's time abroad has not just been all travel. They have had to adjust to a new educational system. "*The school system here is extremely different than in Canada. It is problem-based learning, which means that for the first two months you have classes, usually meeting one or twice a week, and then at the beginning of April, your classes end and you are given almost three months to work on a project! It is also only assessed as pass/fail, with no specific grade awarded,*" adds Deanna.

Their time abroad has also given them a new found appreciation for their own country and the world around them. "*Being on exchange has made me realize how little I know about the rest of the world. I love learning about how other people live, about different traditions and customs they have, and about their views on Canada and America. I love being in Europe, but being here [has] made me realize that I want to see more of my own country before I travel anywhere else.*"

Deanna and Jessica's sentiments are also

echoed by **Jacqueline Ayotte**, a third-year Biology major who recently returned from her semester abroad at Kristianstad University in Sweden. When asked about the impact her exchange has had on her life, Jacqueline replies, "*Unbelievable - I have made new friends from all over the world and this experience has caused me to consider employment opportunities abroad. It has really opened up my eyes to the world. It is only a matter of time until I return to Europe to visit my friends and travel more.*"

For all eight students studying abroad, their exchanges have helped define them. For **Kahli Foley** especially, a second-year Social Work student who studied at Canterbury University in England, she was rewarded with



↑ Kahli Foley in Paris.



↑ Deanna Riching & Jessica Ivison in Ireland.

↓ Jessica Ivison & Deanna Riching (viking graveyard in Aalborg, Denmark).



more than just classroom credit in her three months abroad. "*I try to encourage everyone I talk to go on exchange because it was such an amazing experience. It was life changing; it really made me find who I was.*" In her pursuit of finding her identity, Kahli also travelled the breadth of Europe to nine different countries, seeing two of the Seven Wonders of the World, including the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, and Stonehenge in Wiltshire, England.



↑ Jacqueline Ayotte in Stockholm.



- 1 **Haruna Yamada**
Yokohama, Japan – ESL
- 2 **Chaewon Kim**
South Korea – ESL, Biology
- 3 **Hyojin Choi**
Ansan, Korea – ESL
- 4 **Aura Moreno Viasus**
Bogotá, Columbia – ESL
- 5 **Agustin Pardo Bustos**
Santiago, Chile – ESL
- 6 **Laura Cardona Aguirre**
Bogotá, Columbia – ESL
- 7 **Hao Zeng**
Laz Wu, China – Accounting
- 8 **Wendel Macedo Dos Santos**
Belém, Brazil – ESL
- 9 **Hideyo Kuroda**
Nagoya, Japan – ES
- 10 **Ueno Risako**
Hyōgo, Japan – ESL
- 11 **Chretien Monsalve Sierra**
Medellin, Columbia – ESL
- 12 **Luisa Mesa**
Medellin, Columbia – Psychology
- 13 **Samara Al-Ani**
Baghdad, Iraq – Biology
- 14 **Akiko Miyamoto**
Kyoto, Japan – ESL
- 15 **Misato Ui**
Nagoya, Japan – ESL



Algoma University is committed to providing a cross-cultural learning environment for students, staff, and faculty. Currently, 28 percent of our student body is comprised of international students, coming from 30 different countries including Brazil, Japan, Germany, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Iran, India, Mexico, Columbia, Egypt, Denmark, Sweden, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Kenya, Oman, Bahrain, and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. Many of our faculty are also from outside of Canada, including Dr. Hari Luitel (Nepal, professor in Business Administration), Dr. Julian Hermida (Argentina, professor in Law & Justice), Dr. Miguel Garcia (Mexico, professor in Computer Science), and Dr. Isabel Molina (Argentina, professor in Biology).

AROUND THE WORLD AT ALGOMA U



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ALGOMA U STUDENT PRESERVING OJIBWA LANGUAGE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

By: Melanie Nolan

Roxanne Martin is using her creativity and education to help preserve the Ojibwa language and culture. Roxanne will graduate from Algoma U this spring with a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a minor in Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwa Language). In 2012, she launched her own business, *Baby WayNa Books* written in Ojibwa.

Roxanne, whose grandparents are from the Wikwemikong and Serpent River First Nations, says her business was inspired by her son Carter Joe, age four.

