

T O D A Y

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SPRING/SUMMER 2009

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE



ALGOMA U ALUMNI - COAST TO COAST...



Algoma University
Sault Ste. Marie, ON
www.algomau.ca



↑ OUR BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (B.B.A.) PHOTO PARTICIPANTS LIST

Back Row (left to right):

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Chris McCullough, BBA 2008 (Marketing). International Business Development Coordinator, Algoma University
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Tom Hernden, BBA 1997. Northern Development Advisor, Ministry of Northern Development & Mines
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Tiffany Gallivan, BBA 2000. Accounting Officer, Algoma University
Bobbi-Jo Barnes, BBA 1994, Brand Manager, Instant Games, OLG

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Kristine Thomas, BBA 2002. Purchaser, City of Sault Ste Marie
Nicole Muskaluk, BBA 2007 (Economics/Marketing). Graduate Liaison Officer, Algoma University

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Algoma U Today is published twice a year 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.



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

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

In June I will have the honour of congratulating the first Algoma University graduates, as they step off the convocation stage, degrees in hand. As part of the transition agreement with Laurentian University, students this year chose whether to continue working on a degree from Laurentian University, or to earn a degree from Algoma University. Many of this year's graduating class decided on a degree from Ontario's newest university, Algoma University.* They will share the stage not only with Laurentian University graduates, but also with the first Sault Ste. Marie graduates from the Masters of Science in Computer Games Technology from the University of Abertay Dundee.

This is a historic ceremony that will see the unveiling of Algoma University's mace and the introduction of the Algoma University regalia. This ceremony links Algoma University to centres of higher learning throughout the ages, celebrating the intellectual and academic legacies of which the university has always been part. Now, as Algoma University establishes itself as Ontario's nineteenth university, it is looking to its future with excitement and enthusiasm. Soon, you will be hearing about new buildings, new programs, new professors and new students as Algoma University grows to fulfill its mandate and support students from across the North and around the world.

**Students who chose to remain on the Laurentian University roster are able to complete their degrees here at Algoma U.*

Our international student recruitment team has been in many countries the last few years, as have Algoma U students, thanks to the student exchange programs recently established. Future Play, our international conference on computer games development, will be in Vancouver this year, bringing together researchers from Europe, the U.S. and Canada together to explore the latest in computer game technology. Algoma U professors are publishing research papers and addressing conferences around the world. This is a vibrant academic community, and Algoma U Today and the algomau.ca website will keep you up-to-date on what is happening at your alma mater.

In this issue of Algoma U Today we continue to bring you stories of alumni from across the country and around the world. More than 4,000 people have crossed the convocation stage over the years, and many hundreds more have taken courses on this campus. This is the Algoma University alumni community... You are the Algoma U alumni community.

Please take a moment to tell us, and your fellow alumni, your story. Share your personal, family and professional news with Bev Teller, Alumni & Development Officer, and she will include it in the next issue of Algoma U Today.

Wishing you a beautiful summer season...



By: Dr. Celia Ross,
President, Algoma University

Algoma University is fast approaching its first birthday, on June 18, 2009. This first year of independent status has been transformative for Algoma U!

We are now much more able to communicate a clear identity as one of Canada's many excellent universities. Our university name shows up in lists of chartered Canadian universities throughout the world. We recently made our first recruitment tour of the Middle East. At a fair in Jordan, our recruiter was very happily surprised to hear that the first student visitor to her booth had already applied to Algoma U!

To capture public attention and engage potential future students, we engaged in an innovative marketing campaign in Southern Ontario last fall with a provocative "Colossal U" message. Of course, visitors to our web site quickly learned that we are the opposite of the anonymous, conformist and unimaginative Colossal U. We saw significantly enhanced general awareness of Algoma U as a result of this campaign.

Prospective students in northern Ontario are reacting most positively to our new message. We are seeing a significantly higher rate of inquiries from throughout the Algoma District.

In fact, we are experiencing the *highest* percentage increase in applications to first year of any university in Ontario.

We are seeing increased government support, permitting us to advance our development initiatives.

We have hired additional staff, welcoming new faculty in Biology, Business, Sociology, Political Science, Psychology and Community Social & Economic Development in 08-09. New staff positions in the Registrar's Office, in recruitment, in communications, in advancement have helped us move forward.

We have launched our own Student Records system - homegrown, reliable and versatile. Soon students will be able to register, pay, and check their academic records on-line.

