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WINTER 2015/2016

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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Celebrating New Beginnings



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Contents

Alumni Council Chair's Message 3
 President and Vice Chancellor's Message -
 Dr. Craig Chamberlin 4
 A Chat With Chamberlin 5
 From the Residential Schools to Chancellorship:
 Algoma U's First Chancellor - Shirley Horn 6
 Believing In Change -
 Dr. Richard McCutcheon 7
 New Spaces Benefit Algoma U's Artistic
 Community - Andrea Pinheiro 8
 Algoma U at Brampton Graduates Boast
 Career Success 9
 Sault Ste. Marie Convocation 2015 10
 Brampton Convocation 2015 11
 365 Days Of Celebrating: Algoma U Turns 50
 in 2015 12-14
 Video Series Headlines 100th Anniversary of
 Soo Mill - Kathryn Oliana 15
 Education is an investment for a lifetime:
 ADnet Creates Bursary to Benefit Students /
 New Alzheimer Society Bursary 16-17
 A Life of Passions - Dr. Trevor Tchir 18
 Mitch Case: Learning From the Past to
 Build the Future 19
 John Rhodes Dinner Honours
 Dr. David Walde 21
 The Algoma Renaissance Man -
 Connor Flood 22
 OUA Wrestling Championships comes to
 the GLC 23

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Return Undeliverable Canadian Addresses to:
 ALGOMA UNIVERSITY
 1520 Queen Street East · Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario
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Algoma University Alumni Magazine is published by
 the Communications Department of Algoma University.
 Algoma University Alumni Magazine is printed in
 Canada.

Algoma U Today is published by the University for the
 University's alumni, faculty, staff and friends. The
 magazine is the University's primary vehicle for providing
 information on the accomplishments of alumni,
 faculty and students, and on significant issues and
 developments within the University community.



ALUMNI COUNCIL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

By: Paul Skeggs, Chair, Algoma University Alumni Council

As the years pass by and our alumni family grows, the presence and outreach of the council continues to exceed each previous year. The efforts of the council are reflected in the successes of the 2015 Algoma University Homecoming celebrations.

More individuals and families the past year attended the events and activities of the homecoming weekend, which is organized by the Alumni Council, than ever before. Our annual homecoming was established in 2012. In only three years, the weekend has expanded to include a wide variety of sporting events and activities for Algoma University students, alumni, and the Sault Ste. Marie and surrounding area as a whole.

2015 became a year that will be celebrated for the many days to come. At the Algoma University spring convocation on June 13th, 2015, Algoma University installed its first-ever Chancellor, alumna Shirley Horn. At convocation, Chancellor Horn also received from the Alumni Council the Alumni Achievement Award while Greg Punch received the Distinguished Alumni Award. These two individuals are great examples of the potential any Algoma University graduate may achieve by working diligently and pursuing their dreams and goals.

In addition to this, the investiture and inauguration of Dr. Craig Chamberlin as Algoma University's new President and Vice-Chancellor was held over the same weekend as homecoming. On behalf of the Alumni Council, I welcome and congratulate Dr. Chamberlin on formally becoming a part of our Algoma University family. Throughout the years, the Alumni Council and the University have worked hand-in-hand and we look forward to the continuance of this ongoing relationship.

In the near future, it is the goal of the council to be able to offer more events to alumni who currently reside away from the Sault Ste. Marie and the surrounding area.

If you are interested in finding out more or assisting your Alumni Council with the setup of a satellite or chapter, please reach out to the council. Our efforts are only restricted to what we can imagine and with each passing year we continue to grow and reach higher potentials.

Thank you for taking interest in this edition of our magazine, and I wish you well. Please keep in touch.



PRESIDENT AND VICE CHANCELLOR'S MESSAGE

By: **Dr. Craig Chamberlin**, President and Vice Chancellor, Algoma University

I am very pleased and honoured to be Algoma University's third President and first Vice-Chancellor. Although I have only been at Algoma University for a few months, I have come to really understand what a special place this University is, where students come from around the world to learn, share, study, create, and grow. Unique in its small size, Algoma U is a friendly, welcoming, and safe environment in which to study, work, and play.

2015 was a year of change for the University. As we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the creation of our University through the writing of the Algoma College Act in 1965, we embraced our past but also the new beginnings which will be part of the history for our next 50 years. We celebrated the arrival of our new Academic Dean, Dr. Richard McCutcheon, as well as the

creation of the position of Chancellor, the honour which was bestowed upon Shirley Horn, an Algoma U alumna and former Shingwauk Indian Residential School student. We also celebrated our largest graduating class to date and the achievements of each of those 252 graduates.

We recognize our past and the traditions on which our university - your university - has been built. While moving forward into the future, we want to ensure we honour and respect our history and maintain our understanding of the valued contributions community groups and First Nations partners have made to our success.

This issue of the magazine tells the stories of the newest members of our Algoma University community, including staff, faculty, and students, but also the exciting

advancements and milestones achieved in 2015. This issue also demonstrates the commitment we have to, and respect for, our past.

Congratulations to Algoma University on its 50th anniversary. I am excited to now be a part of this institution's history and look forward to helping build its next half century.

Best wishes and I look forward to meeting you in the near future,

Dr. Craig Chamberlin



Dr. Craig Chamberlin, third President and first Vice-Chancellor.



A CHAT WITH CHAMBERLIN

By: Meaghan Kent

Dr. Craig Chamberlin has big aspirations for the smallest university in Ontario. Wanting to make Algoma University an elite institution in which students are lucky to get accepted to, the third President and first Vice-Chancellor of the post-secondary institution is eager to implement changes that will help steer Algoma U to offer one of the best undergraduate-only university experiences in Canada.

Starting with the University's historic locale on the former site of the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Indian Residential Schools, Dr. Chamberlin wants to intertwine the past with today's curricula and learning. *"I want us to embrace our past. I want us to embrace the history of the place and to start to infuse our culture with the ghosts of Shingwauk Hall. I want us to understand that we have a responsibility. The global word is 'indigenization'. I want us to embrace indigenization and understand what that means and then intertwine that traditional learning and model in our curriculum. It's a tall task, but I really want us to start thinking about what that means and change what we do based upon that."* Dr. Chamberlin is also eager to strengthen pre-existing relationships with First Nations populations, as well as with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG). *"I want to be seen as a relative support to all of their aspirations. We're here to help them and help them move in the direction that they want to move in. We're their ally and support."*

Perhaps one of his more difficult tasks is enhancing the student experience. Dr. Chamberlin is eager to change and transform the way staff, faculty, administration, and



students think about Algoma U. *"The overriding theme is to move us to being and thinking that we're an elite university,"* he begins. *"I think we will do this by really strengthening our undergraduate programs to make sure that our students come out of here so well-equipped for their lives, that people will say, 'Wow, an Algoma U grad! That needs to mean something. It's going to take a while to get us there... but I see no reason why we can't become that elite university that is really a place where students are lucky to get into."* In order for that to come to fruition, however, Dr. Chamberlin is adamant that people must begin thinking about Algoma U as an elite institution today: *"We need to think about it today and not yesterday and not in the future. Today."*

One way that Dr. Chamberlin is eager to change people's preconceived notions about Algoma U is to directly alter curricula and programming, which in turn would affect

every student. *"I would like to see every student have experiential learning. I believe everyone will benefit from having a research experience. I want every student to understand what cross-cultural learning really means as well as internationalization and diversity."* For Dr. Chamberlin, those are the four pillars of a strong undergraduate education, and the basis for an elite post-secondary institution. *"I'd like to see us move in that direction."*

When Dr. Chamberlin is not building and implementing ambitious plans for the direction of Algoma U, he can be seen out in the community, building relationships with various organizations, participating in local events including Rotaryfest, or enjoying the outdoors, be it golfing, camping, exploring, or sailing. Whether on or off campus, one thing is for certain, Dr. Chamberlin is enjoying Algoma University and Sault Ste. Marie: *"I'm liking it here. I'm having a lot of fun. This is a good fit for me."*

FROM THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS TO CHANCELLORSHIP: ALGOMA U'S FIRST CHANCELLOR

By: Rick McGee

Trailblazing leadership roles are more rule than exception for **Shirley Horn**.

