

T O D A Y

# algomau

FALL/WINTER 2009

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI MAGAZINE

"WE CHOOSE ALGOMA U"



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





**DARCY SEATON & ANDY BARBATO**

**The Home Team**

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**Editor**  
 Deborah Loosemore, CFRE  
 Director of Advancement and External Relations  
 deborah.loosemore@algomau.ca

**Photos**  
 Colin Crowell

**Contributing Editors**

Joanne Nanne,  
 Communications Officer  
 joanne.nanne@algomau.ca  
 Bev Teller, CFRE  
 Alumni & Development Officer  
 bev.teller@algomau.ca

**Contributing Writers**  
 Michael Ward  
 Nadine Robinson  
 Rick McGee  
 Melanie Nolan

For information about this publication please contact:  
 Communications Department  
 Algoma University · 1520 Queen Street East  
 Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 2G4  
 (705) 949-2301 ext. 4120 · communications@algomau.ca

**Cover photo** - TOP ROW: Kaitlyn Teller, Olivia Whetung  
 BOTTOM ROW: Abimbola Olanrewaj, Michael Kendall and Daniel St. Jules.

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## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

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



I am proud to present a very special edition of Algoma U Today. This issue includes the first Annual Report to the Algoma University community.

It has been just over a year since Algoma University emerged as its own entity in the spectrum of Ontario universities, and since then the pace of change has been dizzying. From construction on campus, to the number of new students choosing Algoma U, to new programs and research partnerships - there can be no doubt good things are happening here.

In September, we welcomed the largest incoming class Algoma U has ever seen. Almost 400 new students from Sault Ste. Marie, across Ontario, and 17 other countries joined the Algoma U community this fall.

It was only days after the start of fall classes that construction on the next phase of campus development at Algoma University - the \$16 million Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre - took off. The foundation of the building will be in place before the snow flies and the doors will open March 2011. Visit [www.algomau.ca/biosciences-webcam](http://www.algomau.ca/biosciences-webcam) to watch the Centre take shape.

Next in the development pipeline are the Algoma University Centre for Creative Arts and Music, renovations and additions to the George Leach Centre, and new residence buildings. This is all possible because of the commitment of the municipal, federal and provincial governments, as well as unprecedented support from the community.

The Algoma University Foundation is about to embark on a major fundraising campaign to help finance the changes to the campus, and build the endowment to provide more scholarships and bursaries to deserving students. Generous donors have already had a tremendous impact on the campus and our students; we know that donations to this campaign will help Algoma University benefit students and the community far into the future. You will see more news about these efforts as time goes on, however, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions today.

As we head into the holiday season and look forward to the year ahead, I know that we are all hoping for a bright 2010. To all alumni, students, families, faculty, staff and generous supporters of Algoma University - best wishes for the holidays and a happy new year!





↑ IB students: Kaitlyn Teller, Stacey Devlin and Michael Kendall.

## ALGOMA U STEPPING STONE TO AMBITIOUS FUTURE FOR INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE GRADS

By: Rick McGee

After graduating with high honours from the International Baccalaureate Programme at Korah Collegiate last June, three local students enjoyed virtually unlimited educational options.

But opportunities elsewhere didn't appeal to Stacey Devlin, Michael Kendall and Kaitlyn Teller.

Each chose Algoma University.

As IB graduates, the trio has completed a rigorous two-year program recognized around the world.

The gifted teens appreciate how thoroughly IB readied them for further academic success.

*"We learned to do scholarly research and became more mature," Stacey says. "I definitely feel more prepared for university because of the IB Programme. I picked Algoma U over other universities because I think the quality will be better here. You can talk to your profs. You won't have to talk with teaching assistants, as is the case at some institutions."*

A mix of first-year courses will help decide a major, with English ranking as a good possibility. Stacey anticipates eventually pursuing post-graduate and, possibly, doctoral degrees.

Michael describes the IB program as *"being surrounded by people who really want to learn. We had a tightly knit group and a great communal atmosphere. I decided on Algoma U because I didn't have to leave town to get what I wanted. I like Algoma U's environment, the professors and the small class sizes. They're also building the new bioscience wing and that's important to a science guy. I'll be here when it opens."*

A four-year psychology degree and medical school are planned. Michael wants to become a psychiatrist. *"I like looking at the unknown and trying to develop an understanding of the brain and how we behave."*

The medical profession also appeals to Kaitlyn, who foresees a double concentration in biology and mathematics. *"Since Grade 5, I've wanted to be a doctor. I've always had a desire to help people and loved the sciences, especially biology and chemistry. Medical school will allow me to combine these passions."*

But for now, she is happy addressing more immediate priorities -- experiencing university while staying close to her family.

Because relationships matter, Algoma U fully complements Kaitlyn's values. *"It's more personalized here. Everyone is always reaching out and doing their best to help students at Algoma U."*

Korah IB Coordinator Patti Merelaid appreciates Algoma U's multi-faceted support. *"Our students gain from lessons in research techniques and use of the Arthur A. Wishart Library for research essays. Later, Algoma U recognizes our graduates with scholarships, bursaries and advanced standing."*

## THE HOME ADVANTAGE OF ALGOMA UNIVERSITY

By: Melanie Nolan



For **Daniel St. Jules**, choosing a university was easy. The Sault Ste. Marie boy wanted to obtain a high-quality education close to home. *“One of the reasons I decided on Algoma U was the convenience and financial savings that result from going to a local school,”* explains Daniel.

Daniel is a first-year student pursuing a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Political Science and Law and Justice. He elected to enrol in this program because he enjoys languages, public speaking, researching, and history. *“This degree seemed like the ideal combination of these elements,”* he says.

Daniel also runs his own business. WebEnuity is a web design, graphics design and marketing company that Daniel established this past summer as an entry for the Economic Development Corporation’s (EDC) Summer Company Program. Daniel’s venture was so successful that he won the EDC Enterprise Centre’s High School Business Plan Competition.

Daniel’s goals for his business further demonstrate his appreciation for his hometown. *“Although WebEnuity is*

*online-based, I try to attract local markets in order to give back to the community,”* says Daniel. *“I’m able to essentially create my own hours to work around my school schedule. For example, I have as much as three hours between classes. I can easily set up my laptop and work from the Speak Easy during that time.”*

Daniel enjoys the ease of access to student facilities with the Speak Easy and George Leach Centre located steps away from his classes.

Another benefit of Algoma U is the smaller class sizes, says Daniel. *“The idea of smaller class sizes appealed to me because it provides one-on-one time with professors.”*

The close-knit and friendly atmosphere of Algoma U also extends beyond the classroom. Daniel says he likes participating in the social activities offered at the school. *“Frosh Week was fun. It was a great chance to meet new people as well as hang out with old friends,”* he remarks. *“The events coordinated by the older students are great ice breakers and the friendly competition is a nice addition.”*

For Daniel St. Jules, there’s no place like home!

## FINDING AN “AUTHENTIC” LEARNING EXPERIENCE

By: Rick McGee



A Native event in Southern Ontario three years ago helped lead an outstanding Peterborough student to university studies in Sault Ste. Marie this fall.

**Olivia Whetung** chose Algoma University after completing Grade 12 at Peterborough Collegiate & Vocational School last spring. A graduating average nudging 90 per cent qualified her for a \$2,500 entrance scholarship to help offset first-year study costs.

*“I began thinking about Algoma U after visiting a booth the university had at a powwow in Toronto,”* Olivia recalls. *“I was in Grade 10 at the time. I wanted to study Anishinabek.”*

Olivia is a Mississauga Ojibwe and a member of Curve Lake First Nation near Peterborough.

*“I know a few words in the language, but I don’t really speak it yet,”* she says. *“I’m familiar with some animal names, but I can’t put sentences together. In my family, my grandfather and a great-uncle can speak the language.”*

Language courses are offered through Algoma U’s one-year Interdisciplinary Indigenous Learning Certificate program and

via the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) degree path.

Algoma U’s size also caught Olivia’s attention. *“I didn’t want to be a number on a list. It seems more authentic here. It seems like the place to be to learn. My first class had 10 students. That’s smaller than my high school classes. I could easily meet every student here.”*

But small doesn’t mean limited academic opportunities, Olivia quickly discovered.

*“I’m amazed with the diversity of courses at Algoma,”* she notes.

While taking language courses, Olivia is following another track towards a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

*“I’ve always been interested in the visual arts. Our teachers in high school encouraged exploration. But my studies at Algoma U are interest-driven. I haven’t decided yet what I want to do (as a career), just what I want to learn.”*

While studying a long way from home, Olivia’s new surroundings don’t seem totally foreign. *“The Sault and Peterborough are very similar in size and layout,”* she observes. *“But the Native population is much larger here.”*



## AN INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP OPENS NEW DOORS

By: Michael Ward

**Sergio Salvador** is a graduating student from the Universidad Tecnológica de León (UTL) in Mexico. He carries an academic average of 97% and speaks three languages, including fluent English. For his graduation requirements, Sergio needed to spend 10 weeks interning within his professional field. With his outstanding credentials, he received a full scholarship for an international placement. Sergio had the option to go to France, but he chose Algoma University instead.