The Arthur A. Wishart Library is continually upgrading services and resources. We are participating in the creation of a new automated Library System for a consortium of Ontario universities. This system is poised to revolutionize automated systems in academic libraries worldwide. In addition,

the library is bringing 200,000 online scholarly books to Algoma U, tripling the university's holdings. And in a few weeks, Algoma U will welcome the addition of the Diocese of Algoma's archival holdings, together with a welcome donation of movable archival shelving from the Diocese of Ottawa.

As Algoma U enters this new phase, we can enlarge the opportunities to engage with our partners in significant joint ventures.

Together with Sault College, Northern College and Confederation College we are developing a proposal for a 4-year Bachelor of Social Work. Supported by our partners the Great Lakes Forestry Centre and the Ontario Forest Research Institute, we are preparing to introduce a 4-year degree in Biology. Working with the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, we are advertising for a Research Chair in Health Informatics and have established an Invasive Species Research Institute.

Algoma's partnership with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and the Shingwauk Education Trust is advancing our special mission for Anishinaabek (Aboriginal) education. Our annual pow-wow, held on campus this spring together with Sault College, the Shingwauk Education Trust and local School Boards, filled the George Leach Centre with a record number of drums, dancers and participants. Particularly rewarding was the excitement generated by the Grade 6 Day when over 800 local students experienced different facets of Anishinaabe culture and were introduced to the pow-wow.

Today, we are excitedly looking forward to our first Convocation. Graduates of three universities will be crossing the platform to receive their academic hood and degree this spring. Algoma University graduates, Laurentian University graduates, and graduates of the University of Abertay Dundee's MSc in Computer Game Technology will join in this celebration of their achievements. Algoma University graduates will be hooded with Algoma University colours, and our new mace will be proudly carried at the head of the procession.

My sincere thanks to our alumni, students and the community who continue to offer solid support to Algoma University. Our political leaders - MPP David Orziatti, MP Tony Martin and Mayor John Rowswell, are among our strongest supporters. The Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation, the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce, and so many other groups are active advocates for Algoma University.

I invite you to find out more. Come back to campus and visit! Explore our website. Watch the media for our press releases. Your support is critical in spreading the good word that Ontario's newest university is a great place for students and a key resource for our community, our region, our province and beyond.

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



Travel. A word that evokes images of far-off lands, of dreams to see the world beyond our everyday experience. We fantasize about it at our retirement, on our sabbatical or vacation, when we're finished school - a summer abroad in Europe perhaps, or a year working in Asia.

Twenty-five years ago, I took an undergraduate course in Italian Literature, Art and Culture. At the time, I saw it as a sojourn - a wandering off of the path of my discipline of psychology. I learned about the great Italian masters: artists, scientists, writers, painters, and sculptors. The Renaissance was a time in our history wherein, in addition to the rich cultural and artistic renewal, travel became a means of acquiring first hand-experience. Knowledge of the great books could not be understood without knowledge of modern languages and history, not available in England at the time. In many ways, the foreign "language" of art, literature and culture that I was learning on this diversion of the beaten path, helped me to understand many things on my path of life and this experience forever changed me.

I learned that just as pilgrimages drew the pious to their respective holy lands, students from England began to flock away from the island in order to complete their education in an urbane, civilized setting. They did so with curiosity, open minds, rapt attention to differences and refinements - all with the intention of ardent intellectual immersion - becoming learned, and then returning home to share their lessons for the benefit of their country. Such practical experience and the "polish" it added, prepared one for life and their duty. These journeys had the principle intention of learning all things "human," learning of and from the masters, of sharing in intellectual companionship, and perhaps in doing so, of learning about oneself. Travel was seen as a means of "correcting" character, evoking one's virtue through its tests of sensitivities and sensibilities - through its ability to open one's mind to varied gods and religions, mores and morals, economies and politics, social habits and cultural histories.