"I grew up not knowing my true identity as a First Nations person and I don't want my son to have the same experience," explains Roxanne. *"I wanted to create books where I could learn how to sew and create basic vocabulary words in Ojibwamowin for both of us to read and learn. I try to speak Ojibwa to my son on a regular basis even if I'm not fluent. I don't want to lose the language."*

Baby WayNa Ojibwa language books are for newborn- to five-year-old children. They feature basic Ojibwa words and incorporate materials such as soft fabrics and sensory images to enhance the learning experience. The name "WayNa" is one of the many ways to spell "Wenabozho", the benevolent cultural hero of the Anishinaabe tribes (*sometimes referred to as a "transformer" by folklorists*).

Roxanne also wants to create a business where local women can come together to collaborate and create various layouts/designs that would incorporate traditional thoughts and ideas into these books. She would like to have an open public story time once or twice a week. Her vision is to make Baby WayNa available in all educational institutions, book stores and local libraries.

Roxanne says that Algoma U has helped her develop the skills needed to her reach her full potential.

"Attending Algoma University has taught me so much about organizing deadlines, portfolio submissions, consistently creating and being fully engaged in the community. I love the experience and knowledge I received there. It's taught me how to become that much more successful in my cultural practice as an

Anishinaabe teacher through Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and enhanced my ability to express who I am as an Anishinaabe artist and educator."

Roxanne says she especially enjoyed the Advanced Studio courses and the Anthropology class with Dr. Deborah Woodman. She says she learned a lot about different cultural perspectives and was inspired by Dr. Woodman's enthusiasm and appreciation of her students. Roxanne also received a lot of encouragement from instructor Eddie Benton-Benai in her Anishinaabemowin classes.

"I was inspired to create children's books after doing many research papers in his class and finding out there is a major lack of resources for beginners to learn the Ojibwa language."

"I told him I was on a mission to create these books and he said, 'You know, there are a lot of 'sayers' in this world, but not a lot of 'doers'. I am so happy to have had the privilege to be one of his students. His amazing advice has encouraged me to keep motivating my soul to become a 'doer!'"

Roxanne has received many awards for her achievements, including the Margaret and Wallace McCain Family Foundation and Lawson Award from the Ashoka Changemakers for inspiring approaches to First Nations, Inuit and Métis Learning in 2012. Her small business idea for Baby WayNa Books was selected as the winner out of 300 applicants. Roxanne was also chosen to attend a change makers conference gathering in Gatineau, Quebec.

Roxanne has applied for fall entry into the Bachelor of Education program at Nipissing University in North Bay. In the meantime, she plans to focus on creating as many baby books as possible.

"I like to treat life like stepping stones – I know there are more challenging steps I may need to climb, but completing each one and looking back on what I've accomplished, makes life that much more beautiful."

For more information on Baby WayNa books, visit the Baby WayNa Facebook page: www.facebook.com/BabyWayNaBooks or Roxanne's website: www.roxannemartin.weebly.com

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CESD) PROGRAM LIVES UP TO ITS NAME ON MANY FRONTS

By: Rick McGee

Mutually beneficial outcomes thrive when universities and the areas they serve actively engage with each other.

Examples abound in Algoma University's aptly titled **Community Economic and Social Development (CESD) program**. Its curriculum integrates several disciplines, including community and economic social development, social work, sociology, political science, geography and business administration.

Emphasizing local and regional needs, CESD addresses the economic and environmental health and social well-being of smaller urban, rural, Northern and First Nation communities. Third- and fourth-year community-based field placements and research allow students to apply what they have learned and make a real difference.

"CESD is closely affiliated with NORDIK Institute which arose from the program," said Dr. Sheila Gruner, a faculty member and Department Chair for Community Development and Social Work. NORDIK operates as an incorporated non-profit organization affiliated with Algoma U. NORDIK is participating in a number of projects in the region through student placements. Faculty members are involved in projects, too.

Downtown Dialogues in Action is a collaborative effort involving NORDIK, Sault Ste. Marie Police Service and the John Howard Society of Sault Ste. Marie and District. A crime prevention plan was unveiled during a public forum in March.

"This project will strengthen our capacity to engage with community partners, including vulnerable persons, mental health organizations, youth, education and economic development organizations," said Sault Police Chief Robert Davies when the initiative was announced. *"This project... is a culmination of a year of mobilization on behalf of the partners to move forward with a solution to address crime in the downtown core."*

Dr. Gruner cited other examples of hands-on learning.

"In our Environmental Community Resilience course, students become involved in interesting projects. These have included establishing a campus community garden and Bike Share Algoma, organizing clothing swaps and providing beekeeping supports. There have also been fundraising dinners for environmental organizations, campaigns for better transit, 'teach-ins' on wind projects and energy descent planning."