So when Algoma University sought its first Chancellor, the highly respected 2009 graduate quickly emerged as a natural choice. The selection - another 50th anniversary year highlight for the institution - was announced in March and made official during a swearing-in ceremony at the June 13th graduation exercises.

"Convocation was an absolutely exciting day," recalled Chancellor Horn, a member and longtime Chief of Missinabie Cree First Nation. *"I was introduced and received my robes. They were heavy but it was like I was getting dressed for a new direction. I was prepared mentally and physically to move in a new direction as Chancellor."*

As the University's titular head, Chancellor Horn performs ceremonial duties, serves in an ambassadorial role, and assists with relationship building and fundraising. She also contributes to Algoma U's special Anishinaabe education mission.

Speaking at Convocation, the Chancellor recounted her own extraordinary lifelong relationship with the site that is now Algoma University. As a seven-year-old, she was brought to the then-Shingwauk Indian Residential School and stayed for six years.

By 1981 the school had become Algoma University College and Shirley returned to help found the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association. She has held leadership positions for the past 34 years.

A different Algoma relationship began in 2005. Shirley enrolled in Bachelor of Fine Arts studies and graduated four years later.

The Chancellor has adopted a "personal motto" that reflects her hopes: *"This position is an opportunity of infinite possibilities. We can take this anywhere we want to."*

Initial meetings with President Dr. Craig Chamberlin began establishing future directions.

"In light of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report and recommendations (released June 2nd, 2015), we want to put as much energy as possible into the indigenization process and see how Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gaming can work together to open doors and make room for more learning, with more subjects on topics such as the residential schools," said Chancellor Horn.

New awareness-building events are anticipated, too.

"Among the first things President Chamberlin and I talked about was having a healing ceremony in Algoma. It would bring back all of the faculty and the Children of Shingwauk, and involve students in the school, making it a real celebration of moving forward."

Shingwauk Auditorium renovations also rank as a priority.

"That is a massive project but it is one that is so necessary to get out the message and make our presence known in this institution," the Chancellor continued. *"It will be a museum-type model that features Aboriginal artists, speakers, and all kinds of programs that we'll bring in. We will invite the public to come in and learn more about the residential schools."*

Naturally, her outlook reflects diverse experiences. *"I'm standing in two places within the institution - one being an*

Aboriginal person involved in that part of things and one being an alumna of Algoma University. I never forget that as Chancellor of Algoma University I'm representing Algoma University. I think about that part, as well - how we're constantly enlarging the facilities. I'm excited and happy about that. And because I'm a member of the Board of Governors now, I am attending those meetings and getting a whole new view of things.

"The goal, I believe, is to come to a peaceful resolution with whatever goes on in the University in terms of the Children of Shingwauk and our other partners. To me, it can all be accomplished if we sit down and talk about it. Any relationship takes hard work. Part of my role will be to witness what's going on, to seek solutions and bring them to the Board. There is a pathway that is open to what I see is necessary. I'm not here to solve problems but to help identify them and clear a pathway towards resolution at some point in time."





BELIEVING IN CHANGE

By: Nadine Robinson

*"Be the change you wish to see in the world."
~ Mahatma Gandhi*

In the Fall of 2014, **Dr. Richard McCutcheon** started teaching at Algoma U in the Community Development program. He was hired as the University's new Academic Dean, but he wouldn't be formally stepping into those shoes until January 2015.

First he wanted to experience Algoma U from the front of the room: *"It was very deliberate on my part. In my heart, I am a teacher. Being in a classroom, that's how you get to know an institution."*

In addition to his time in the classroom, Dean McCutcheon also spent countless coffee breaks getting to know faculty. The more he heard, the more he knew he was in the right place. With a Doctorate in Anthropology, with a focus on conflict, violence, and war, Dr. McCutcheon is embracing the complexity of the role, and he's definitely not afraid of a challenge or of conflict.

In fact, Dr. McCutcheon has put himself in the literal line of fire before in his career. He spent over a decade working with a variety of NGOs trying to make the world a better place; even if that meant having a gun to his head.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts Honours in Religious Studies, Dr. McCutcheon went on to graduate school at McMaster. Once he felt his world was getting too narrow (translating Buddhist texts in Sanskrit for ten hours a day) he spoke to an advisor who challenged him to follow his passion.

"I was keenly interested in questions of peace and conflict. Suddenly, I found myself in India with a backpack and a camera, speaking with people who knew Gandhi."

While in India, an elder asked Dr. McCutcheon why he was doing this. He said he planned to write a book. The elder's response changed the course of Dr. McCutcheon's life: *"We need more people to live Gandhi, and change the world, not to write more books about him."*

With that, Dr. McCutcheon returned to continue PhD work at McMaster, but soon left to 'be the change.' *"I got involved in social movements – trying to live it out. I worked on causes and with NGOs to help however I could. I was one of the few non-UN observers who lived in Iraq under Saddam Hussein and was*

in Baghdad in 1991 at the beginning of the war."

Then, Dr. McCutcheon returned to Canada to work on his Doctorate in Anthropology while teaching. *"I believe deeply in education as one of the core transformative tools. It is truly the way to change the world."* He became a respected professor at the University of Winnipeg; and soon the VPA approached him to help shape the entire institution. He said: *"You believe in this place and you want people to be the best they can be, that's what a Dean does."* Dr. McCutcheon then found himself as the Dean of Menno Simons College at the University of Winnipeg.

Four years later, Algoma U came knocking: *"I feel fortunate that the search committee found me, as my decades of work experience in a variety of settings has prepared me well for this role."*

"We're doing something transformative at Algoma U; taking a former residential school and making it succeed as a place of education. Moving from dark to light; from hurt to healing; building bridges; these themes have stuck with me my whole life, through my studies of world religions, my work with NGOs to make the world a better place, in teaching and in becoming an administrator. It all fits."

"I've always done my best to have a positive impact on the world around me, and hope to continue to do so at Algoma U."





Professor Andrea Pinheiro



NEW SPACES BENEFIT ALGOMA U'S ARTISTIC COMMUNITY

By: Rick McGee

As an accomplished, award-winning artist, **Andrea Pinheiro** creates works that are widely acclaimed and appreciated internationally.

And as an innovative teacher in Algoma University's Bachelor of Fine Arts (Visual Arts) program, she creates valuable learner-centred opportunities that augment the four-year curriculum.