Travel does that to us, but only if we immerse ourselves amidst the people within that journey, rather than remaining politely detached from them; I would say this is the principle difference between the traveler and the tourist. Travel can humble us - bring us to our knees - because everything that we thought was good-and-right simply isn't so



elsewhere in the world; that your experience to-date is but a single page in a book the size of the world; and you learn that your way is only "one" of many ways, and in that lesson you begin to see the varied shades of humanity -- in all its magnificence. You begin to understand that when you "see the sights," amongst the greatest sights you will experience is insight; that deep, permanent and profound quake inside of you that leaves you forever changed; changed in how you think, and feel, in what you believe and ultimately, in how you live your life. You see, being a traveler means that you seldom have a destination, at least not one that can be plotted on a map; and the journey of a traveler can seldom be planned painstakingly in advance, nor is one's arrival at a destination ever really apparent. You become mindful of being in the moment: there-is-here and here-is-now. The American Indian writer William Least Heat-Moon said of this experience

"What you've done becomes the judge of what you're going to do - especially in other people's minds. When you're traveling, you are what you are -- right there and then. People don't have your past to hold against you. There's no yesterdays on the road." The great travelogues of Kerouac (*On the Road*) and Pirsig (*Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*) suggest the same.

It's the blank spaces on the map between destinations where life is lived; the "back roads" hold life's lessons. Give yourself to travel for its lessons will exceed simply knowing the world you see; rather, it will bring you closer to yourself. It's been said that wisdom goes not to those who converse with dead men by reading, or absent men by writing; instead experience added to learning indeed completes us, as it was always intended to do... and as I learned when I veered off the path 25 years ago.



↑ Paul Halucha with his two daughters, Meghan and Sophie.

PAUL HALUCHA

Paul Halucha, B.A. Political Science
Class of '93

By: Algoma U Staff

With a degree in political science, it's not surprising that **Paul Halucha** would end up living in Ottawa - the epicentre of Canadian politics.

Upon graduating from Algoma U, Paul continued his studies at Carleton University obtaining an MA in International Relations. He spent four years working at the Privy Council before moving on to Industry Canada, where he currently works as a Departmental Advisor.

"It's pretty much always been what I wanted," says Paul of working in the public service. "The hard part was when I graduated we were in the middle of the last recession. So it was difficult to find a job at first, but I sort of lucked out through contract for awhile."

"I work in the minister's office (currently Tony Clement) as a member of the minister's team. A typical day for me is spent ensuring that the minister is properly supported by the department. This involves putting together advice for him, overseeing materials and preparing him for question periods. I also work on the departmental briefings and put the agendas together."

Paul has many positive memories of his time at Algoma U.

"The classes I had laid the foundations of understanding the structure of government in Canada. I had a couple of classes with Terry Ross that were very good prep courses. I also really got a lot out of Canadian History. John Abbot was outstanding. He was a very dynamic teacher and a great person, I really learned a lot from him."

"I met my wife, Susan Sullivan, while at Algoma and we are still together almost eighteen years later. I had a lot of great friends and times there and I did quite a few shifts working at the old Thunderbird lounge. I remember seeing The Tragically Hip when they

were just starting out and I was able to be right on stage with them."

Paul and Susan have two daughters, Meghan and Sophie. While he confesses to "working constantly," Paul is not too busy to offer some advice to students looking to one day work in the public service. He stresses that learning French can be a key advantage.

"At least get the foundations down; develop the grammar and develop the reading skills," he says. "There were some very good French classes at Algoma U when I was there."

Paul also adds that studying at Algoma University provides a good foundation for success.

"The experience at Algoma U was good because of the size of the classes. At Carleton, I was a lot more used to participating in classes than students who had been in classes with 300 and 400 students. I think there's also a lot to be said for staying closer to home and saving money for as long as you can."



↑ From left to right: Dr. Krishna Kadiyala, Professor Pelham Matthews, Professor Cathy Denomme and Professor Dave Galotta.

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (BBA) AT ALGOMA U

By: Nadine Robinson

When the Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) graduating students cross the stage at Convocation each June, Professor **Dave Galotta** is there to place their graduation hood on their shoulders, like a proud father. A professor of the Business & Economics Department since 1990, and a Certified Management Accountant, Galotta has likely taught each of them at least four courses, in accounting, finance, and general management. After hooding them, he gives graduates a small pat on the shoulder, an often unnoticed but undeniably caring gesture, ushering them forward into life.

“My greatest pleasure as a professor is to see the development and growth of a student over the period of a term, a year, and over the four years of their degree.” Galotta said. “To know that I played a part in the intellectual development of this individual, to prepare them for their career and for life beyond university, is extremely rewarding.”