The Social Economy and Community Economic Development course includes an annual public presentation of projects. This year's Addressing Social Issues Through Unique Business Ideas event took place at 180 Projects in downtown Sault Ste Marie.

A variety of endeavors serves students well.

"That's the nature of our program," Dr. Gruner continued. *"The framing and pedagogical approach emphasize that learning should enhance community well-being, so we foster a critical, anti-oppressive social and economic analysis while promoting applied proposals in the face of identified problems."*

"So we're not keeping knowledge in the abstract. We're linking that analysis to the applied. That's what is special and specific about CESD because we do that in a broad-based interdisciplinary framework. They start to see the linkages between the environment and social aspects and cultural, political and economic issues. It's a theory-practice approach that you see in the classroom and then, subsequently, outside of the classroom."

Anishinaabe and First Nation learners contribute significantly to CESD enrolment. Students with Latin American, Caribbean and African backgrounds also help encourage *"really interesting discussions that inform our classroom dynamics."*

CESD's reach extends beyond the Sault. Articulation agreements with colleges attract



students from other parts of the North and Southern Ontario.

"In addition, we deliver a course in Toronto for students initiating studies with us," Dr. Gruner noted. *"We have also delivered programming in the James Bay area linked to NORDIK and CESD collaborative projects."*

CESD degrees include accreditations from the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) and CANDO (Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers).

"We've seen a number of our graduates take jobs as economic development officers in First Nation communities. But we also have seen quite a few who work in social service organizations. They may be working to become an EDO [Economic Development Officer], a coordinator or program assistant, a researcher, facilitator, be working with youth, newcomers, or in some form of city planning. We have had many students go on to graduate studies."



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

BREAKING BARRIERS: SARDAR SOHI'S GIFT TO ALGOMA U By: Meaghan Smith

For Dr. Sardar Sohi, his \$100,000.00 donation in 2013 to Algoma University's Scholarships and Bursaries Program was a gesture of kindness to help others break barriers and overcome challenges in the face of adversity, and also to recognize his own family.

Dr. Sohi was born in a poor farmer family of Dhanauri in the rural region of Punjab, India. His future looked bleak when he lost his mother at the age of two and his father 10 years later. Fortunately, his older brothers, Tarlochan, Mehar and Piar, provided the badly needed support and guidance for his well-being and education. His eldest brother, Tarlochan, a primary school teacher, provided Sardar with the opportunity to be educated. *"I was sent to school and was fortunate enough to break away from the cycle of poverty and illiteracy,"* says Sardar. *"My eldest brother, Tarlochan, guided and inspired me to get an education for which I am eternally grateful to him. Most other children in our area did not get that opportunity."*

During his fifth year of schooling, Sardar was awarded a scholarship that required him to attend an English school. *"From Grade 5, I was sent to a high school where English was taught up until Grade 8. After Grade 8, everything was taught in English,"* continues Sardar. After high school he earned his Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Punjab, India and then decided to explore opportunities in the world outside of India. Moving to the United States in 1959, he received funding from Oregon State University to pursue graduate studies. Sardar graduated with both a Masters and a Ph.D. in Agricultural Entomology, and his late wife, Rajwant, graduated with a Masters in Home Economics. In May 1964, Sardar, Rajwant and their five-year old son, Paul, moved to Canada, where Sardar was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Saskatchewan.

After a year in Canada, Sardar joined the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie as a research scientist, where he worked on the In Vitro Investigations of Insect Pathogens until he retired in 1999. His research contributions to Insect Tissue Culture are well recognized across Canada and around the world.

Sardar's opportunity to overcome poverty and illiteracy in India was made possible by scholarships and fellowships provided by various educational systems. *"Without scholarships, I wouldn't be here,"* he adds. Dr. Sohi made his second generous donation to Algoma University in an effort



to repay his debt to his brothers, and also to thank others who supported him during his studies. The Sardar, Rajwant, Paul and Anita Sohi Family Scholarship provides two scholarship awards annually, each valued at \$1,250, to first-year students who are First Generation, and are First Nations, Métis or Inuit. *"I made this donation to show my appreciation for the support I received from various sources, and also to give needy students the gift of education,"* says Dr. Sohi. *"I am from a poor farming area, where most of the people were illiterate, and I was a First Generation student. I know how difficult it is for First Generation students to go to school. No doubt some First Nations people may have a great life, but some have financial challenges too. For that reason, I wanted to make this contribution."*