*"I think that Algoma U is a great place; it has a great infrastructure. There are labs, a gym, tennis courts, a soccer field and other amenities. It is a really good environment for students, and I was kept busy with social activities. As for the city, I find it relaxed and comfortable. I was happy to stay with a Canadian family during my time here, as they introduced me to special activities such as camping, tubing and four-wheeling. I also liked the different events that the city holds."*

Sergio has been studying Mechatronics, a multi-disciplined field that includes electronics, mechanics, and programming.

For his internship, Sergio worked with Dr. George Townsend in Algoma U's Brain-Computer Interface lab.

*"I'm very happy to have worked with Dr. Townsend. I knew the theoretical aspects of my profession from studying at UTL, but to then gain the hands-on experience sharpened my skills and deepened my understanding of the material. My English improved considerably in both business and technical matters, and I think this will create more job opportunities for me in Mexico."*

*"Working with Dr. Townsend was excellent because he was always open to sharing his knowledge and expertise. He was always asking me if I wanted to learn more; he was like a mentor to me."*

After he graduates from UTL with his certificate in Mechatronics, Sergio plans to obtain a certificate in engineering and then approach multinational companies for employment. His experience of undertaking an internship in English will be a definite asset.

Sergio is happy to say that he feels he made "the best decision" in coming to Canada and Algoma U. Even an unseasonably cool and wet summer in Sault Ste. Marie didn't dampen his enthusiasm.



*"When I arrive back in Mexico, I will be speaking about my experiences to encourage other students to study abroad. Leaving your family and familiar surroundings allows you to gain many important experiences and to learn about becoming responsible and independent."*

## LAGOS TO SAULT STE. MARIE: A SMOOTH JOURNEY

By: Rick McGee



Having earned a degree in English at the mammoth (39,000 students) University of Lagos in Nigeria's teeming capital of 8,000,000 residents, **Bola Olanrewaj** wanted to continue studies in much different surroundings.

Academic opportunities at Algoma U in Sault Ste. Marie filled the bill.

*"I have a personal interest in learning,"* says the 22-year-old. *"I wanted something more professional and challenging. I want to practice as a lawyer. After studying Law and Justice at Algoma University for three years, I will attend law school for one additional year back home in Nigeria."*

Bola (shortened from Abimbola) reached Toronto in early September and came north a few days later. Adapting to new circumstances hasn't proven difficult, in part because she had carefully researched her eventual destination in advance.

*"Algoma U is very friendly, warm and welcoming,"* the international student says. *"I like it here. It's been fun for me. I thought I'd be homesick but I'm not. I like the way people receive you."*

The smaller community feels equally comfortable. *"I like the size and quiet of Sault*

*Ste. Marie,"* continues Bola. *"It will help me with my studies."*

In short order, the newcomer discovered a destination popular among locally rooted peers. *"I love going to Station Mall and shopping at the stores there."*

Academic life at Algoma U began smoothly, too. *"Classes started beautifully,"* notes Bola. *"The professors take the time to explain things so you can understand what they're teaching. I also like the course outlines so I know where I'm going and what's expected."*

Living on campus has facilitated making new friends. *"Getting to know people is easier in residence because you have roommates,"* she says.

While most of the transition has been easy, Bola admits to some anxiety in one area. *"I'm not looking forward to winter. I'm starting to get myself guarded for it."*

But snow and cold are minor inconveniences in the overall scheme of things. Bola recognizes her good fortune, as do her folks back home. *"My parents are excited that I came to Canada and am continuing my education here,"* she says, smiling happily.



# COMMUNITY REPORT



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada



**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

The **Algoma University College Foundation** raises funds for scholarships and bursaries, capital projects and special projects at Algoma University. First incorporated in 1982, the Foundation now manages an endowment of \$2.8 million. Dedicated volunteers helped the Foundation raise \$130,000 through the 2008-09 Annual Campaign, further assisting students and supporting special projects at Algoma University. In addition to helping to provide scholarships and bursaries to many students, volunteers and donors have helped support the Arthur A. Wishart Library, the Varsity Sports Program, and many other facets of the campus.

Recently the Foundation agreed to take on a bigger challenge. Algoma University is embarking on an ambitious campus expansion program that includes new buildings as well as significant investments in new degree programs. Research is also becoming more of a priority, and with the new Biosciences and Technology Centre due to open its doors in March 2011, Algoma University will host a number of new projects and partners. The university is also anticipating a continued increase in the number of students as Algoma University becomes better known across the province. As a direct result of these plans, the Foundation is preparing for an ambitious fundraising campaign to raise significant funds to assist Algoma University in reaching its goals.

This campaign requires commitment and support from volunteers, alumni, and the community. Brian Curran, President and CEO of the PUC has agreed to lead our efforts, and we are confident that we will reach our goal over the next three years. The provincial government has provided a tremendous vote of confidence in our community by creating Algoma University as a stand-alone institution and by continuing to invest in Sault Ste. Marie's university. Now it is up to our community to carry forward this commitment and help build Algoma University, Sault Ste. Marie's university, for our future.

We wish to thank the members of the Board of Directors, the volunteer committees and the staff who are all working together on these campaigns, and we look forward to celebrating many successes as we stride forward to our goal.

**Mark Lajambe**  
*Chair, Algoma University Foundation*

**Deborah Loosemore, CFRE**  
*Executive Director, Algoma University Foundation*



Mark Lajambe



Deborah Loosemore

**VOLUNTEERS (2008-2009)**

We are proud to list the following volunteers who have so kindly given of their time and talents. Their dedication and enthusiasm are a vital part of the engine of change and growth that is Algoma University and its Foundation. We thank them for their commitment and support.

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| <i>Chair:</i> Andrew Ross      | Les Dunbar       | Bruce Lenton    | Suzanne Perigord | <i>Student Reps</i> - Jennifer Perron |
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*Ex-Officio* - Deborah Loosemore  
 - Dr. Celia Ross

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- |                          |                                       |
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| Rob Cohen                | Rob Wildman                           |
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| Vincent Greco            | <i>Ex-Officio</i> - Deborah Loosemore |
| Joe Krmptoch             |                                       |

\*Resigned or completed term





# ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

## ...Supporting Algoma U Students

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

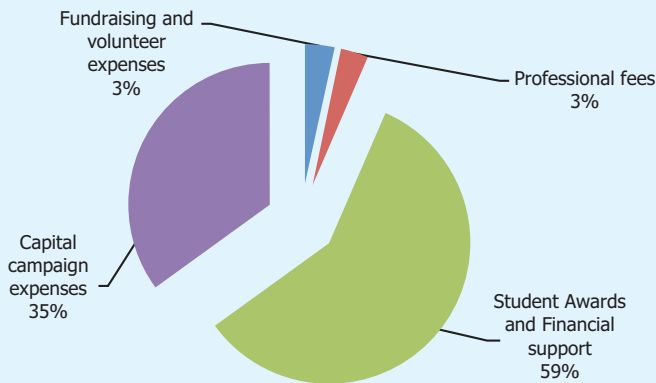
The **Algoma U Foundation** was created in 1981, mandated to provide scholarships and bursaries to Algoma U students, fund capital improvements to the campus and fund other special projects at Algoma U.

The Algoma U Foundation Board and administration work together to manage the assets of the Foundation which are raised through the annual campaign, special events, endowed funds and capital campaign projects. Collectively these funds are used to support our students' success.

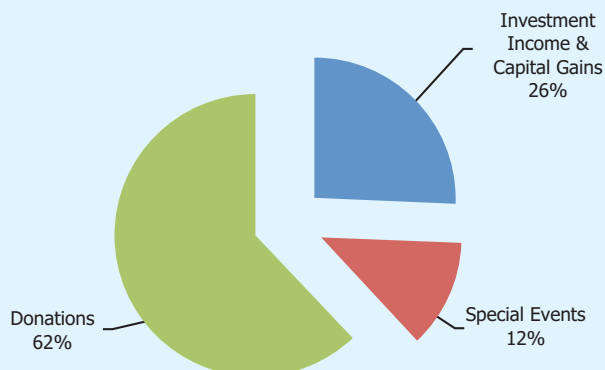
The Foundation leads the Annual Campaign, raising funds each year to support scholarships and bursaries, the Arthur A. Wishart Library and special projects and programs like varsity sports. Alumni, employees, students and their families and members of the community donate generously every year. Thanks to these contributions, Algoma University is able to support students and maintain a great learning environment.

The Algoma U Foundation is embarking on a major philanthropic campaign to build significant financial support for campus development and growth, research projects, artistic programs, and financial support for students. *Essential Elements: The Campaign for Algoma U* is a direct result of the university's plan to expand enrolment and develop capital infrastructure, and will provide a solid foundation of financial stability while building on strong community partnership opportunities.