Those enrolled benefit widely from a decision the faculty member made after coming to the University in 2011. She purchased a building on Sault Ste. Marie's Gore Street and transformed the structure into space that helps BFA students both grow artistically and prepare for life after Algoma.

Now known as *180 Projects*, the venue includes a gallery, studio, and living quarters.

"I had been thinking it would be really amazing to have some space where students could put up their artwork and where we could bring in visiting artists from outside of town," Assistant Professor Pinheiro recalled. *"It'd also be somewhere where we could support recent graduates and the larger local arts community."*

Goals included allowing students to do solo exhibitions in conjunction with their graduating year thesis class. *"It seemed like a great opportunity to add to what was already a special part of the program. The solo shows sort of up the ante for students. We began by doing seven solo shows in 2013."*

Since its inception, *180 Projects* has also accommodated exhibits by BFA graduates,

high school students, and other talented people from the area.

Drawing in visiting artists has proved successful, too.

"Part of the idea was to get people here from elsewhere so our students could develop relationships because in the art world you really need the personal connections to move things forward in your career," Assistant Professor Pinheiro said.

Such experiences complement the BFA program's many strengths, she continued.

"Our students acquire really good, practical hands-on learning from the more professional end of things, learning some of the business skills you need as an artist that don't necessarily get addressed in programs at other schools."

The BFA program allows students to *"do work that is really meaningful for them"* and develop a strong sense of identity.

A Kingston, Ontario native, Assistant Professor Pinheiro's love of the north grew when she attended the White Mountain Academy of the Arts in Elliot Lake. She subsequently completed baccalaureate and Master of Fine Arts requirements at the University of Alberta.

As an artist, she enjoys exploring the crossover between the visible and invisible. Particular interest considers the impacts of the nuclear industry, uranium mining, and radioactivity on landscapes and people, and how atomic testing and radiation are represented.

Fine Arts student, Maria Chilleli reviews a piece with Professor Andrea Pinheiro



ALGOMA U AT BRAMPTON GRADUATES BOAST CAREER SUCCESS

By: Jessica Ferlaino

Francis Muli

Born in Nairobi, Kenya, **Francis Muli** moved to Brampton in his teens. After years of travel and study, Francis earned a diploma in Business Finance from Sheridan College, later enrolling in the Bachelor of Business Administration program, minoring in Accounting, at Algoma U at Brampton.

Three things attracted Francis to Algoma U at Brampton: convenience, cost and continuity. Convenience because it was very close to home, and cost because having paid for his education with a student loan, Francis wanted the best value for the money.

Francis added, *“Continuity because Algoma U valued my college education more than other schools did. I had advanced standing in my undergraduate studies and the hard work I put into my college diploma was not disregarded.”*

Francis took full advantage of what he described as a world-class teaching staff and an interactive, welcoming campus at Algoma U at Brampton. Much of what he learned at



Algoma U at Brampton has been directly beneficial to his professional experiences.

Though it took a great deal of hard work on his part, Francis credits Professors James Hicks, Peter Ostroski, and Kier Munn, for the role they played in his academic successes. Francis recalled the memorable opportunity to represent Algoma U at Brampton, at the Northern Ontario Business Case Competition in 2014 and the impact that experience had on his professional development.

A year and a half after writing his last exam, Francis walked into his dream job as

Financial Analyst at Freshbooks. Only the beginning of what will be a long and successful career, Francis is currently pursuing his CPA designation, with plans to continue his education in the MBA program of his choosing.

He hopes to see the Algoma U at Brampton campus grow in the future, expanding their course offerings, and continuing to provide students with great academic and professional opportunities. *“I am proof that Algoma U at Brampton is a very good school.”*

Amanda Thomas

Having completed an Accounting Business Systems Diploma from Humber College, and working full-time in her profession, **Amanda Thomas** came to Algoma U at Brampton as a mature student enrolled in the Bachelor of Business Administration - General program.

Amanda discovered Algoma U at Brampton doing something that is very

familiar to those living and working in the Greater Toronto Area: sitting in traffic. Idling behind a bus, Amanda noticed an advertisement for the University, immediately sparking her interest.

“It was local, convenient and allowed me to do an accelerated program full-time as I worked full-time,” she explained. *“Everyone was very supportive and always lent a helping*

hand when it was needed. The professors were very helpful. The work was challenging, but only to teach a valuable lifelong lesson not to give up on challenges.”

Through the network she created at Algoma U at Brampton, Amanda was offered the position of Manager, Marketing and Member Engagement with the Brampton Board of Trade. *“Networking through Algoma U helped me obtain this career and has prepared me for greater things ahead,”* she shared of what she referred to as the *“Alumni advantage”*.

Citing the efforts of her Professors Jim Byrd, Seymour Stein, and Darren Deering, as well as Brian Leahy, Amanda enjoyed great success at Algoma U at Brampton, having found that same success in her professional career.

“Algoma U has changed my life greatly and has made me realize my own colours and shows others what I am really made of.” Moving forward, like Francis, Amanda hopes to see Algoma U at Brampton, continue to grow, offering more programs out of a larger facility. *“Algoma U at Brampton is on a progressive scale and will be one of the best within the next ten years.”*



SAULT STE. MARIE CONVOCAATION 2015

By: Meaghan Kent

On June 13th 2015, 252 graduates entered into the Algoma University alumni family. The annual June convocation ceremony, held at the Roberta Bondar Park and Pavilion, witnessed its largest graduating class to date, as well as the installation of the University's first-ever Chancellor, **Shirley Horn**. As part of the ceremony honouring the graduates, Algoma U conferred an Honorary Degree, a Doctor of Science, on **Errol Caldwell**, who has worked for over 22 years with the Canadian Forest Service on Biotechnology, pest control, and invasive species management in Sault Ste. Marie. **Justus Veldman**, CEO of Riversedge Development, was recognized as an Honorary Member of Algoma University, an award granted by the Algoma University Senate. **Madeleine Brodbeck** received the prestigious Governor General's Silver Medal for exceptional academic achievement, an award granted to the undergraduate student who achieves the highest academic standing upon graduation from a Bachelor's degree program. Chancellor Shirley Horn was this year's Alumni Achievement Award Winner while **Greg Punch** earned the coveted Distinguished Alumni Award.



BRAMPTON CONVOCATION 2015

By: Meaghan Kent

On October 25th 2015, Algoma University held its third convocation ceremony for students graduating from its extension in Brampton, Ontario. 30 students earned degrees at the ceremony held at the Brampton Golf Club, joining the likes of more than 80 students who have graduated from Algoma U at Brampton since it began offering programming in 2010. **Roy Levy-Harari** was the recipient of the Convocation Award, presented to the graduating student with the highest overall academic achievement, while **Sohail Saeed**, the Director of Economic Development and Tourism with the City of Brampton was this year's Honorary Speaker. Currently, over 100 students are studying at Algoma U at Brampton.



365 DAYS OF CELEBRATING:

By: Meaghan Kent

On December 17th 1965, Algoma College Association signed an Affiliation Agreement with Laurentian University, formally forming Algoma University College. Over the past 50 years, Algoma University College has grown in size and stature, becoming Algoma University, the 19th publicly funded university. Throughout 2015, staff, faculty,

administration, alumni, and students joined together to celebrate the University's 50th anniversary, continued survival, and growth as a post-secondary institution.