Dr. Sohi's contribution is also made in honour of his late wife, Rajwant, as well as his two children, Paul and Anita. Shortly after moving to Canada, Rajwant became severely disabled after being struck by a pick-up truck. *"In spite of the fact that my wife was severely disabled, she never gave up. She provided all the motherly love, care and meals to our son and daughter. She is the one who made a life for our children. She inspired and urged them to work hard. And because of her, they both became caring individuals and compassionate physicians. So, I am recognizing my wife's contribution to our family. And lastly, I am also recognizing my son and daughter, who were responsible children and now are caring adults. They have worked hard to achieve success. I hope this scholarship can do for others what various scholarships did for me,"* concludes Dr. Sohi.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

LIVES DEDICATED TO GIVING BACK

By: Nadine Robinson

One word comes to mind when sitting with the Hon. Ray Stortini and his wife Mary-Kay: 'Giving.' It's clearly a lifelong trait and even a guiding value for them, as opposed to an afterthought of giving back after having reached a certain station in life.

Long before Ray received the Order of Ontario, he was giving and actively involved in the community. Long before he was appointed as a Justice of the Superior Court of Justice, he was always finding ways to give back; fighting for the underprivileged and underrepresented.

When he self-published his book titled *"Only in Canada: Memories of an Italian Canadian"*, he gave the proceeds to the Soup Kitchen. He's also founded, sat on the boards of, or volunteered for more worthy community organizations than most people can name.

Now 85, he's slowed down some of his volunteerism and activism to take time to pen a second book of memoirs and enjoy life with his wife Mary-Kay, but Ray is still giving back. From feeding the wild turkeys outside his home on the island, to volunteering each Wednesday at the Soup Kitchen, and still sitting on the Board of the Ken Brown Recovery home, Ray is a pillar of the community.

His wife Mary-Kay, a retired school teacher is also a giving person. After retirement, she continued to volunteer her time at the local school for 10 years because she loved the children so much. While caring for her family and friends, Mary-Kay also finds time to volunteer for the Meals-on-Wheels program.

Given his benevolent nature, Ray agreed to be honoured by Algoma U at

the 2012 John R. Rhodes Scholarship dinner to help raise money for that scholarship fund for Algoma students.

It's perhaps even less surprising that Ray and Mary-Kay then discussed how they could do something more for the University's students, even though as Ray says, *"I'm not a financially wealthy man... I did a lot of pro-bono work."*

The couple spoke with Bev Teller, Alumni & Development Officer at Algoma U and found an affordable way to set up an endowment fund. The Hon. Ray & Mary-Kay Stortini Bursary Award was set in motion and the first recipient of their \$500 award, Amanda Bell, was named in 2013.

"The University had asked us if we wanted to put any specific criteria in order for students to receive the award, but we simply asked that they pick a deserving student," commented Ray. *"We proudly presented Amanda with the bursary at the 20th annual award ceremony."*

"It's nice to make a young, hard-working person happy," added Mary-Kay. *"We have two grandchildren in University, and a niece currently studying at Algoma U, so we know they need help."*

Ray's support of the University is nothing new. *"I was a member of the Algoma College Association before it came into existence. A group of us including Lawrence Brown at the steel plant thought we should have a university here. I guess you could call us agitators. I made sure to provide the politicians for the upcoming election the local priorities including the issue of supporting the creation of Algoma University. Arthur Wishart was elected and the rest is history."*



Mary-Kay and the Hon. Ray Stortini.

Ray also recently completed a six-year term with the Algoma University Board of Governors and Senate Committee. Mary-Kay and Ray even arranged for the restoration of the wording on the monument at the front of the University honouring the First Superintendent Mr. Wilson. During his time on the Board with the Soup Kitchen he also brokered an agreement such that the Algoma Student Food Bank would be able to get their pantry replenished from the Soup Kitchen whenever they fell short of food.

Education is clearly a priority for the Stortinis and as Mary-Kay says: *"Learning should be the most fun there is...if you can make it that way, that's great."*

There is no doubt that bursary awards like the one set up by the Stortinis is making it easier for students to focus on the fun of learning, and not worrying about how to pay for textbooks or their next meal.

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

TAKING CENTRE STAGE: ALGOMA U IN 2013

By: Meaghan Smith

For Algoma University, 2013 represented the dawn of a new era. The smallest university in Ontario made headlines by breaking onto the provincial, national, and international stage, demonstrating that its graduates, faculty, and student-athletes, are amongst the best and brightest, not to be forgotten. The 365 days and 12 months of 2013 proved Algoma U to be coming of age as a fully-accredited university.