### Algoma U Foundation 2008-09 Expenses



### Algoma U Foundation 2008-09 Revenue



*Essential Elements* will raise funds in support of three goal priority areas:

- Support university-led science research and fund state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment for university researchers and students in the new Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre, scheduled for completion March 2011. With the infusion of funding from the provincial and federal governments to construct the building, this initiative will help bring together teaching, research and commercial activities in a dynamic new structure.
- Provide funds to support campus expansion and arts education centered in the new Algoma University Centre for Creative Arts and Music, to be built adjacent to the historic Shingwauk Hall. The new academic building will provide Algoma University with the infrastructure necessary to expand and develop its Fine Arts and Music programs, including the new and growing Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and provide a home for its longstanding partner, the Algoma Conservatory of Music.
- Invest in students and build for the future by growing the University's endowment. A well-funded scholarship and bursary program is instrumental in making Algoma U even more inviting to talented students, and helping students with financial limitations to continue their education.

Gifts to the campaign will help Algoma University achieve its goals, and provides the essentials elements for a strong, growing university community. The Foundation invites you to learn more about this transformative opportunity by contacting **Virginia Zinser, Campaign Director** at 705-949-2301, ext 4123 or by email: [virginia.zinser@algomau.ca](mailto:virginia.zinser@algomau.ca)

## DONOR PROFILES

### JOHN R. RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

The **John R. Rhodes Scholarship** was established in 1979 through the generous support of friends of the late John Rhodes and his family. This prestigious scholarship is offered to students entering their first year of university studies who have demonstrated academic achievement and community leadership while involved in political, social, or academic activities. Each year the Algoma U Foundation hosts the John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner to raise funds to support the John R. Rhodes Scholarship.

### ASKIN FAMILY BURSARY

The **Askin Family Bursary** was established by Muriel Askin, a committed community activist and dedicated volunteer. Born and raised in Sault Ste. Marie, Mrs. Askin is a passionate supporter of the Sault. She hopes to help encourage families and young people to work and raise their families here.

### SCOTIABANK STUDENT ASSISTANCE

Thanks to a generous donation from **Scotiabank Canada**, this fund provides awards annually to Anishinaabe (First Nation, Métis, or Inuit) students enrolled full-time in the Business Administration program. Candidates must show a demonstrated financial need and have an academic average of 70% or better.



**Name:** Julia Duncan  
**Program of Study:** BA English  
**Bursary Received:** John R. Rhodes Scholarship  
**Impact of bursary:** This scholarship has meant a great deal to me and has significantly assisted me in my studies at Algoma University. It has encouraged me during my undergraduate program and I would like to thank all those who have contributed to the John R. Rhodes Scholarship for your interest in education.



**Name:** Jennifer Perron  
**Program of Study:** BBA, Marketing & Human Resources (Hons)  
**Bursary Received:** Scotiabank Student Assistance Award  
**Impact of bursary:** With the increasing cost of tuition, I consider myself very fortunate to receive any kind of financial reward for my studies. If I did not receive this award I would not be able to participate as a representative on the student union and would most likely have to find part time employment that could interfere with my academic standing. With this award I was able to pay for textbooks.

Scotiabank encourages its employees to volunteer, fundraise and get involved in their communities. They have created scholarships and bursaries with institutions across Canada and internationally that financially support women, the disabled and minorities studying business.

I hope that someday I have the means to do what they have done for me.

*Students Say Thank You*



### ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION ENDOWED FUNDS

*Our sincerest appreciation to the following individuals who have generously donated to the following endowed bursary funds in 2008-2009.*

**Alexander M. Ross Bursary**

Alexander M. Ross

**Algoma U Student Humanitarian Award,  
in memory of Dr. G. E. Mohamed**

Sanford Fleming  
Henry Leung  
Noble F. Lalbiharie  
Dominic Tang  
Sharon Indrevold  
Laurie L. Hill  
Lois Nelder  
Adebusola O. Onayemi  
Gordon Wong  
Ray Smith  
Armand Weaver  
W.E. Waymouth  
Myrtle Indrevold  
George Shunock  
Marc Pearce  
Gail Faurschou  
Nilo Fabbro  
Donald MacWilliam  
Joyce Mohamed

**Askin Family Bursary**

Muriel Askin

**Dr. Ken McLarty Research Award**

Elsie Tyler  
Carolyn McLarty

**Gerald E. Nori, Q.C. Student Assistance Fund**

David M. Paciocco

**Kenneth and Colleen Moodie Scholarship**

Colleen C. Moodie  
Maija Craig

**Living Learning Student Assistance Fund**

Paul Adams

**Paul & Bricken Dalseg, Pioneers of Lake-of-the-Woods  
Student Award**

Elmer Tuominen  
Carol Neave

**The Hogg Family Endowment for the Carolyn Harrington Award**

David R. Taylor

**The Peter McGregor Memorial Award**

Nancy Butler  
Rob McGregor  
Darrell Powell

### ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION ENDOWED FUNDS

*Our sincerest appreciation to the thoughtful and generous donors who have established the following endowed bursary funds.*

Alexander M. Ross Bursary  
Algoma U Student Humanitarian Award,  
in memory of Dr. G. E. Mohamed  
Askin Family Bursary  
Brookfield Power First Nations Environmental Science Student Award  
Carl J. Sanders Scholarship  
Dr. Edwin Giesbrecht Mathematics Award  
Dr. Jong You Student Award  
Dr. Ken McLarty Research Award  
Dr. Robert Ewing Geography Award  
Dr. Robert V. d'Amato Student Award, established by Theatre Algoma  
Edward & Frank McGrath Award  
Edward & Frank McGrath Award of Excellence  
Essar Student Award  
Evan D. Young Memorial Award  
Gerald E. Nori, Q.C. Student Assistance Fund  
Gloria Jean Grossett Student Award  
Great-West Life Student Assistance Fund  
Great-West Life Student Assistance Fund for Indigenous Students  
Indigenous Students Assistance Fund  
Johanna Bischooping Award  
John Deakin Buckley Walton Scholarship  
John Hayes Jenkinson, B.E.M., Memorial Scholarships in History

John R. Rhodes Scholarship Fund  
Judge John Hay McDonald & Mrs. Vera McDonald Memorial Scholarship  
Judge M.G. Gould Student Award  
Katherine Jean Dunster Student Award  
Kenneth and Colleen Moodie Scholarship  
Living Learning Student Assistance Fund  
Métis Nation of Ontario Award  
Paul & Bricken Dalseg, Pioneers of Lake-of-the-Woods Student Award  
Peggy & Willmont MacDonnell Scholarship  
Sar-Gin Developments (Sault) Ltd. Student Award  
Sault Recreation Hockey Association Fun through Recreation Award  
Scotiabank International Merit Scholarship  
Scotiabank Student Assistance Fund  
Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students Association Student Fund  
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## 2008 - 2009 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

We take this opportunity to thank the individuals, corporations, businesses, organizations and foundations who donated to the Algoma U Foundation's Annual Campaign in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

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The Algoma U Fund provides funding to Algoma University where it is most needed.

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### ALGOMA U THUNDERBIRD VARSITY SPORTS PROGRAM

Gifts to the Varsity Sports Program provide uniforms, equipment and travel support to Algoma U's student athletes.

#### T-Bird Team Champion

*(Donations of \$1,000+)*

Dr. Celia Ross

#### T-Bird Game Champion

*(Donations of \$500 - \$999)*

Anonymous (1)

#### T-Bird Champion

*(Donation of \$250 - \$499)*

Brian Leahy  
 Anonymous (1)

#### T-Bird Fan

*(Donations of \$1 - \$249)*

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### ANNUAL CAMPAIGN NAMED STUDENT AWARDS

We are pleased to recognize the following donors who have provided non-endowed annual scholarship or bursary awards to Algoma U students.

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### IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS

Donations were made to the Algoma U Foundation to honour the memory of:

Myrtle Kell      Ian Nixon      Harry Wolfe

### GRAD CLASS CAMPAIGN - Class of 2009

Congratulations and thank you to the following members of the Class of 2009 who have chosen to commemorate their graduation from Algoma U with a donation to the Class of 2009 Grad Gift.

Paul Casola	Deborah Susan Hohenadel	Wesley Ontonovich	Mohammad E. Shah	Michael Wozny
Vern Cheechoo	MD. Sariful Islam	Suzanne L. Priddle-Luck	Marisa Stefano	Giordan Zin
Christopher Farrell	Brent King	Ashley Pronk		

**ALGOMA UNIVERSITY CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**June 9, 2008**

Thank you to all of the participants, sponsors, prize donors, and volunteers who made the 2008 Algoma University Classic Golf Tournament, held at the beautiful Crimson Ridge Golf Course, such a huge success. Over \$31,500 was raised to support Algoma University's Scholarships & Bursaries Program. These funds help to provide financial awards to qualifying students. Now in its 7th year, the Algoma University Classic Golf Tournament has raised \$154,000 to assist post-secondary students with their educational goals. THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!