Celebrations started off with a bang in January, with fireworks shining brightly above the pinnacle steeple of Shingwauk Hall.

The special weekend kick-off of the University's yearlong 50th anniversary celebrations also included public skating on the front lawn of campus, an alumni hockey game, basketball games, and a special lecture from Professor Don Jackson, titled "Algoma's Move to Shingwauk Hall: the Transformation of a College."



ALGOMA U TURNS 50 IN 2015

In July, Algoma U decked out a 46-foot long flatbed, complete with an eight-foot wide, three-dimensional book on the history of Algoma U, and a six-foot tall, three-dimensional '50' for the annual Rotaryfest Parade. The University took home top honours for best entry in the non-professional category.

Staff, faculty, administrators, and past employees were also treated to a special employee appreciation day in August in celebration of turning 50. Food, laughs, baseball, and great music from the Boothill Crooners headlined the event, which took place in front of Shingwauk Hall.

In September, Algoma University held its first-ever Alumni Social in Toronto, Ontario, coinciding with the University's annual trip to the Ontario Universities' Fair (OUF). Over 50 alumni, staff, and faculty, came together at the Delta on Simcoe Street to celebrate the University's momentous occasion.



365 DAYS OF CELEBRATING: ALGOMA U TURNS 50 IN 2015 (continued)

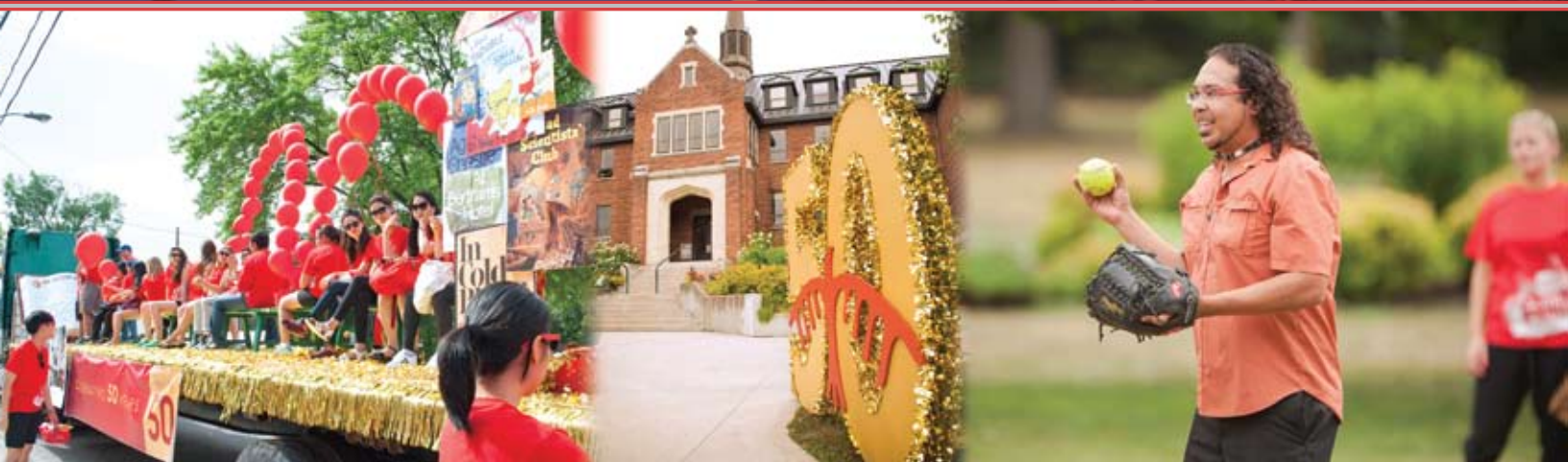
Celebrations continued into October with a larger-than-ever Homecoming celebration. The weekend long celebration, which occurred from October 15th - 17th, included the third annual Algoma U Colour Dash, the Acoustic Open Mic Night, a spooky corn maze, and various sporting events, including

alumni basketball games, soccer games, and the return of alumni hockey.

The holiday season saw Algoma U reuse the giant '50' from the Rotaryfest Parade for the annual Santa Claus Parade. Students, staff, and faculty donned handmade snowman outfits in the parade. The float sported dozens

of holiday trees and thousands of twinkling lights. Algoma U also won the Peoples' Choice Award for its Gold and Glitter: Celebrating 50 Years tree in the annual Festival of Trees for the Canadian Lung Association.

Happy Anniversary, Algoma U!





Soo Mill and Lumber Company Ltd. President Lynn Hollingsworth and Kathryn Oliana.

VIDEO SERIES HEADLINES 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOO MILL

By: Rick McGee

Opportune timing and fortuitous circumstances have made this a memorable year for **Kathryn Oliana**.

The 2014 Honours History graduate was asked by one of Sault Ste. Marie's oldest and most successful businesses to develop five retrospective videos that would celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Founded in 1915 by Fremlin Hollingsworth, **Soo Mill and Lumber Company Ltd.** is now in its third generation of local family ownership.

Kathryn began working part-time at Soo Mill four years ago. Company President Lynn Hollingsworth knew about her keen interest in local history and that set the stage for what followed.

"It was Lynn's idea to do the videos," Kathryn recalled. *"Originally, he approached*

me about helping with research for the 100th anniversary. I had done amateur video editing on my own for fun and things just kind of spawned from there.

"I did a video over Christmas for Lynn's review. It was more than he had expected and that led to the decision to go with a multi-part series."

The five segments trace company and city growth through different eras and can be viewed at www.soomill.ca.

An autobiography written by Lynn's grandfather, Fremlin, served as the main information source about the company's early years. *Sault Star* files and old Soo Mill promotional print materials also proved helpful.

Employee interviews with Kathryn supplied background about the company's expansion during more recent decades.

On September 17th, the Algoma U alumna completed the final segment. She put the entire package together at home using an HP laptop.

"I never envisioned how things would go when I first started on this," Kathryn recalled. *"After all the hard work, it is gratifying to know that the public and my client like the results."*

The first video went public during a 100th anniversary launch event/news conference on May 21st at Soo Mill. Kathryn's efforts were enthusiastically applauded by the crowd present.

"We are elated with Kathryn's work," Lynn commented afterwards. *"We feel fortunate because no one else here that we know has the skill set to do that. She poured her heart and soul into it. The results speak for themselves."*

"Sometimes in business you get lucky – you have the right person in the right place at the right time. Kathryn wrote the scripts, did all the research, and put them together in their entirety. It's been a phenomenal success. We know the first video about when my grandfather started the business has been seen over 10,000 times. That's pretty impressive."

With a sense of deep satisfaction with what has been accomplished, Kathryn described value-added benefits she could never have imagined.

"It has been an amazing experience. I have made contacts I didn't even know existed. I am an extremely introverted person. So having to go out to contact people personally and on the phone and go to places such as the museums in Blind River, Wawa, and Elliot Lake has been a confidence builder."

"My learning, research, and writing skills have also been refined. I don't know if I could even quantify the amount that I have learned. It has been a fabulous learning experience."