Algoma U kicked-off 2013 by earning international recognition when English professor **Dr. Michael DiSanto** won the prestigious Adam Gillon Book Award in Conrad Studies for his work *Under Conrad's Eyes: The Novel as Criticism* (2009), which garnered attention in North America as well as in Europe. His work was recognised by eminent scholars in the field, and demonstrated the breakthrough research being conducted at the University. His work and award set the precedence for the remainder of the year, and his efforts were followed by other faculty, including **Drs. Edward and Anne Louise-Turgeon**. Together, the dynamic pianists who make up *Duo Turgeon*, earned a United States Department Fulbright Grant to fund their European concert performances and masterclasses in early October in Chisinau, Moldova.

DiSanto and Duo Turgeon were not the only ones to appear at the international level in 2013. Alumni curlers **Team Jacobs** saw tremendous success in March after winning the *2013 Tim Hortons Brier*. Their national title later brought them to British Columbia, where they faced the most skilled teams from around the world. The Jacobs rink finished the *2013 Ford World Men's Curling*

Championship with silver medals, and once again caught international spotlight in December, when they claimed the *Tim Hortons Roar of the Rings* title, and became Olympic gold medal contenders. Their journey was far from over at the close of 2013, and in 2014, they reached the pinnacle of sport, claiming gold at the *2014 Winter Olympics* in Sochi, Russia.

Algoma University also became a hub of international education in 2013. In May, Algoma U hosted the leading international conference on border issues, "*Straddling Boundaries: Hemisphere, Cultural Identity, and Indigeneity*", the inaugural conference of the Culture and the Canada US-Border research network (CCUSB). The conference drew in keynote speakers from around the globe, including Dr. Claudia Sadowski-Smith, Guillermo Verdecchia, and Dr. Margaret Noodin, as well as 60 presenters in various disciplines, such as History, Sociology, Political Science, and Fine Arts. In October, three PhD candidates from the University of Guadalajara in Mexico worked toward completing their research at Algoma U in Information Technology (IT). Laura Sanely Gaytán, Jose Luis Fernandez, and Luis Armeria, completed a two-month research intensive placement at the University due to Algoma U's sophisticated computer labs, and the ability to earn practical hands-on experience.

The University ushered in a new era of sports, after joining the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) conferences. After revealing a new athletics logo and website (www.algomathunderbirds.ca)



↑ Duo Turgeon

in August, Algoma U's varsity athletics teams made headlines across Canada when the Thunderbirds saw continuous success. In their debut OUA and CIS weekend, the men's basketball team and the Algoma U wrestlers shattered expectations. On the heels of **Reynaldo Carnakie's** free-throws, the men's basketball team upset the Waterloo Warriors, winning 61-55. For the team, this was the first of five victories in their debut season, notching wins over the Brock Badgers, the Lakehead Thunderwolves, the Queen's Gaels, and the Toronto Varsity Blues. For the wrestlers, first-year student **Natasha Doroodian** medalled early on, bringing home a silver at the team's first competition. Natasha would take home a combined total of three medals, including a gold, silver, and bronze medal, bringing the team's total to five. Her stunning performance on the mats made her the most decorated student-athlete of 2013.

Nationally, Algoma U researchers also made headlines. **Dr. Isabel Molina**, the Assistant Professor and Research Chair in Natural Products Biochemistry, received \$84,754 from the Canadian Foundation of Innovation (CFI) Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF) to help fund her cutting-edge research in plant molecular biotechnology and analytical chemistry. Molina later went on

↓ Dr. Isabelle Molina



↓ Dr. Michael DiSanto



↓ Dr. Myers, Joseph Boyden & Dean Arthur Perlini





↑ "The Cronies" - Jim McCauley, Don Mitchell, Jo-Anne Brooks, Wayne Prouse & Damon Godfrey



↑ David Marasco, Michael Kendall & Dr. Myers

to win a \$39,135 Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) grant, which has allowed Algoma U to collaborate with businesses, researchers, and train undergraduate and graduate students using state-of-the-art technology.