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*This report acknowledges donations to the Algoma U Foundation for the period of May 1, 2008 to April 30, 2009. Donors' names have been listed with their permission. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report, errors and omissions may occur. Please accept our apologies and bring any errors to the attention of the Advancement and External Relations Department by calling (705) 949-2301, ext 4125, so we may correct our records.*



## ALGOMA UNIVERSITY: FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

By: Nadine Robinson

Professor **Tom McDowell** followed in his mother's and grandmother's footsteps by attending Algoma U.

When he arrived, admittedly he was a student with a view towards careerism: *"the journey wasn't what I was interested in; I was focused on the destination."* It wasn't until his second year that a spark was lit, causing him to change his life plans. *"It was nothing that I expected or intended - but a professor helped me understand the value of knowledge for itself,"* said McDowell who is now in his third year of full-time teaching in the Law & Politics program. *"Had I not gone to Algoma U, I probably wouldn't have considered the academic route."*

His interest in political science, and perhaps learning and teaching, was also influenced by his family: *"Some of my most important formative experiences happened around the dinner table with my grandmother and mother. My grandmother talked politics all the time, and I wanted to participate. In order to do that competently, I had to learn what they were talking about."*

McDowell's grandmother, Margaret Chasty, as part of the industrial class, could not gain access to university in Glasgow in the 1940s. She jumped at the chance later in life to attend Algoma U to study English and French.

His mother, Barbara, also chose Algoma U, gravitating towards psychology and social welfare. She then went on to teacher's college and became an elementary school teacher. *"The family was very proud of her - recognizing the challenge of returning to school after being away for a decade and a half."*



After Algoma U, McDowell completed his final year of study at Laurentian and noted that he was well prepared upon his arrival. *"We think we are small and sometimes underestimate ourselves, but we pack a good punch."*

A Masters degree in Political Science specializing in political theory followed from the University of Western Ontario. Then, a sizeable Ontario graduate scholarship led McDowell to a Masters in Journalism, after

which he was accepted into the prestigious Ontario Legislative Internship Programme before returning to Algoma U, this time to teach.

*"Algoma University is a special place with a special mission. More so than most universities, it performs an extraordinarily important community function. It's an honour to come back and have the chance to give back some of what was given to my family and me."*



↑ Josh and Danae (Dufour) Ingram and Julia Dufour.

After finishing an Honours Psychology degree next spring, Danae will move into speech pathology graduate studies, probably at the University of Western Ontario. A profession dedicated to helping others fits naturally. Through her church, Bethel Bible Chapel, Danae worked for two months as a dormitory mother at a Zambian orphanage.

Danae met her husband Josh Ingram at Algoma U. He will graduate next spring, too, with an Honours English degree. The couple was married last June in a ceremony attended by some of their professors.

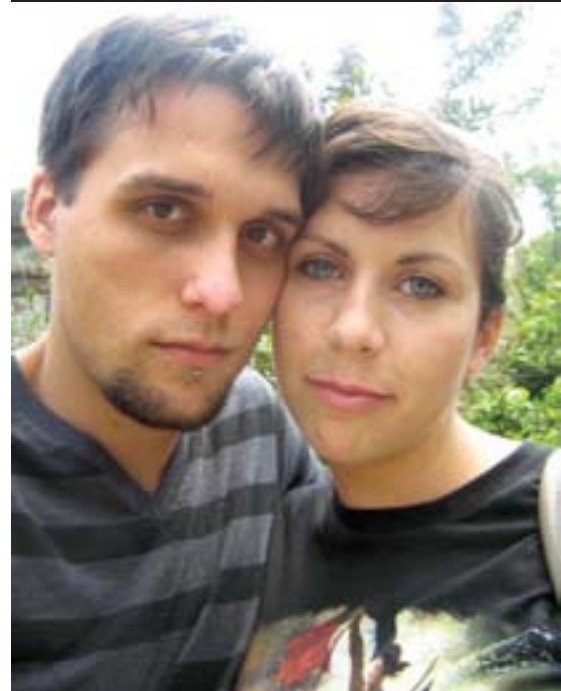
Luke Dufour started the tradition by enrolling at Algoma in 2003.

*"I decided to follow my passion and do a degree in literature and history," the Algoma U alumnus recalls. "I really liked the professors and the high standards they set. My professors taught me how to see the world differently and to think critically."*

Along the way, an exchange opportunity allowed Luke to earn some credits at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia.

Other travels followed in 2007 when Luke and his wife Rebekah (Verdone) Dufour - who also graduated in Honours English from Algoma U - undertook social work assignments in the Dominican Republic through New Horizons Ministries. *"The experience changed our lives," he says. "We grew up more in two years than we would have otherwise."*

↓ Luke and Rebekah (Verdone) Dufour.



## FAMILY TIES

By: Rick McGee

A local family's growing tradition -- with Algoma University at its centre -- added another chapter this fall.

Julia Dufour followed two of her siblings in choosing the hometown degree option.

*"I always knew I'd go to Algoma U," the Korah Collegiate graduate says. "The thing that decided it was the convenience of staying at home, saving money and having one-on-one time with my professors."*

Julia hopes her Algoma U path will include an international component. *"I'll take English*

*as my major and I want to go on an exchange program that would allow me to go to Scotland or England."*

After completing an Honours B.A., Julia plans to enter a post-graduate journalism program at Ryerson University, en route to a career in news or writing about entertainment.

While Julia has only begun her Algoma U journey, older sister Danae (Dufour) Ingram is nearing the end of hers.

Unlike Julia, she considered attending university beyond Sault Ste. Marie. But the availability of major financial savings persuaded her to try Algoma U. *"And I'm glad I did," Danae says now. "I was really impressed with how my first year went."*



## GAMING GRADUATE GLAD TO BE A PART OF A NEW CHAPTER FOR ALGOMA

By: Melanie Nolan

When **Chris Barnett** applied to Algoma University's Masters degree program in Computer Games Technology in September 2007, he wanted the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills required to succeed in today's competitive economy and a chance to be a part of Algoma U history.

The specialized Masters program is offered through the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland. Students study at a high-tech games lab at Algoma U and receive live instruction via video conference from professors in Scotland.

Algoma U saw the first set of graduates from the program this summer. Chris was a part of the inaugural class.

*"I chose Algoma University because it offered a degree that I could not obtain anywhere else in Canada,"* explains Chris. *"It was also being hosted for the first time in the newly renovated section of the university so it felt as if we were being given the opportunity to break new ground."*

With courses ranging from Games Programming to Games Marketplace, the degree offers students everything they need to know to excel in the booming computer gaming industry.

Although Chris enjoyed the independent learning opportunities that the program provided, he was also impressed with the level of support offered to students. Even with instructors on another continent, help was never too far away.

*"I liked the fact that when I was working after traditional office hours, our coordinator in Sault Ste. Marie was available to assist us, on-site, almost every day until the university closed."*

*"This was augmented by the massive amount of knowledge and expertise that our coordinator brought to the table and the fact that our professors were a simple e-mail or Skype call away."*

Chris says his education from Algoma U has equipped him with the tools needed to succeed in the information technology field. Now employed as a Security Analyst for the Ontario Lottery and Gaming (OLG) Corporation, Chris is responsible for monitoring and assessing vulnerabilities, risk and incoming threats to OLG's IT infrastructure.

Chris' experience preparing his dissertation was especially valuable in helping him develop the skills required to meet the challenges of his workplace.

*"The research involved in my dissertation has assisted me in being able to critically assess any projects to which I am assigned. This allows me to perform more thorough investigations and more detailed assessments."*



Chris also learned a lot from the Game Design and Development course where students are grouped in teams to develop a full one-level game prototype.

*"It was an interesting experience and demonstrated the importance of project communication and time management,"* explains Chris.

Chris says he would recommend Algoma University to people who desire smaller class sizes and an atmosphere where your professor knows who you are, even if they are half way across the globe!

## MOVING DOWN UNDER

By: Michael Ward

**Krista Ciotti** has always loved to travel, so it's perhaps no surprise that a chance meeting in Greece led to her moving to the land down under.

Since 2007 Krista has lived and worked in Sydney Australia, famous for being home to Bondi Beach, the Sydney Opera House and the world's largest natural harbour. She is employed with 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment which distributes all of FOX's DVD and Blu-Ray titles across Australia and New Zealand.

Krista is an Inventory Analyst, charged with overseeing the specialty retailer channel, the equivalent to Canadian stores such as Future Shop, HMV and Music World. She has found the skills learned during Algoma U's BBA program to be very useful during the course of her work.

*"I think I approach every situation similarly to how we would evaluate a business case for school. Look for all the variables,*

*potential solutions and then build the recommendation."*

A graduate of St. Mary's College in Sault Ste. Marie, Krista initially decided to attend Algoma U for financial reasons but after attending her first year her perspective quickly changed.