Pelham Matthews, Department of Business & Economics Chair, and a professor of marketing for 16 years, is proud of the BBA program they have created, that blends learning formats, and stresses the case-method (simulated learning situations) starting in first year. *“Given our teaching methods and the high level of student interaction, our students gain more experience in critical thinking and presenting their ideas;”* said Matthews. *“Courses are structured with learning objectives and outcomes that reflect both academic and market requirements, including a number of resume building activities.”*

Due to strong ties in the community, BBA students participate in a number of community projects that strengthen their resumes. In a variety of disciplines, from marketing to human resource management and business strategy projects, students are learning and networking as they provide service to local organizations. *“A few projects of note include the Sault Area Hospital Customer Service Audit, the Doctor Recruitment and Retention Strategy, the Chamber of Commerce client recruitment strategy and performance audit, market simulation for the Ontario Lottery College, a Business Plan for the SSM Francophone*

Centre, and over 30 projects for local non-profit organizations and Small and Medium Enterprises,” Matthews said.

In addition to the work they do in the community as BBA students, Galotta says: *“Our grads have made a significant impact on the local business community in the Sault Ste. Marie area, being employed by over 65 different businesses and non-profit organizations in the region.”* They can also be found across Canada in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and the Maritimes, working for national, multinational and local organizations. In addition, many have established careers in the U.S., the Bahamas, Hong Kong, Japan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Europe.

Faculty in the Department of Business & Economics see their role as one of nurturing, challenging, inspiring, showing different career paths, and helping students become more confident in their skills and knowledge.

When asked his goal as a professor, Matthews said: *“To have each student understand the importance of doing exceptional work in a timely manner and making enlightened and proactive business decisions in an ever-changing business environment. I want them to understand that change is an opportunity as opposed to obstacle, and be able to adapt or lead in such situations.”* Galotta added: *“My ultimate goal is to ensure students acquire a strong grasp of the course material while developing critical thinking and analytical skills which they will be able to apply to their chosen career and in life decisions.”*

Bachelor of Business Administration students have the option of selecting one of six specializations for their electives, including accounting and marketing. The newest specialization, in Human Resource Management, covers the educational component of the Canadian Human Resource Professional (CHRP) designation. It is also available as a certificate program for those who wish to upgrade their academic qualifications to advance their careers.





FLYING HIGH WITH ANABELA LOPES

Anabela Lopes, B.B.A.
Bachelor of Business Administration
Class of '99

By: Algoma U Staff

Anabela Lopes' undergraduate education at Algoma University was a launch-pad to a career with one of Canada's most prestigious home-grown companies. The 1999 BBA graduate is currently employed with Bombardier Canada as a Material Finance Supervisor.

"When I graduated from Algoma U, I knew I wanted to move to Southern Ontario to work for a large company," says Anabela. "Interestingly enough, when I was a student in the BBA program one of my case studies was on Bombardier, so I knew about them through that and I also had friends working there. After I moved south I was at first working for Manulife, but when an opportunity at Bombardier became available I applied online and was hired right away."

Despite a temporary employment interruption due to the business impact of the September 11th terrorist attacks of 2001, Anabela has now been with Bombardier for close to nine years. She has risen steadily through the ranks and in her current role as a Material Finance Supervisor she is head of a team of four people.

Anabela feels that studying in the BBA program at Algoma U has helped to prepare her for her work with Bombardier and also for pursuing her Certified Management Accountant designation, which she recently obtained.

"I find my cost-accounting courses to have been very useful!" she says with a laugh. "A lot of the work with case studies and presentations has been very important both for my CMA studies and presenting here in front of teams. Presentation and good communication skills are very important."

Anabela grew up in the Sault Ste. Marie area and attended high school at the Central Algoma Secondary School in nearby Desbarats.

"I studied at Algoma U because I liked the ability to be at home and still hold a part-time job and have my family nearby. The school is smaller which is great and you get more contact with your teachers. It's interesting that at the time I was there Professor Gekas was head of the business department and I also saw him fairly recently at my CMA graduation ceremony. It's a small world!"

Though she and her family now call the sprawling Greater Toronto Area home, Anabela returns to Sault Ste. Marie often to visit. She has also been keeping an eye on her alma mater, Algoma University.