Dr. Warren Johnston, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History and Philosophy at Algoma U, enthused about Kathryn's achievement. *"This shows how our program can contribute to the community through students using their skills to find and bring to light important events and elements of our community's past. Kathryn's work have made it easily accessible."*

Kathryn returned to Algoma U this fall for a second degree in Computer Science. Graduate studies in maritime history, perhaps in England, could follow.

While Soo Mill's big anniversary coincided with 50-year celebrations at Algoma U, connections between the two have deep roots. Simpson Hollingsworth, a one-time company president, was among community leaders who worked to establish a university in Sault Ste. Marie.

And in 2011, Soo Mill generously donated \$50,000 to Algoma University's Essential Elements capital campaign.



Education is an investment



From left, ADnet representatives, Allan Frederick, Peggy Story-Inkster and Charlie Whitfield meet with Algoma University President and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Craig Chamberlin

For 16 years, ADnet operated as an original Community Based Network (CBN) in Northern Ontario, working to establish broadband connectivity in the region. Alongside sister organizations in North Bay, Sudbury, Thunder Bay, and Timmins, the Thessalon-based ADnet worked to facilitate global telecommunications networks for communities throughout the Algoma District. With the help of government funding through the Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Cooperation (NOHFC), ADnet became one of the driving forces that brought the technological revolution of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to the Algoma region.

ADnet was founded in 1998 with four core principals. ADnet was established:

1. To facilitate access to global telecommunications networks for members of the Algoma region;
2. To coordinate the development and implementation of information technology-based applications for various sectors;
3. To facilitate community awareness of telecommunications and information technology to identify and promote economic, social, and cultural developmental opportunities; and
4. To research and develop new technologies to support the above technologies.

In addition, ADnet was also an important player in private-public partnerships, acting as the connecting link between the private information computer technology (ICT) network industry and the public end-users.

Some of ADnet's most notable accomplishments were obtaining funding to extend cellular telephone service along Highway 17 North and Highway 101; managing the installation of broadband Internet connectivity to 17 libraries throughout the Algoma region; founding a Northern Ontario wide association of CBNs; publishing the blog "Adnet in Algoma" to keep residents up to date on information technology developments; coordinating NOHFC funding applications to lead major information technology upgrades at medical clinics in Bruce Mines and Richards Landings; among others.

In 2014, ADnet closed having fulfilled its original mandate. "Basic ICT infrastructure in the form of broadband and cellular telephony in one manner or another was available to the majority of the residents in the Algoma District. The basic copper-based technology of ADnet's founding days in 1998 had progressed to a stage in 2014 where wireless cellular broadband could provide faster and more comprehensive services," said the last Executive Director of ADnet, Wilf Lefresne. The ADnet Board foresaw the future as one of never-ending improvement and technological change. "In their opinion, it now was up to the private sector to carry on and expand the networks. The ADnet Board made the decision to voluntarily wrap-up ADnet."

With the closure of ADnet, provincial regulations mandated that leftover funds from the not-for-profit organization had to be allocated to another not-for-profit. "Thus, the decision was made to donate the funds to the scholarship funds of the two higher education institutions in the Algoma District. The initial contribution was \$10,000 to each school. It was felt by the Board that assisting the graduation of ICT personnel would have a long-term positive impact on the Algoma District." Through the funds generously donated by ADnet, the ADnet Bursary has been created, providing a \$1,000 bursary award to a full-time first-year student enrolled in the Bachelor of Computer Science program (preference is given to a student specializing in Information Technology).

ADnet Creates Bursary to Benefit Students

Written by: Meaghan Kent



for a lifetime



Proactive planning by the Alzheimer Society's local office is expanding a partnership that already benefits both the agency and Algoma University.

A new Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District Bursary will be presented for the first time this year. Annual recipients of the \$600 award will be in second-, third-, or fourth-year Honours Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) studies, carry a 70 percent or greater average, and demonstrate financial need.

"Algoma University is a major partner in our community and we felt as a community support service it was important to further develop our relationship," said Terry Caporossi, Executive Director of the Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District. *"We feel a strong obligation to provide opportunities for education and awareness that will support bursary recipients' career goals."*

"Our Board of Directors is committed to providing a bursary that will further support the education of and internships for BSW students. We view this as a financial investment in our community that will further enhance the provision of high-quality care for those living with Alzheimer's and dementia-related diseases, as well as their caregivers."

An Alzheimer Society internship helps BSW students complete field placement requirements during their final year.

Meanwhile, Terry believes the demand for graduates will only grow as Canada's population continues to age. In fact, the Sault service is currently increasing its staff complement and enlarging the organization's Trunk Road facilities.

"There's a great need for social workers in this field," the Executive Director said. *"We see a great fit with Algoma's program."*

The Alzheimer Society currently serves about 2,600 families in Sault Ste. Marie and elsewhere in the district. Steadily growing client totals will only escalate for decades to come. National forecasts show that by 2031, the number of Canadians with the disease will have doubled from the 2011 level to nearly 1.4 million.

Alzheimer Society linkages with Algoma U could also add another dimension in the future. *"Alzheimer's-related research opportunities, particularly with the Innovation Centre [located on campus], could be very exciting,"* Terry noted.

The University values its mutually beneficial relationship with the organization. *"We are very thankful for the generous contribution of the Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste Marie and District,"* said Sean Dwyer, Vice President, Administration and Finance. *"Both the bursary and the internship help our students achieve academic success inside and outside the classroom."*



From left, the Alzheimer Society of Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma District's Executive Director, Terry Caporossi and Board Chair, Susan McLean present cheque for bursary to Sean Dwyer, Algoma University Vice President, Administration and Finance.

New Alzheimer Society Bursary

Written by: Rick McGee



A LIFE OF PASSIONS

By: Nadine Robinson

Dr. Trevor Tchir's passions can be summed up in a few words: baseball, music, family, teaching, and political engagement. Most of his time is divided between those passions, though luckily sometimes he gets to combine more than one at a time.

Dr. Tchir grew up in St. Albert, Alberta, just outside Edmonton. Also home to Mark Messier and Jarome Iginla, Dr. Tchir played baseball with Iginla on the St. Albert Rep team the summer before Iginla's rookie year with the Calgary Flames.

When not playing baseball, Dr. Tchir can be found playing piano, or teaching himself guitar. *"I've always been into music. I took piano lessons from a young age, and started writing music in high school."* He found inspiration at the Edmonton Folk Festival and North Country Fair. *"I was lucky to have had a couple of inspiring lessons from Juno award-winning folk musician Bill Bourne."*

In grade 11, Dr. Tchir took part in the Forum For Young Canadians in Ottawa. Dr. Tchir loved the city, and saw his interest in politics burgeoning. *"I got to witness how electoral politics happened in the heart of the capital city. While it didn't convince me to become involved in electoral politics, I was hooked by the importance of political engagement... citizenship engagement."*

While at the University of Ottawa studying towards an Honours Bachelor of Social Science and Master of Arts, Political Science, Dr. Tchir took part in the House of Commons Page program. *"It was during the Chrétien years and the first year of five official parties in the House. We began the same day as many of the MPs; there were a lot of us with that 'deer in the headlights' look of wonder in our eyes."*

After classes, Dr. Tchir would follow the folk music. First to listen, then to play open stage nights, then he was being paid to perform at the Black Sheep Inn and Zaphod Beeblebrox, among others.