*"I think what started as a money-saving idea turned into the best decision I ever made. By staying local I was able to get a part-time job at the OLG, which ended up being my full-time employer once I graduated. Also, by being at a smaller institution you are able to build contacts and relationships with people whom you will definitely need in your adult life."*

Krista was active in university life, being elected Events Coordinator for students' council and participating on a number of university committees. She was a part of the construction of a new wing of residence and contributed to the development of the student orientation program. Her students' council also organized a beach bash party involving indoor hot tubs, which Krista believes to have been a first. She says her time at Algoma U was an exciting period for the university. She was proud to be a part of it.

*"My experiences from my four years there are lasting and I believe they have shaped me into the person I am today. I am very proud of my education and experiences at Algoma U and I would recommend it to anyone."*





# algomaU Convocation 2009

Algoma University celebrated its inaugural graduating class as an independent university on Saturday, July 13th. Approximately sixty students elected to receive degrees granted by Algoma U, while another one hundred had their degrees conferred by Laurentian University.

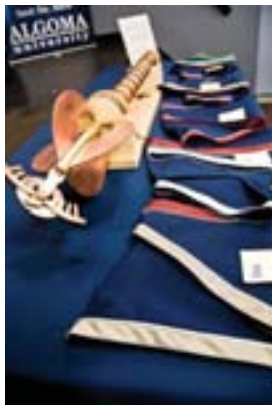
The students who chose to graduate with Algoma University degrees wore new hoods designating their program of study. This year's class includes the first graduates in the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree program, the specialized Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with specialization in Human Resources. Graduating students in the Masters of Science in Computer Games Technology program, who received their degrees from the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland, were also acknowledged by Algoma U for their achievements.



Algoma University President Dr. Celia Ross also wore new Presidential regalia. The Presidential regalia incorporates the Algoma University colours of navy blue and bloodroot with four chevron bars on the sleeve. The President's regalia is unique among academic vestments in that it symbolizes the President's rank and authority as the chief official of the institution.

A new university mace, a traditional symbol of authority and knowledge representing the need to protect and nurture the search for knowledge, was introduced as an important ceremonial symbol of

Algoma University. The Mace was designed and fabricated by local artist Michael Burtch. Crafted in bird's eye maple, black walnut, copper, and brass, each aspect of the mace represents an important characteristic of Algoma University. The shaft reflects the strength and endurance of an architectural column and is ringed in a fashion similar to medieval columns. The drums of the shaft are made of bird's eye maple, a wood that is rare, has mysterious origins and is resilient. The black walnut of the ring ornamentation and 'capital' provides tonal accent to the maple and represents a wood that was plentiful throughout the Great Lakes Basin area in pre-Columbian times. The head of the Mace is executed in copper and brass. Copper has played an important role in every culture, specifically in First Nation communities. It is the sign for earth and fire and the conductor of spiritual energy. Finally, the head is crowned with the copper Thunderbird emblematic to Algoma University.





**Professor Jim Gibson - Distinguished Faculty Award**

Professor Jim Gibson has devoted virtually his entire professional career to Algoma University. He earned his Bachelor of Arts and his Master of Arts from the University of Manitoba. Professor Gibson has been a major participant in the university's development. Over the past 40 years, he has served on every major committee and has assumed leadership in many forms, including the position of Academic Dean for 7 years and Acting President for 6 months. Aside from his university experiences he has been an active member of the community participating on many committees and boards around Sault Ste. Marie.

As a professor in the Department of English and Language studies, his teaching has been exemplary. He is deeply committed to teaching, learning, and maintaining high academic standards for our students. He has been strengthening minds and inspiring student for four decades.



↑ From left: Dr. Arthur H. Perlini, Academic Dean, Algoma University; Professor Jim Gibson and Dr. Gayle Broad.



**← Les Dunbar - Distinguished Alumni Award**

Les Dunbar, BA 1980 (Economics) was awarded the 2009 Algoma U Distinguished Alumni Award. Les is an Investment Advisor with Edward Jones. A leader in his field, Les became Edward Jones' first Limited Partner in Canada in 1995. In 2002 he was one of 20 people selected (out of 9000 candidates) to receive Edward Jones' Extraordinaire Mentor Award.

A committed volunteer, Les believes in giving back to his community. Les has been actively involved with many organizations including the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Downtown Rotary Club, and the United Way. His volunteer activity has been recognized with numerous awards, including the Trillium National Award and the 2006 City of Sault Ste. Marie Mayor's Award.

Committed to the success of Algoma University, Les is an active volunteer on many Algoma U committees. He is a member of the Algoma University Board of Governors, the Algoma U Foundation Board and the Alumni Council.

**Nevin Buconjic - Alumni Achievement Award →**

Nevin Buconjic, BA (Computer Science) is the recipient of the 2009 Algoma U Alumni Achievement Award.


A Strategic Business Advisor with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Nevin also has a B.Sc. in Marketing and Management, a MBA and Economic Developer's Certification (2007).

While working on his Accelerated Degree in Computer Science in 2001 at Algoma U, Nevin was struck by the lack of enthusiasm that elementary age students had for computers. Nevin set out to change their attitudes and interests by teaching young people skills in web-design and video game design. His passion for computers and entrepreneurship led Nevin to create Adventures in Computing summer camps, now in its 9th year.

Over the years, Nevin has mentored, taught and worked with hundreds of students and young people in the topics of entrepreneurship, computers and technology. He currently writes a technology column for Fresh Magazine and teaches both computer and business courses at Algoma U and Sault College.







# Creating a legacy by investing in futures

- Your legacy lives on through your bequest. With a bequest of \$20,000 or more, you can create an endowed fund that will benefit Algoma University in perpetuity.
- Your estate can benefit from considerable tax savings. Gifts made through your will provide charitable tax credits that can offset taxes owed that would otherwise diminish the value of your estate.

There are different types of bequests for you to consider:

- A general bequest allows you to designate a specific amount of money to Algoma University.
- A residual bequest allows you to direct all or a percentage of the remaining estate to Algoma University, after debts and other bequests have been paid.
- You may choose to make a specific bequest to Algoma University. Bequests can also be made in the form of stocks.
- A contingent bequest is a gift that is left to a secondary beneficiary. If the

first beneficiary is unable to receive the gift, it is directed accordingly to the secondary beneficiary.

For information on how you can leave your legacy, and possibly receive considerable tax benefits, please complete the following form and return it to:

**Deborah Loosemore, CFRE,**  
Executive Director  
Algoma University Foundation  
1520 Queen St. E.  
Sault Ste Marie, ON P6A 2G4  
Ph: (705) 949-2301, Ext. 4115

**A** planned gift to charity through your will ensures that the causes and organizations you have deemed important during your lifetime continue to benefit from your support in perpetuity.

A bequest is a planned gift made through your will.

Why consider a bequest

- A bequest provides you the opportunity to make a substantial gift to Algoma University in the future without diminishing your assets today.

Your will is an important legal document that allows you to continue to care for the people, causes and interests that have mattered most to you during your lifetime. A bequest to Algoma University will provide acknowledgement of the importance you have placed on post-secondary education. Your memory will live on in perpetuity through your gift and will help students in years to come.

Please provide me with information on making a planned gift to Algoma University through:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bequests        | <input type="checkbox"/> Securities                  |
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- I have already included Algoma University in my estate planning and/or will.

*Algoma University encourages you to explore the options that best suit your personal philanthropic goals. The information provided will outline the benefits of making a planned gift to Algoma University. We strongly recommend that you consult with your financial and/or legal advisor prior to making your gift to determine specific tax advantages and requirements.*

**ALGOMA**  
university



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



Bev Teller, CFRE,  
Alumni & Development Officer

This is the time of year when students and their families pour over view books and course calendars, attend information sessions and fairs, scour websites and engage in endless discussions about post-secondary education options. I remember it well, because this time last year our family was engaged in the same process.

Choosing a university is a decision that is not taken lightly. A great deal of time and effort goes into researching programs, location, scholarships, fees - the list goes on and on. In the end we hope our children make the choice that is best for them and one that suits their career goals.

Algoma University has a lot to offer students. I hear this from alumni who often speak about the many opportunities Algoma U provided them, how important it was for them as students to know their professors and for their professors to know them. Alumni tell me the classroom was the community and the community was the classroom, and as students they had opportunities to work directly with

professionals in their chosen field.

Algoma University is a growing institution and it is an exciting place to be. A little over a year ago we became Ontario's newest university. This fall we welcomed Algoma University's graduating class of 2013 and in four years time I look forward to welcoming these students to the Algoma University Alumni family.

Convocation is such a special time, for graduates and their families, and also for the faculty and staff who have worked with and supported these students through their years of studies. It's a time to reflect on all of the hard work and to celebrate each one's accomplishments. I am particularly looking forward to Convocation 2013 when I have the opportunity to welcome my daughter to the Algoma University Alumni Family and to celebrate her achievements.