Says Anabela, *"I'm hoping my children one day decide to go to Algoma U, as it provides an environment where they will thrive and I think the quality of education is very good."*



Algoma University Foundation pays tribute to

C.J. BUD WILDMAN

Honoured Guest *at the*
2009 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner
to be held on
Saturday, November 14th, 2009

Marconi Hall · 450 Albert Street East · Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 1C3
Cocktails: 6:00 pm **Dinner: 7:00 pm**

For more information, please contact:
Deborah Loosemore, Executive Director Algoma U Foundation, at: 705-949-2301, ext. 4115
OR Les Dunbar, Chair, John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner Committee at: 705-945-0120



Adnan Ahmed with newborn daughter, Zara. ↑

**ADNAN AHMED:
BLAZING A TRAIL**

Shaikh Adnan Ahmed, B.B.A. Honours
Bachelor of Business Administration
Class of '05

By: Algoma U Staff

He was one of the first international students at Algoma University, before the school even had international recruiters. **Shaikh Adnan Ahmed** made the long journey to Sault Ste. Marie from his native Pakistan to study in Algoma U's Bachelor of Business Administration program.

Adnan is currently the Manager of Marketing and Exports at a knitwear manufacturing plant in Lahore, Pakistan. His company manufactures polo's, t-shirts and fire-resistant fabrics for firefighters. It is an export company with France being its primary market.

"I enjoy the fact that the line of work I am in is continuously evolving," says Adnan. "Fashion works in a cyclical way, so fabrics/styles that were used five years ago will probably be back again at some point. Hence one must come up with new ideas, but old ones need not be overlooked."

Adnan learned about Algoma U while doing research into different post-secondary schools during his last year of high school. *"The thing that attracted me the most to Algoma U was its small class size which meant closer interaction with professors," he says. "That was important to me, as I had come from a school with no more than 20 students in a class."*

Still, Adnan confesses to some initial culture shock upon arriving in Northern Ontario. *"It was so different from the hustle and bustle of my home city of Lahore, Pakistan. However, I gradually started to enjoy it there, as I made new friends and got busy with studies. I think the city is ideal for studies as it has little distractions. However it provided for some great outdoor activities in both the summer and winter."*

Among his fond memories of his four years spent studying in the Sault, Adnan lists the many fellow students and professors he befriended and attending Greyhound hockey games as highlights. Frequent games of cricket were also a favourite pastime. *"I used to play quite often (indoors) with friends from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, and Pakistan,"* he says.

Now a young manager in his native Pakistan, Adnan credits his studies in the BBA program as an important factor in his current success: *"I learnt the importance of teamwork from various group projects. It was interesting to see how a leader would automatically emerge when working in a group, and I found myself becoming one multiple times. These experiences gave me the confidence to communicate and work with people, which is a valuable tool in my or any line of work."*

CAUTION: Masters at play

The video game industry needs people with credentials. In just 12 months, earn your Master of Science (Computer Games Technology) from the prestigious University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland, on campus at Algoma U.

The course is delivered from Scotland through real-time videoconferencing connecting two countries into one classroom with top-notch facilities boasting extremely high bandwidth.

If you hold a computer science degree, or related degree in engineering or physics, capitalize on a career in the billion-dollar video games industry.

Join students from around the world who recognize the elite opportunity that this program provides. Apply today!



www.algomau.ca/mastersatplay



JACK MCGOLDRICK: INVESTING IN A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Jack McGoldrick, B.A. Accounting
Class of '93

By: Algoma U Staff

Ensuring the vitality of the Algoma region's workforce is a top priority for 1993 Accounting grad **Jack McGoldrick**.

Jack is the Executive Director of the Algoma Workforce Investment Committee (AWIC). Funded by the Ministry of Colleges Training and Universities, AWIC is a community-based group dedicated to addressing current and developing challenges with the Algoma region's labour market.

Says Jack, *"We've definitely been able to engage different employment sectors of the community, in the Algoma district and not just Sault Ste. Marie, and engage them in community consultation to come up with action plans to address workforce issues. For instance, in Wawa we determined there were some training issues due to the decline of the*

forestry industry. In response to this, we were able to recently open a training centre for Wawa residents with training that is delivered through Sault College."

Prior to becoming involved with AWIC in 2005, Jack spent fifteen years working for the Canadian Steel Employment Congress (CSTEC) and twenty years working as a production scheduler at Algoma Steel. With CSTEC, Jack was introduced to the field of workforce development.

"CSTEC is a sector council that represents steel. It's where the unions and the industry come together collectively to address training and development issues. They do a lot of retraining of steelworkers. In fact, in the early 1990's Algoma University graduated about 80 learners through a program that was held in partnership with CSTEC."

Jack began studying at Algoma University as a mature student and he was close to 40 when he graduated in 1993. He first started as a part-time student but then increased his studies to a full-time course-load for the last year and a half of his program. Throughout his tenure as a student he continued to work full-time, which made for an often hectic existence.