Provincially, Algoma U demonstrated its commitment to delivering quality education. In late January, the *Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC)* released data which showed a dramatic increase of 18.1% in first-choice applicants from high school. This was the highest increase of all the universities across Ontario. Even better, over 45% of the students choosing to attend the University had an average of 80 percent or higher. Thus, it was not surprising to see more Algoma U graduates winning prestigious government-funded grants and gaining acceptance into elite graduate programs. **Michael Kendall**, **Jessica Wilson** and **Adriana Bruni** were three of those students, all currently enrolled in elite medical doctorate programs across Ontario. To top off Michael's graduation from Algoma U, he also won the prestigious Governor General's Medal for exceptional academic achievement, and won an NSERC grant, valued at \$17,500. Math graduate **Broderick Causley** also earned an NSERC grant to fund his studies at the National Research University Higher School

of Economics in Moscow, Russia, while History graduate **Stacey Devlin** earned top-honours in the Social Sciences and Humanities, with a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Joseph-Armand Bombardier scholarship, valued at \$17,500.

While Algoma U focused its efforts on driving academic, athletic, and student success in Canada and beyond, the University worked with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to support local charities and the University's growing student body. In March, the University held its eighth annual *Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow* at the George Leach Centre, which hosted approximately 2000 guests. In June, the annual Algoma U Golf Classic was held at Crimson Ridge Golf Course, raising a record total of \$37,000 for scholarships and bursaries - this amount was then matched at the annual John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner which honoured "*The Cronies*" in mid-October. Also in October, the University hosted the second annual Homecoming, which saw sold-out events including an acoustic open mic night, and even the first-ever Colour Dash in support of the Algoma Residential Community Hospice (ARCH). The University also became "spooktacular" on the eve of Hallowe'en, opening its doors to children in support of

the United Way. In total, the University raised \$19,000 for the Sault Ste. Marie United Way Campaign.

The University also brought in celebrities to the Sault community, giving the region the opportunity to meet and learn from dynamic individuals who have helped shaped Canadian identity and culture. Giller-Prize winning novelist **Elizabeth Hay** came to campus early in March to deliver the Hayes-Jenkinson Memorial Lecture, followed by **Joseph Boyden** in June for Convocation. The author of *Three Day Road* (2005), *Through Black Spruce* (2008), and *The Orenda* (2013), and also a Giller-Prize winning novelist, was the 2013 Honorary Degree Recipient at the 2013 Convocation ceremonies. **Evan Solomon**, the host of CBC's *Power and Politics* and *The House*, headlined the 2013 Northern Ontario Business Case Competition, and provided Business Administration students with helpful advice regarding business strategy planning and an inside look into being a television personality.

For Algoma University, 2013 was nothing short of spectacular, and 2014 is already quickly building off of the year's legacy.

↓ Algoma U's Community Hallowe'en Trick or Treat Night



↓ 8th annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow



↓ Homecoming Acoustic Open Mic Night



ALGOMA U BASKETBALL SHOOT FOR A CURE

By: Marc Capancioni

During his last year of high school, **Patrick Murray**'s life was turned upside down. His father, Peter, passed away at age 54 following a battle with prostate cancer.

Later, when enrolled at Algoma U and playing for the men's varsity basketball team, Patrick saw an opportunity to take action and make a difference. With support from the university and its Athletics Department, along with his family and friends, he organized a **Cancer Awareness Weekend**, a fundraiser to benefit the Canadian Cancer Society.

"It's something that's been close to my heart for a while now," said Patrick, who graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) degree and is now working as an accountant with BDO Canada in Sault Ste. Marie. *"Cancer touches so many people. Pretty well everyone has a family member or friend who was or is affected by it."*

Since 2010, the fundraiser has grown considerably. What began as a way to raise money through gate fees at basketball games during a weekend series, expanded to include silent auctions and other distinct events.

"Everyone started to embrace it," said Patrick, who is now the Assistant Coach of the Algoma U women's basketball team. *"The community has really rallied around this fundraiser. It's great to see."*

In 2012, the cause hit even closer to home for the Algoma U family when **Mark Kontulainen**, the University's longstanding Athletics Director, was diagnosed with oropharyngeal (tonsil) cancer. As an early supporter of the school's Cancer Awareness Weekend, he then got to see, firsthand, the importance of such cancer-related fundraising.

Mark went through a rigorous, six-week treatment process, which included radiation and chemotherapy sessions at the Northeastern Ontario Regional Cancer Centre in Sudbury, along with follow-up visits to the Oncology Department of Sault Area Hospital. Past cancer fundraising, and the research that brought the medical science to where it is today, saved his life.