Yes after months of research, preparation and careful review of all of her options and choices - my daughter chose to attend Algoma University because it was right for her. As a parent, I couldn't be more pleased!

### Algoma University - You'll Love It Here!

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

## ALGOMA U ALUMNI UPDATES, NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS 2009

**Tanya Running**, BA 1999 (Psychology) lives in Sault Ste. Marie. She and her husband Randy, have two boys, ages 3 1/2 and 3 months. Tanya is a very busy person. She works for Sault College as a Student Recruitment Officer and in her spare time she enjoys demonstrating and selling products for Pampered Chef.

**Maria La Tassa**, BA 1982 (Modern Languages) is a French Teacher with the Algoma District School Board. Maria has taught for 25 years and is currently teaching at Northern Heights Public School. Maria fondly remembers her days at Algoma U and is excited at how the university has grown - especially now that her son Vincent is also a student at Algoma University. Vincent is carrying on the tradition of his mother's (and one day to be his) alma mater.

**Jody Rebek-DiCerbo**, BBA 1997 and her husband Lorenzo DiCerbo welcomed their first child, a baby boy, on June 21, 2009. Mateo Lorenzo DiCerbo arrived as a special Father's Day blessing, weighing 7 lbs., 9 oz. and measuring 20 inches. Congratulations Jody and Lorenzo!

**Christopher Los**, BA Hons 2007 (History) is pursuing his master of arts studies at the University of Guelph in History. Christopher was recently awarded one of the Social

Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada's awards - the J. Armand Bombardier CGS Master's Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship, valued at \$17,500, is part of the Government of Canada's new Canada Graduate Scholarships program which supports 2,000 doctoral students and 2,000 master's students each year. *"The J. Armand Bombardier CGS Master's programs seeks to develop research skills and assist in the training of highly qualified personnel by supporting students in the social sciences and humanities who demonstrate a high standard of achievement in undergraduate and early graduate studies. This program, together with the SSHRC Doctoral Awards and Postdoctoral Fellowships programs, helps train Canada's researchers and leaders of tomorrow."*

**Barbara (Gioia) Naccarato**, BA 2000 (Psychology) and her husband Jason are pleased to welcome the arrival of their first child, a precious little girl, Karmyn Emma. Karmyn was born in Windsor, ON, on May 22, 2009, weighing 7 lbs., 4 ozs. Congratulations to the Naccarato family!

**Matt Shoemaker**, BA, 2009 (Political Science) is continuing his education at the University of Ottawa. Matt is continuing his studies in law and plans on returning to Sault Ste. Marie in the future to practice law.

FIND US ON **facebook** !

**Algoma University Alumni** now have an official page on **Facebook**. We've added graduation pictures and dozens of other photos from days gone by at Algoma U, and we'll continue to add photos from the archives. We'll also be updating the page with Alumni news and events, and keeping alumni informed about current news from Algoma U. Visit the page, become a fan and connect with old friends!

Go to:

[www.facebook.com/algomau.alumni](http://www.facebook.com/algomau.alumni)

Or visit: [www.algomau.ca/alumni](http://www.algomau.ca/alumni) and follow the Facebook link.



## LIFELONG LEARNING

Shirley Horn, B.A. Fine Arts

By: Nadine Robinson

A path of lifelong learning bonds Shirley Horn to Algoma University. She first attended the Shingwauk Residential School, located on what is today Algoma University's campus, at age six. Over 55 years later Horn graduated from Algoma U with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with honours, in the spring of 2009.

When she crossed the stage, her family cheered and snapped photos from the audience. Among those present were her daughter, Jutta Horn, a CESD graduate from Algoma University, and great granddaughter Alicia, whom Horn hopes to one day see draped in Algoma University's colours at her own graduation.

The oldest in her class, she remembers being treated as an equal, but enjoyed giving grandmotherly advice to her younger classmates. *"They inspired me and I believe I inspired them. We all supported each other and that was great! I encourage anyone, any race, any age, or station in life to move on, learn new things, and embellish their passions. Algoma University is a great place to do so."*

Horn raves about her time at Algoma U. *"It was a great experience. The class size allows you to build relationships and lasting friendships with students and professors."*

Speaking about her choice of degree program she said: *"I was always interested in art, and recognized I had some talent, but wanted to get the formal education. Algoma University was the right choice for me. I believe it was my destiny to revisit it. It has a lot to offer."*

Horn is drawn to sculpture with natural materials, but sees her future creative work focused on producing art that reflects her residential school experiences.



She hopes to take her art into the communities to speak about how she addresses her feelings, and how people can choose to move forward in a positive, non-destructive manner. *"It's important that the truth is told - and no one can tell it for us."* She recently had her first opportunity to show some of her paintings and drawings on campus, speaking about her experience to incoming frosh.

As one of the founders of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and the National Residential School Survivor Society, Horn understands the importance of the healing process and says: *"I have a history here. This place is an incredible part of my journey and it has led me to where I am today... I will always have a relationship with Algoma University."*





# ALGOMA

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## university

UNIVERSITY REPORT

# *New Beginnings*



SAULT STE. MARIE, ONTARIO, CANADA



Dr. Celia Ross  
President, Algoma University

Fall 2009 marked the arrival of the second cohort of students to an independent Algoma University. We are truly in a transformational moment of our history, with 30% of our current students completing their Laurentian degree and 70% of students looking forward to receiving an Algoma University degree.

On behalf of the Board of Governors and the Senate of Algoma University, we thank all the employees of Algoma University for the dedication and talent they have displayed as we made a smooth and seamless transition from university college to independent university. Through membership in provincial and national university organizations, we are maintaining the close contact with Laurentian University that we have enjoyed over the years, and are also building relationships with other Ontario and Canadian universities.

In order to provide the best possible student experience, with breadth and depth of areas of study, exciting research and stimulating links to the community, we have set the goal of growing to about 3,500 students over the next years. Our 7.5% student enrolment growth this year keeps us well on the path to achieving that goal.



Brady Irwin  
Chair of the Algoma University Board  
of Governors

We anticipate notable growth over the next few years in science enrolments, as students see the impact of the completion of the BioSciences and Technology Building in 2011, the introduction of the honours year in Biology, the start of new research initiatives around Invasive Species and Health Informatics, the expansion of the business incubator on campus and the growth of activities in computer games and health.

Future construction plans include a new Algoma University Centre for Fine Arts and Music, to be attached to the north side of Shingwauk Hall beside the Shingwauk Auditorium. This new wing will support growth in Fine Arts, giving our BFA students excellent studio space for painting, drawing and sculpting.

Looking further into the future, student growth will also result from activities of the Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig. Building on the sacred covenant that we signed with the Shingwauk Education Trust in 2006, Algoma University looks forward to introducing a four-year BA in Anishinaabe Studies, to participating in an Anishinaabe library and archives project, to the possible future construction of a learning centre to house Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, and to our two institutions becoming a widely-recognized and respected centre for Anishinaabe learning.

Algoma University will grow with our community, choosing areas of specialization that build on community strengths. All our newer buildings welcome the community to the university – the ICT Wing was constructed to house PUC Telecom and the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre – the BioSciences and Technology Building will include the Innovation Centre and many partnered activities – the Algoma University Centre for Fine Arts and Music is being designed to house the Algoma Conservatory of Music in purpose-built space.

As we forge our new identity as Ontario's nineteenth university, we greatly appreciate the strong role alumni continue to play.

A big thank-you – *chi-miigwetch* – to the extended Algoma U family for your on-going support. Together we move forward with confidence and pride as Ontario's newest university.

Dr. Celia Ross  
President  
Algoma University

Brady Irwin  
Chair  
Algoma University Board of Governors

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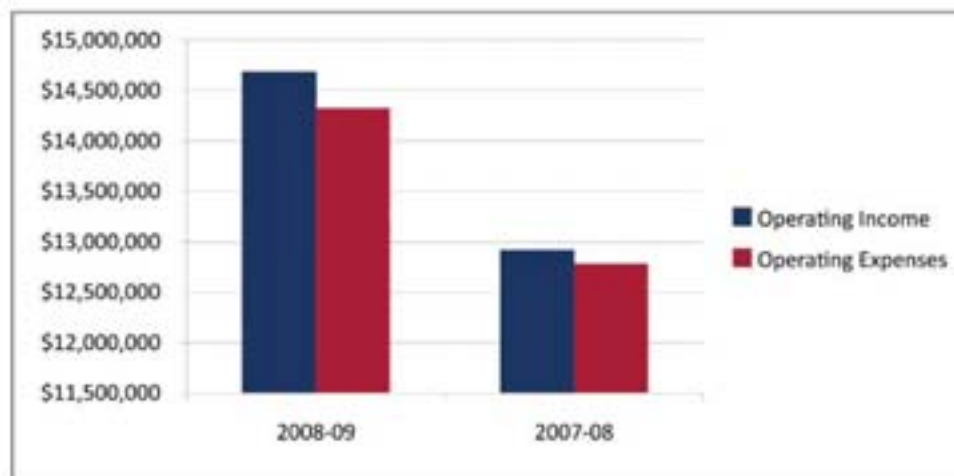
**Algoma University is ...**

- Close to 40 undergraduate degree programs and specializations
- The North American home of the Masters of Science in Computer Games Technology Degree, delivered in partnership with the University of Abertay Dundee.
- An important economic driver for Sault Ste. Marie and area
- Home to more than 4,400 alumni (and counting!)
- Dedicated to the pursuit of truth, knowledge and wisdom.