His undergrad was hugely influential: *"I fell in love with Political Philosophy; experienced Canadian Political Science firsthand in the House of Commons; was playing my music; and most importantly, I met my wife, Kristy, at Ottawa U."*

Then it was back home to Alberta, where Dr. Tchir completed his PhD Political Science at the University of Alberta. He formed a band with his brother, and settled down to start a family.

"It was a huge coincidence that the job posting at Algoma U came along in early 2014; specifically looking for someone to teach both Political Theory and Canadian Politics. I had been teaching both at the U of A. Also, as Kristy is from the Sault, it was one of the only two cities that we had family in in Canada. While hard to leave my family, it was a great opportunity for me career-wise and for the kids to get to know their other grandparents." Dr. Tchir started at Algoma U in July 2014.

"It's exciting to share profound ideas with others: such as how power, identity and citizenship operate in the Canadian system. I revel in getting students to think critically about what they read and hear and to think of themselves as citizens and not just as consumers."

Dr. Tchir is now looking to blend some of his passions, including coaching t-ball with the Sault Minor Baseball Association. Also, he and his wife (along with Chair of Music, Dr. Edward Turgeon) are also looking to replicate a stage they ran at Café Nostalgia on campus in Ottawa, where Tchir would host music and Kristy would host readings. *"We want to contribute to campus and community life by starting a monthly open stage."*

Dr. Tchir and his wife Kristy have two children, Gwendolyn (age 2) and Jasper (age 5).



MITCH CASE: LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD THE FUTURE

By: Melanie Nolan

For **Mitch Case**, attending Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig, marked the start of what will be a lifelong journey toward reconnecting with and understanding Anishinaabe philosophy and knowledge.

Mitch is Métis from Sault Ste. Marie's Métis community and Ojibway from Garden River First Nation. His great-great-grandmother attended Shingwauk Indian Residential School, so it was important to Mitch to have an opportunity to learn about the history and elements of his culture that were lost during the time of the residential school.

Mitch graduated from Algoma U in the spring of 2015 with a Bachelor of Arts in History and a Certificate in Anishinaabe Studies.

"By combining research skills from my history program with the critical Anishinaabe thinking approaches I learned at Shingwauk, I feel prepared to help do my part to tell the truth of my people," says Mitch. *"Writing my thesis in my final year and working with my supervisor, Dr. Marisha Caswell, gave me the skills needed to do more writing in the future."*

Mitch says he appreciated that the faculty in the history department were always supportive of his desire to incorporate traditional knowledge from his Elders into his writing.

During his time at the University, Mitch was part of the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students' Association, serving two terms as Vice-President and one as President. He also served on the University's Board of Governors and Senate, the Anishinaabe Peoples' Council, and several other committees.

"I found it really rewarding to support events and activities which help students learn our language and culture."

Through Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig, Mitch had the opportunity to learn traditional ceremonies, songs and teachings and attend events at the Three Fires Midewiwin Lodge.

"I know that my experience at Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig, I would not have had anywhere else."

He notes that among his favourite courses were those taught by Bawdwaydun, Dr. Eddie Benton-Benai. Mitch says it was a life-changing experience to be able to work with Dr. Benton-Benai and learn from his vast Anishinaabe knowledge.

Mitch also particularly enjoyed the Anishinaabe law courses with Professor Dawnis Kennedy. He says, "Professor

Kennedy opened my eyes up to a whole new understanding of Anishinaabe law and treaty-making processes."

Mitch has built lasting relationships with friends, colleagues and faculty from whom he continues to learn even after graduation.

Mitch is now the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Studies Program Coordinator at Shingwauk Kinooaage Gamig.

For the past four years, he has also been a member of the Provisional Council of the Métis Nation of Ontario, a member of the Métis National Council, and President of the Métis Nation of Ontario Youth Council. As well, Mitch is a member of the Premier's Council on Youth Opportunities. The Premier of Ontario appointed him to serve in this role as an advisor to 18 government ministries on issues affecting youth in Ontario.

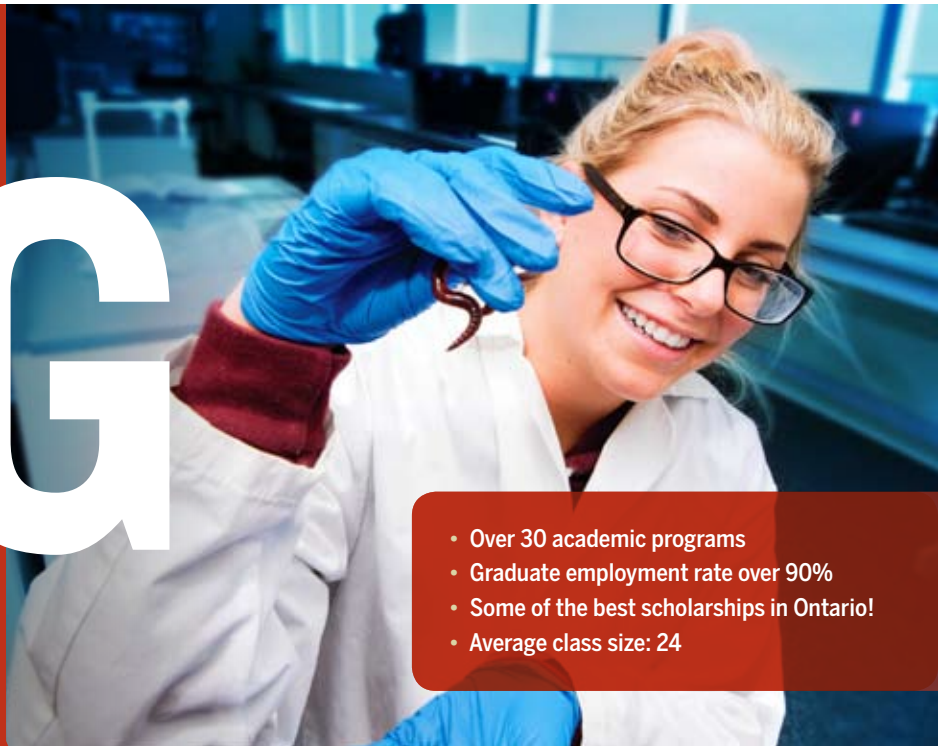
While Mitch is already making a great impact for young people, particularly Métis youth, he is inspired to do even more. He is now exploring Masters programs and working to further his Midewiwin education so that he can continue to teach others about the Anishinaabe culture.

"I am proud to do my part to help ensure that our traditional way of life continues on into the future."

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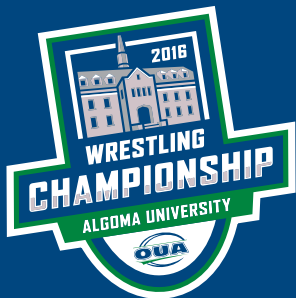
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JOHN RHODES DINNER HONOURS DR. DAVID WALDE

By: Marc Capancioni

When walking, biking or driving around Sault Ste. Marie, it doesn't take long to see some of the many attributes that make the community a great place to live, learn, work, visit and play. From a pristine waterfront boardwalk and hub trail, to top-notch medical facilities and state-of-the-art sports complexes, the city has grown by leaps and bounds over the years.