"As soon as the doctors diagnosed the cancer, they knew exactly what to do and how to treat it," he said. *"Everything happened so quickly. As difficult as it was to get through, I was amazed with the level of care and with what they can do nowadays in terms of treatment."*

Mark, who has since made a full recovery and is now cancer-free, was also amazed with the assistance he and his family got from the



From left to right: Mark Kontulainen, Patrick Murray & Rachel Johnson.

other medical professionals and volunteers in Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury, as well as from family, friends and the Algoma U community during their ordeal. *"I can't say enough about the level of support we received,"* he said. *"It was overwhelming. I couldn't have asked for more. It made it much easier for me and my family to get through it."*

Meanwhile, in terms of cancer fundraising, this past season was the most successful for Algoma U. Since the Thunderbirds' varsity sports programs transferred to Ontario University Athletics (OUA) last year from the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association division, the men's and women's basketball teams took part of the *Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Shoot for the Cure drive*. The annual campaign sees varsity hoop programs across the country raise money for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation and other related charities like the Canadian Cancer Society.

In 2013-14, Algoma U raised just over \$5,000, which was among the highest of all CIS members. A large part of the success centred around **Rachel Johnson**, the school's Varsity Sports Coordinator.

To encourage pledges, she and elementary school student Sean Newman, a cousin of men's basketball coach Thomas Corey, volunteered to shave or significantly trim their hair at centre court during a home game

at the George Leach Centre. After some slicing and dicing, the trimmed locks were donated to an organization that provides real-hair wigs to individuals suffering from cancer and other illnesses.

"It really hit close to home in 2012 when Mark (Kontulainen) was diagnosed with cancer, so I figured I'd get involved," said Rachel, who organized a silent auction as well. *"It snowballed from there."*

The Algoma U Alumni Council has also been instrumental in the school's cancer fundraising efforts. The committee, which reactivated back in 2004 and has been a solid supporter of Thunderbirds athletics ever since, purchased pink jerseys for the teams and banners in support of this season's *Shoot for the Cure drive*. With assistance from SK Group, the council also bought *Cancer Awareness Weekend* t-shirts, which were given out for free to fans at the games.

"We all know people who have been affected by the disease, and we wanted to show support for the cause and for this important fundraising event," said Alumni Council Chair Paul Skeggs, an Algoma U graduate who went on to law school and now works at Skeggs Paciocco Lawyers. *"This is a very serious issue, and we wanted to raise the level of awareness while supporting the fundraising campaign and our student-athletes."*



KEEPING IN TOUCH - A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE



Bev Teller, CFRE,
Alumni & Development Officer

This year marks my 10th anniversary with Algoma University. Looking back I am amazed at how much the university has changed during my time here - from my first day on campus walking past the portables into the “link” that was built in anticipation of future growth of the campus. Ten years later the footprint of the university has changed dramatically. Today the campus includes an Information & Communication Technology (ICT) wing, two new residences (including the Downtown Residence), the ESSAR Convergence Centre and expansion is set to begin soon on the George Leach Centre.

Ten years ago the Algoma U Alumni Council had been reactivated and the 2005 reunion was our first event. The ICT wing officially opened in time for our reunion and we eagerly looked forward to showing off our new facilities to alumni, staff, faculty and friends who hadn't been on campus for a while. It was the beginning of rekindling friendships that had been lost, and building an Association that both sought to engage and reconnect with alumni and friends. Like most things we started out small but steadily grew in numbers and in involvement.

Not only has our campus grown over the last 10 years, but the faces on campus have changed too. Today there are students from 30 countries around the world, studying together, learning from each other and making the world seem a little bit smaller.

Our Alumni Council has changed as well. Today the Alumni Council is actively engaged in: welcoming new students to campus, supporting and cheering on our student-athletes, bringing back alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the university during our annual Homecoming celebration, participating in campus events, recognizing and celebrating the success of alumni, welcoming new graduates into the alumni family, participating in charity events, being the voice for our alumni as the university continues to grow, and of course, continuing to connect with our friends from the past and building new friendships with future Algoma U alumni.

It's great to see how far we have come in such a short time. Yes we are a small university in Northern Ontario but we're reaching “beyond our borders”, taking a global view and building international friendships. For information on how you can become involved contact: **Bev Teller, CFRE, Alumni & Development Officer** at 705-949-2301, ext. 4125 or by email at: bev.teller@algomau.ca

HELP US GO GREEN

NO MORE SNAIL MAIL!

Send us your email address and we'll send you **Algoma U Today** *electronically*.