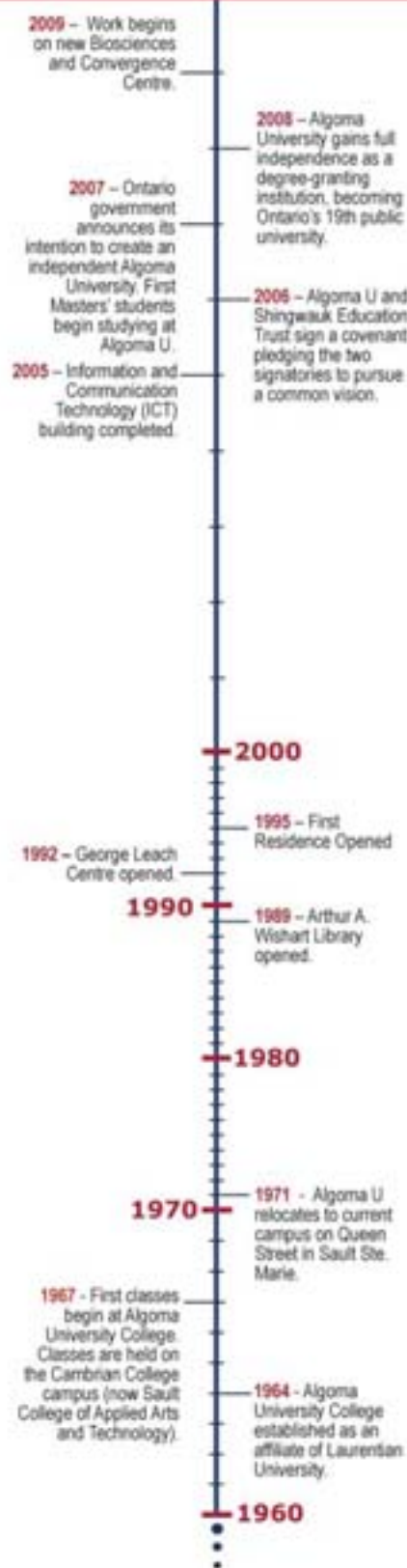
**Algoma U by the Numbers**

- 1,200: Number of registered students at Algoma U (as of September 2009)
- 7.5%: Enrolment increase at Algoma U for 2009 academic year.
- 126: Number of faculty employed by Algoma University for the 2009 academic year
- 75: Number of full-time non-teaching staff employed by Algoma University
- \$25 million: Estimated annual economic contribution of Algoma University to Sault Ste. Marie economy. (Figures from an independent report commissioned in 2007).
- \$2.88 million: Current value of assets managed by the Algoma University Foundation.
- \$187,400: The total value of scholarships and bursaries disbursed from the Algoma U Foundation (endowed and annual campaign donations) in 2008/2009

	2008-09	2007-08
Operating Income	\$ 14,684,311	\$ 12,913,756
Operating Expenses	\$ 14,323,845	\$ 12,779,094



**Algoma University Timeline**





Dr. Arthur Perlini  
Academic Dean, Algoma University

The four research thrusts (strategic research directions) in the Institutional Strategic Research Plan are:

- Biological and Environmental Sciences
- Information Technology (Computer Game Technology/Artificial Intelligence, Health Informatics, GIS)
- Community Economic & Social Development
- Indigenous Archives and Research

*“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”*

- Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)

Universities advance teaching and research, as the objects of their mission. To be sure, research enriches the quality of undergraduate education. However, research is important for other purposes. It reflects and enhances the proficiencies of faculty and through them, provides our society with the next generation of researchers. Together we build the breadth of expertise that develops the solutions that resolve the issues and challenges of our time and beyond. Research makes its impact on many levels – global, national, regional, community and personal. There is no question that research and innovation enhance our lives and our experience of living, as well as the lives and experience of others elsewhere in the world.

While research is “serious business,” in many respects, it resembles a form of adult play. It is self-directed, draws on imagination, operates within accepted structures or rules, and provides intrinsic reward beyond the reward of achieving the end-goal. The achievement (and the reward) – researchers often say – is in the process not the product, the means not the ends, the journey not the destination. After all – as we know, and as children know – when one eye is fixed upon the destination, there is only one eye left with which to find the way. And this is because the value of play is in the creating, not the getting or the having. Building a sandcastle ceases to be fun when others build it for us.

Beyond its inherent value, research has explicit economic value: it enhances efficiencies and productivity; improves quality of life through technological, health/environment-related advances, improves industrial/commercial processes/products and creates employment. In Canada, this amounts to billions in GDP, 100,000+ jobs, and substantial increases in investment, production, and innovation. Economic and social impact studies are clear that research yields higher benefits than costs. While money is what it takes to undertake research, “it’s worth the money.”

What’s it worth? To appreciate the impact of research investment, consider the Bank of Boston’s evaluation of the value of companies generated by MIT graduates and faculty: “If the companies founded by MIT graduates and faculty formed an independent nation, the revenues produced by the companies would make the nation the 24th largest economy in the world. The 4,000 MIT-related companies employed 1.1 million people and had annual world sales of \$232 billion.” That was 13 years ago – imagine today the many more inventions, patents, licenses, commercial products, new and spin-off companies. Beyond economic impact, imagine the impact on quality of life: improved understandings of disease and their treatment; improved cross-cultural understandings to enhance international cooperation; improved understandings of literary and visual arts to root us in humanity; improved understandings of our physical world so that we can sustain it and pass it along in good stead to our children. For all that research is worth, these values have no price.

Research matters to all of us, whether apparent or not. Its advances are incremental, rarely revolutionary at any given moment. For the researcher, recognition of their impact is not common and seldom immediate – for example, Nobel prizes in science and literature often follow the awarded achievement by two or three decades. What sustains the researcher in the face of few extrinsic rewards is an irrepressible desire to create, a focus on the process of creating, and ultimately a tireless commitment to offer their creations to the world so as to improve or enhance it.

Algoma University operates in this climate and culture. We are proud to have a cadre of faculty who are dedicated to advancing their disciplines and impacting the world around them. While many are recognized by their peers and learned societies, few (if any) are motivated by recognition. The calibre of their research has exceeded national and international standards, garnering them financial support in extremely competitive grant funding. The import and impact of their research will extend beyond our lifetimes. None work alone, relying on colleagues within their research networks to collectively advance their disciplines and our lives. To the right is a sampling of some of this work (or play).



### Dr. Nairne Cameron

Supported by CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research), Dr. Cameron is examining a stark reality within our communities that has an immense impact on their ultimate sustainability.

How a community regulates itself has a significant impact on our access to our most-valued resources: housing, education, transportation and jobs. Our access to nutritional foods is becoming eroded through an invisible barrier called restrictive covenants. These are legal agreements instituted by large supermarket chains that limit the use of land (that they may or may not own) for the purpose of food sales. These "invisible" legal agreements create a "food-access desert" for healthy, affordable food in the most populated (often poorest) areas of a community. The result is that those with restricted-mobility (elderly, infirm or disabled), restricted-access to transportation and/or those with limited-incomes, are having to spend greater proportions of their income on healthy food. With restricted supply or access, food prices increase. This results in nutritional deficiencies, including the forced-choice of fast food and potential outcomes including obesity, malnutrition or their related problems such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer. Dr. Cameron's research on the physical accessibility and affordability of healthy, nutritional food shows the immense impact on our health and that of our communities. Communities can provide sustainable solutions to this problem by public policy interventions that remove these invisible barriers and support entrepreneurial efforts to increase food access at reasonable costs.



Dr. Nairne Cameron



Dr. Brandon Schamp

### Dr. Brandon Schamp

Community Ecology is the study of how different species interact within the same geographical area. Dr. Schamp's research program, supported by NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada), is focused on understanding the factors that affect plant-species diversity. The operative factors – including competition, seed dispersal, and herbivory (i.e., organisms that eat plants) – in this research have immense ecological and economic impact. The study of mechanisms that underlie plant diversity will advance the study of species at-risk and regional identification of habitat loss, as well as advance regional and national conservation and development strategies.