This type of transformation does not happen by accident. It takes smart, dedicated individuals working hard and working together to achieve these successes. The **John Rhodes Dinner**, from Algoma University, pays homage to the volunteers, leaders and visionaries throughout Sault Ste. Marie who help make the community the special place that it is.

This year, Algoma University honoured **Dr. David Walde**. Born in India and educated in the United Kingdom, the oncologist began his Canadian medical career at Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto. He later began travelling north to Sault Ste. Marie in the 1970s to conduct fly-in cancer clinics. Dr. Walde saw the need for a permanent cancer treatment program here and was instrumental in establishing one in the 1980s.

Since opening, the local cancer clinic at Sault Area Hospital has treated tens of thousands of patients. In fact, there isn't too many families in the Sault Ste. Marie area that haven't had a loved one cared for at the facility.

With a career spanning four decades, Dr. Walde retired in 2009. Today, the cancer centre he spearheaded treats an average of 250 patients per day. The clinic is now operated by a team led by Dr. Silvana Spadafora, who completed her oncology residency placement under her friend and mentor, Dr. Walde, and eventually partnered with him to run the local cancer clinic in 1994.

"Being able to start my career with an internist and oncologist with the breadth of experience of Dr. Walde is unique, and I value that greatly," said Dr. Spadafora. *"We had a good partnership, and I believe the work he started has continued to service the people of the Algoma District and the North East in a meaningful and substantial way. I congratulate him on his work and wish him ongoing health and success in his retirement."*

Given the impact he has had on the community, Dr. Walde received a 2004 Medal of Merit from the City of Sault Ste. Marie. He was also the recipient of the Order of Ontario.

Simply put, Dr. Walde has had a magnificently positive impact on the community and surrounding area, and he continues to be recognized for his decades of service.

This year, in honour of Dr. Walde, a new scholarship is being established at Algoma University. The *Dr. David Walde Humanitarian Scholarship* will be awarded to a full-time student from Sault Ste. Marie who is entering their first year of study in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW), Community Economic and Social Development (CESD), or Community Development program.

The 2015 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner took place on October 22nd at Algoma's Water Tower Inn & Suites and raised a record amount of \$42,000. As Algoma University's premier fundraising event, the yearly dinner has honoured a number of individuals throughout the community, including:

- The Honourable James Greco;
- Ted Nolan;
- Dr. Roberta Bondar;
- Morley Torgov;
- The Honourable Ron Irwin;
- Paul Dalseg Sr.;
- Dr. George and Cathy Shunock;
- Bud Wildman;
- Dr. Celia Ross;
- Dr. Lou and Mrs. Mae Lukenda;
- The Honourable Ray Stortini;
- Donna Hilsinger; and
- Don Mitchell, Jim McAuley, Wayne Prouse, Jo-Anne Brooks, the late Ted Brooks, Damon Godfrey and the late John Rowswell, who were affectionately known as "The Cronies."



At the annual dinner, the John Rhodes Scholarship is also awarded. This year's recipient is **Sarah Van Boerdonk**, a first-year student studying in the four-year honours Bachelor of Science in Biology program.

The 2015 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner was made possible thanks to a volunteer Committee consisting of: Les Dunbar (Chair), Jamie Caicco, Rob Cohen, Donna Hilsinger, The Honourable James Greco, Mark Lajambe, Brent Lewis, Jim McAuley, Don Mitchell, Wayne Prouse, and Rosetta Sicoli.

Former John R. Rhodes Dinner honourees: Jim McAuley, Wayne Prouse and Don Mitchell with 2015 honouree Dr. David Walde.



THE ALGOMA RENAISSANCE MAN

By: Meaghan Kent

Connor Flood is no stranger to success. His recent acceptance into arguably the best computer science program in Canada has been the icing on top of his good fortune.

After graduating from Korah Collegiate and Vocational School's International Baccalaureate program in 2012, Connor began his university education in second year, graduating from the computer science program one year ahead of schedule in 2015. While at Algoma U, he maintained Dean's List status and received seven different scholarships and bursaries, all while balancing a part-time job, four full-time co-operative education placements, and organizing school trips to prestigious computer programming competitions.

His elite skills in computer science have caught the attention of others. Connor was headhunted in 2015 by Workiva after giving a presentation on his thesis. *"I got the position at Workiva after a senior member came to see the midway thesis presentations at Algoma U. We spoke afterwards about the possibility of an internship position, and I started immediately after finishing 20 months as a co-op student."* Connor was later promoted to Intern at Workiva.

Connor was also discovered by mathematic software engineering company Wolfram|Alpha in Illinois. *"They heard about me when I began creating a program over the summer which performed a mathematical function that had not yet been covered by any calculators or engines online... Specifically, the program was able to perform proofs using Principle of Mathematical Induction... After demonstrating this program to some different teams at Wolfram, I was encouraged to apply for an internship position. Soon after that, I received the offer and I couldn't be happier."* Connor began his internship with the company in April as a Software Engineer Intern.

His applications to grad school programs also caught the attention of Canada's most elite computer science school. *"It was a long shot for me applying to the University of Waterloo. That's one of the most recognized programs in this field, and highly competitive. But to my surprise I got accepted in the first round of acceptances."* In September, Connor joined Algoma U grad Valerie Platsko at the University of Waterloo to earn his Master's of Mathematics in Computer Science.

Waterloo has provided Connor with a hefty scholarship of \$27,000 annually for the duration of his two years of study. Part of his funding comes from a paid position as a Teaching Assistant (TA). Luckily, Connor already has plenty of experience being a TA. *"I [was] a TA for six different courses at Algoma U, ranging between second and fourth*

year in level, doing everything from marking, grading, tutoring, proctoring, and helping out with tutorials." Connor admits it was difficult juggling being a fourth year student, completing a thesis, and being a full-time co-op student, while also being a TA, but he knows he is better prepared. *"That's one of the benefits of going to Algoma U. Most other universities would never let an undergrad be a TA since that's usually reserved for graduate students."*

While at Waterloo, Connor is studying software engineering. *"Being able to research and develop software which can solve both mathematical and real-life problems is what I aspire to do."* In April, Connor finished his fourth-year thesis which dealt with Brain Computer Interfaces (BCI), a different area of computer science. *"I work[ed] with George Townsend and Valerie Platsko on improving classification techniques for target and non-target responses using a P-300 speller. Basically, this allows a person to effectively communicate by 'typing' on a virtual keyboard without moving a single muscle, and using only their thought responses measured by brain activity. This is aimed towards patients with ALS who are unable to communicate otherwise."*

If the past three years are any indicator of Connor's capabilities, he has the brightest of futures ahead of him and the possibility of becoming one of the great thinkers and software engineers of the twenty-first century.



OUA WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIPS COME TO THE GLC

By: Meaghan Kent

Given the overnight success of the Algoma Thunderbirds wrestling team, Algoma University will be hosting the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Wrestling Championships in February of 2016. On February 13th, the best student-athletes from across the Province of Ontario will take to the mats in the newly renovated and expanded George Leach Centre (GLC).