Send your email address to:

Bev. Teller
Alumni & Development Officer
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Algoma University News

Algoma U Cheers Olympians to Gold on “Team Jacobs Day”

Brad Jacobs Brought Home OCAA Gold Medal 10 Years Ago

Algoma University’s staff, faculty, and administration joined together on February 21, 2014 to cheer on Sault Ste. Marie’s **Team Jacobs** in their pursuit of Olympic gold at the *2014 Winter Olympics* in Sochi, Russia.

The Algoma University community gathered in the Speak Easy at 8:30 am wearing red, white, and Team Canada clothing to show their pride and support for the team with close ties to the University.

Skip Brad Jacobs and Second E. J. Harnden are both alumni of the University (*graduating in 2007 and 2006, respectively*), while Lead Ryan Harnden is a current student in his third year of studies, set to graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography this June. The team was recognized at the Algoma University Convocation ceremony in June of 2012 as recipients of the Alumni Achievement Award for their success in curling. The Harnden brothers’ mother, Sue Harnden, has also been an employee of the University for the past 35 years.

10 years ago, on February 22, 2004, Brad skipped the Algoma Thunderbirds Men’s OCAA Championship game, bringing home the gold medal for the University, after a 6-0 performance in the round robin competition. This was the first-ever OCAA medal for the University.



Algoma U Students Offered Pathway into Schulich School of Education

Nipissing U to Reserve 20 Spots for Algoma Graduates

Starting in the fall of 2014, Algoma University grads interested in teaching French will be able to take advantage of priority placement in Nipissing University’s Schulich School of Education.

Designed to meet the demand for qualified French teachers across Ontario, the new agreement will reserve 20 places each year for graduates of the Algoma-Nipissing French as a second language specialization program in the consecutive Bachelor of Education (*Junior/Intermediate and Intermediate/Senior Divisions*) program. Applicants must maintain a cumulative average of 70% on all university courses, and a 75% average in their French courses to be admitted.

Students who choose to major, minor, or complete enough core French courses for a teachable are eligible for one of these 20 spots.

Algoma U Wrestler Competes at CIS Championship in New Brunswick

Natasha Doroodian, a first-year Algoma University wrestler, placed fourth place in the women’s 63-kilogram weight class at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Championship in early March in Fredericton, New Brunswick. Natasha is the first-ever student-athlete to represent Algoma U at a CIS Championship.

Natasha went 1-2 at the CIS Championship, held at the University of New Brunswick, to earn her fourth place. She lost her first match to L’arissa D’Alleva from Western University, who finished in second. Natasha then defeated Theresa Urbanczyk from the University of Alberta 9-3 by pin, to earn her a bye and a spot in the bronze medal match. Theresa Urbanczyk earned the silver medal in the Can West division. On the second day of competition, Natasha lost her final match to Jessy Seida of the University of Calgary, who earned the bronze medal.

Natasha, a graduate of Korah Collegiate and native of Sault Ste. Marie, is the most decorated wrestler on the Algoma University Thunderbirds Varsity Athletics team, having picked up a gold, silver, and bronze medal this season. She brought home gold after championing the 63-kilogram weight class at the inaugural York Open at York University, a silver at the Marauder Wrestling Invitational at McMaster University, and most recently, a bronze at the Western Open in London, Ontario.

Algoma U placed fifteenth overall at the CIS Championship, with the Brock University men’s and women’s teams claiming top spot in both divisions. The Brock team won seven individual titles overall.



Natasha Doroodian

For more “Algoma U News” visit: www.algomau.ca/news-events



Coming October 2014

For details contact:

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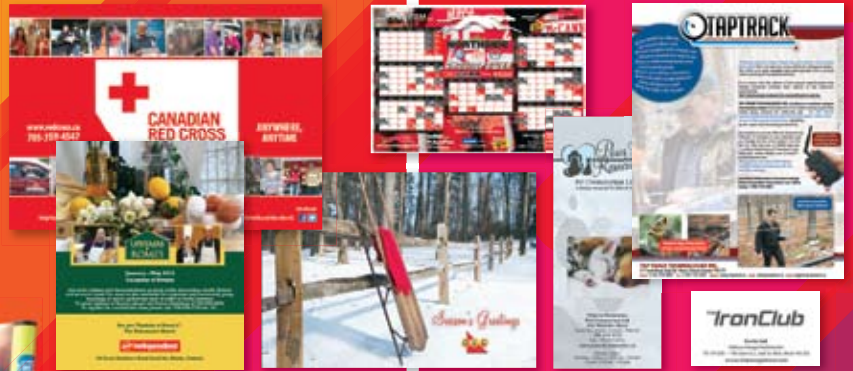
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