### Dr. George Townsend

The brain's cells emit signals that reflect the activities— sensations, perceptions and movements – taking place within them. Using electrode sensors, scientists can amplify, filter and read these minute changes using sophisticated electronic circuitry, called an electroencephalograph (EEG). Dr. Townsend's pioneering work has resulted in a working prototype of the signal filtering circuitry (i.e., capacitors) in order to create a single electronic chip for an integrated circuit. Developing this innovative chip technology and employing it with sophisticated computer software technology, is part of the process for Dr. Townsend's contribution to one of the most prominent fields in neuroscience: brain-computer interface (BCI). BCI is designed to take the brain's electrical signals through a computer to direct a human activity, allowing those with physical restrictions (e.g. movement or vocal) to overcome them. Rather than "reading" our thoughts, it is "translating" them for their intended purpose. What was once the realm of science-fiction is reality today.



Dr. George Townsend

Dr. Townsend's work is supported by and undertaken in cooperation with the world's leading institute on BCI: New York State's famed Wadsworth Center.



Biosciences Convergence Centre



**Work Begins on Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre**

On September 11th, 2009 Algoma University held a groundbreaking ceremony marking the start of construction of its new Biosciences building. The \$16 million project is slated for completion in March 2011. When finished, the building will provide 52,000 square feet of floor space on four levels. The building currently under construction is envisioned as eventually being linked with two other equivalently-sized buildings to complete the overall project. Those interested can track the progress of construction via webcam, available on the Algoma U website at <http://www.algomau.ca/biosciences-webcam>.

**Promoting Sustainability On-Campus**

Protecting our environment is a concern we all share and Algoma University is pleased to do its part to promote sustainability. Algoma U is one of the first major institutions in Sault Ste. Marie to be connected with the city's non-motorized hub trail. A second linkage with the trail as well as a covered bicycle pavilion is planned as part of the Biosciences building construction. Algoma U has also been certified as a green campus for its use of housekeeping supplies that have a minimal environmental impact. The university also plans to add several water features to the campus. These natural wetlands will be fed by rainwater and will help to irrigate the campus's green spaces during the warmer months. Additionally, the university's parking fee structure is under review and it is anticipated that new incentives will be introduced to encourage car-pooling and special rates will be made available for "green" vehicles that meet low emission standards.

**Parking Lot and Access Expansion**

Algoma University undertook an expansion of its parking facilities, valued at \$1.2 million, in 2009. The traffic circle in front of Shingwauk Hall was widened. The university's parking lot was also expanded in a northern direction towards the residences buildings and a second access point was added to and from Mark Street along with new gates and guardhouses. These changes are integral to the campus development plan and provide required infrastructure for the next wave of construction on campus.

**Arthur A. Wishart Library**

The Arthur A. Wishart Library has undergone some significant changes since Algoma U was granted independence in 2008. In 2009 the library catalogue system was migrated to the open-source Evergreen system. Evergreen was built by a consortium made up of Algoma U, Laurentian University, McMaster University, University of Guelph, and the Northern School of Medicine. The Wishart Library has also been busy adding new resources including online databases Lexis Nexis, Oxford Scholarship, and the Bibliography of Native North Americans.

*"We have all of the planning in place for the university to grow to 3,500 full-time students, on our current campus and with existing infrastructure."*

*- Bruno Barban  
Director of University Services*



### Algoma U – A Great Resource for Community Learning

Algoma U shows its commitment to our community by hosting:

- The annual Rotary Science Fair.
- The William M. Hogg Mathematics Competition for elementary and secondary students (record 440 students take part in 2009).
- 800-900 youth participated in athletic (tennis, volleyball, basketball, and soccer) and educational (business, computer, and science) camps.
- Guest speakers, lectures, performances and seminars open to the public
- ImagineNative film and media arts festival tour. ImagineNative highlights the work of Anishinaabe filmmakers and media artists and is a showcase for bold and innovative artistic statements.
- Campus tours to Grade 8 and Grade 11 students. In 2009 more than 350 Grade 8 students and over 200 Grade 11 students toured the campus to learn more about Algoma U.
- ARTIE (Advanced Research Technology & Innovation Expo).
- ProtoLaunch – a series of industry led workshops targeted to youth in the community who are interested in video game development.

### Residence: A Home Away from Home

Algoma University has 111 spaces available in residence for student use. Both townhouse style and apartment-style dormitory units are available. Algoma University is one of only a handful of universities that guarantee all students staying in residence a private room. All of the residences at Algoma U are secure access buildings and five Residence Advisors and one Don are on-site to assist students.

During the summer months, Algoma U's residences also play host to many visitors to Sault Ste. Marie. These include instructors in the Canadian Forces, visiting sports teams, youth camp participants and conference attendees. Some students also live in residence throughout the year.

### Varsity Sports

Varsity sports have been increasing in prominence at Algoma University over the last several years. Each year between 60-80 varsity athletes participate in men's and women's basketball, curling, and indoor soccer. All of Algoma U's varsity teams play in the Ontario College Athletic Association. The men's basketball team is coming off consecutive final four appearances and a silver medal in 2008. The women's basketball squad also captured a silver medal in 2007. The curling program has also been flush with success. The men's team captured gold in 2004, the women's team secured silver in both 2007 and 2008, while in 2009 a mixed team took home gold.

### George Leach Centre

The George Leach Centre is the hub for athletics and fitness at Algoma University. The multi-use facility offers users from both the university and the community a triple gymnasium, weight room, aerobic studio, cardio equipment and a variety of instructional classes, many of which appeal to seniors and youth. The gym at the GLC is the home court for the Thunderbirds varsity basketball teams and its large floor space also makes it an attractive venue for a number of other functions that are held throughout the year. These include trade shows, workshops, athletic tournaments, the Tenaris Algoma Tubes staff Christmas party and Algoma University's convocation ceremonies. Planned expansions at the GLC will see a doubling in size of the centre's aerobics studio and the addition of more change room space.



Algoma University is the host site for approximately six major conferences each year. Both the Algoma District School Board and the Huron-Superior Catholic District School Board have held professional development workshops at the university. In March of 2009 Algoma U was the host site for the Gathering at the Rapids Pow-Wow, a major celebration of Anishinaabe culture.

### GLC Quick Facts

- 1,500 community memberships and growing.
- Approx. 300,000 total visitors per year.
- 39,000 sq. feet of floor space.
- Massage therapy, personal training and fitness classes available.



Perry Bebamash

### SASA Member Receives Award

In June of 2009, Algoma University student Perry Bebamash was one of four post-secondary students to receive a Scotiabank Anishinabek Award of Excellence. Perry received his scholarship at Scotiabank's Evening of Excellence awards ceremony held at Casino Rama near Orillia Ontario.

Originally from the M'Chigeeng First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Perry is studying for his BA in Anishinaabemowin at Algoma U. Perry is active in university life, as he is currently serving as the events coordinator for the Shingwauk Anishinaabe Students Association (SASA). After completing his degree, Perry plans to attend teachers college and pursue a career teaching Anishinaabemowin.



### Fine Arts Students Recognized for Excellence

In 2009, graduating fine arts student Annie King received the President's Choice Award for academic achievement in the Fine Arts. Each year the office of the President purchases a work of art from the recipient student, which becomes part of the university's collection. Annie was chosen on the recommendation of the FINA Department with a winning piece that explored the multi-faceted nature of humans. Annie is currently continuing her studies at the University of Alberta, having been accepted into that school's Masters of Fine Arts program.

Jenny Robinson, a graduate of Algoma University's first Bachelor of Fine Arts class was the recipient of the Fine Arts Achievement Award. FINA is a fourth year thesis course for students in the BFA program. An exhibition is held each year at the Art Gallery of Algoma where fourth year students display their work reflecting a wide range of media and content.

Jenny Robinson's work was conceived as an installation – comprised of several pieces arranged in such a way as to create an environment into which a viewer is invited.

### How Algoma U Celebrates Student Diversity

- Variety of Black History Month activities in February
- Annual Chinese New Year Celebrations
- Diwali Dinner
- Anishinaabe Cultural Events throughout the year
- International Film Nights

### Exchange Students Discover Canada at Algoma U

For international students Algoma University is a place to learn, not only about academics but also about life in Canada. While about 10% of Algoma U's full-time student body hails from abroad, the university also has agreements in place with a number of other institutions around the world to allow for their students to visit the Sault Ste. Marie campus for shorter duration exchange programs.

In February-March of 2009 Algoma U played host to sixteen students from Kyoto Sangyo University in Japan. While in the Sault, the students worked on their English-language skills and shared their culture and traditions with local elementary and secondary students. In the summer of 2009 Algoma U once again hosted Mexican students from CESUES University looking to improve their English. This is the fourth consecutive year that Algoma U has hosted students from CESUES; since 2006, close to 100 students have participated in the program.

### Masters Students Represent Canada at International Competition

In the summer of 2009, four Masters of Science in Computer Games Technology, MSc (CGT), students from Algoma U represented Canada at the international Dare to Be Digital video game design competition held in the United Kingdom. Sunny Atwal, Chris Iaconis, Pedro Melendez and Eric Stock, aka The Thunderbirds, designed and built a game entitled Rock Rebellion. This action game, with a satirical bent, utilizes the peripherals from the popular Rock Band series. Algoma University is the only North American university eligible to take part in the competition.



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