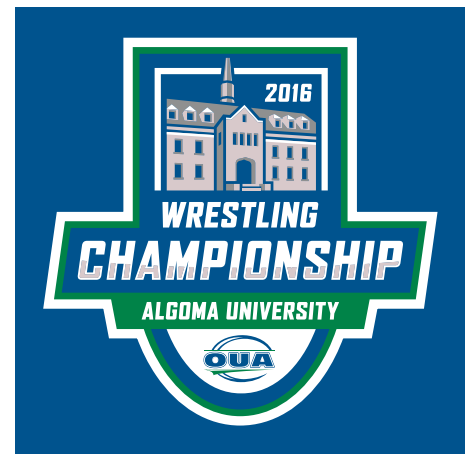
Without a doubt, the Algoma wrestlers continue to be Algoma U's most successful and decorated varsity team. Together, the squad has brought home a combined total of 16 tournament medals. Standout star student-athlete **Natasha Doroodian** has also added in the accolades of OUA Championship Silver and CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) Silver medals, OUA Second Team All Star, Academic All Canadian, two-time Female Student-Athlete of the Year, the H.P. Broughton Award and bragging rights as Sportsperson of the Year in Sault Ste. Marie. All awards fall under the leadership of Head Coach Trevor Manchester, who earned the title of Coach of the Year in 2014.

"We've had some tremendous success in the sport of wrestling," said Athletics and Recreation Director Mark Kontulainen. *"And that is one of the reasons why we requested to*

host the OUA Wrestling Championships. Plus, it will also give our athletics program and our student-athletes greater exposure at both the provincial and national levels. University programs around the country are beginning to realize that the Algoma wrestlers are a force to not be overlooked. There's rarely a tournament where the Thunderbirds return empty handed."

The OUA Wrestling Championship will be the first time that the Algoma Thunderbirds wrestling team will have the opportunity and advantage to compete on home turf. Unfortunately, however, Doroodian, who was the first Algoma Thunderbird to ever compete and medal in both an OUA and CIS Championship, will not be competing due to a serious leg injury, which has sidelined her for the entire season. But medalling prospects are still high for the team. *"By the time the OUA Wrestling Championships are concluded here in Sault Ste. Marie, our coaching staff feels confident that our wrestlers will be wearing an OUA medal around their neck,"* adds Coach Manchester.

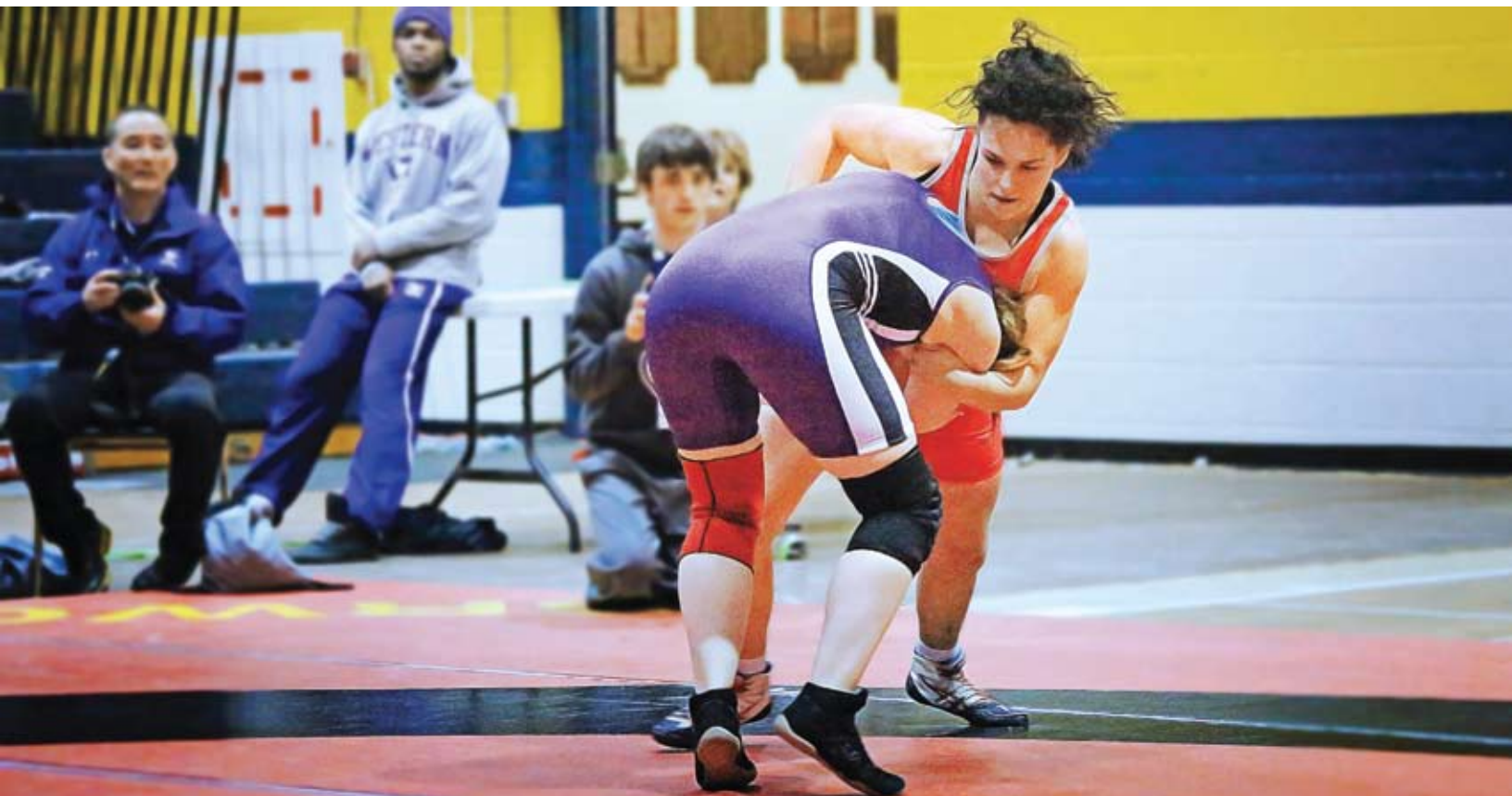
Ten teams from across Ontario will go head-to-head, hoping to podium at the OUA Wrestling Championships. Teams competing in Sault Ste. Marie in the GLC include the Algoma Thunderbirds, Brock Badgers, Guelph Gryphons, Lakehead Thunderwolves, Laurentian Voyageurs, McMaster Marauders, Queen's Gaels, Toronto Varsity Blues, Western Mustangs, and York Lions. Those who receive a gold, silver, or bronze medal will earn a spot



in the coveted national championships, the CIS Wrestling Championships, where they will have the opportunity to reach the pinnacle of university sport. The CIS Wrestling Championships are being held this year in St. Catharines, Ontario at Brock University from February 26th - 27th of 2016.

To help secure the OUA Wrestling Championships, Algoma U partnered with Tourism Sault Ste. Marie. In the past, the two organizations have worked together to bid on or host several major events, including the 2011 Ontario College Athletics Association (OCAA) Basketball Championships and the 2013 Ontario Basketball Association (OBA) Provincial Championships.

For more information on the OUA Wrestling Championships, please visit www.algomathunderbirds.ca.



Natasha Doroodian wrestles Western University's Alexa Momy in the 2015 OUA Championship Gold Medal match.

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