He recalls, *"I can remember one year around the time of spring break, I met up for coffee with a friend who was also studying in the program and working. Neither of us could believe that we even had time for a cup of coffee!"*

"A business degree of any kind you use continually in the work environment, such as understanding how a purchase order system works. Even if you're not doing the accounting you're always looking at numbers and budgets. It's an invaluable education," he says.

Jack says he enjoyed studying at Algoma University. Many of his professors are still teaching at Algoma U today, and Jack values the strong relationships he maintains with many of them. He has watched and approved of the changes that have occurred over the years at Algoma U, particularly last year's move to full independent status.

"I strongly support the independent charter," he says. *"I think it's good for the university and good for the community."*



↑ Susan Corbett with husband Romain and their daughters, Veronique and Sophie.

**SUSAN CORBETT:
FAR FROM AVERAGE**

Susan Corbett, B.A. History
Class of '92

By: Algoma U Staff

Moving from working at museums to working for the Canadian military may not seem like the most likely career arc, but it's one that History grad **Susan Corbett** negotiated successfully and with ease.

Born, raised and educated in Sault Ste. Marie, Susan began working as an assistant Curator at the Clergue Ermatinger Old Stone House before graduating from Algoma U. She also spent a short time in the Canadian Forces Air Reserves. Her husband, Romain Cyr of Blind River, is a member of the Canadian Air Force and twelve years ago the family moved to Kingston, Ontario. Susan is now a Library Technician with the Department of Defense at CFB Kingston.

"What I've really enjoyed about my line of work is that I don't have a mundane job," says Susan, "Everyday there is something completely different. If there's a research inquiry I get to use some of my research skills, but then I can also move on and use my administrative skills."

"My education has been very helpful; I use it all the time," says Susan of her undergrad in history. "It's the research time and liaising with instructors that's really important. Having a degree in history really gives you the background to find the research and also think outside of the box."

While studying at Algoma U, Susan enjoyed

a very full student life. She gave tours of the campus and also sang in the school choir. As well, she was a tutor which is something she really enjoyed.

"I was really fortunate," says Susan. "I started at the University of Ottawa for my first year. Then I came back home and went to Algoma U and I found the class sizes just right. The professors were very available because they didn't have TAs and you could really talk to them directly. I think that's really underrated."

Susan resides in Kingston with her husband Romain, their daughters Veronique and Sophie and their cat Schanika. In a surprising turn of events, in 2003 the Corbett-Cyr family was crowned the winner in a competition to find Canada's "most-average family".

"From what I gather it was a national competition," recalls an amused Susan. "I guess they narrowed the search down to Kingston because it is considered an 'average' Canadian city. We made the finals because we fit a number of different demographics that they were looking for. We were in competition with another local family but in the end we won!"

By winning the competition Susan will never go wanting for an interesting anecdote, but it's clear in talking to her that this Algoma U alumnus is a long way from being just "average".

**HEATHER EVOY:
THE "WRITE" STUFF**

Heather Evoy (Lavigne), B.A. English
Class of '98

By: Algoma U Staff



Heather Evoy has been able to turn a passion for words into both a successful civil service career and an entrepreneurial side-project in book publishing.

Originally from Sault Ste. Marie, Heather lives in St. Catharine's with her husband (also a Saultite and a graduate of Sault College) and her four year-old son. In her day job she works as a Business Information Analyst with the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

"I provide support and advice on communications and issues management to the director of our branch, who is also the chief engineer of the province," says Heather. "I really enjoy communications and having the opportunity to work with many different people and their diverse skill sets. I like the fast-pace of the office, so this job is a great fit for me."

While now firmly ensconced in government, Heather's professional life first began in a somewhat different area of communications. For eight years she worked in a variety of editorial positions with several book publishers located in the Niagara region.

"I was both an editor and a staff writer and

I did some publicity with one of the companies I worked for. I worked on a lot of different types of books, Canadian history, children's non-fiction, and autobiographies amongst others," she says.

Heather still keeps a hand in the publishing trade. She owns a small publishing company along with four other editors. The company, Tea Leaf Press (www.tealeafpress.com), specializes in children's literature.

Heather chose to attend Algoma University partly for the cost-savings it afforded and also because she felt that Algoma U offered a quality education close to home.

"I had some excellent professors while at Algoma U, such as Domenic Grace and Karl Jirgens" says Heather. "For me, there was really no need to go to a bigger university farther away."

"What I enjoyed about Algoma University was the cozy feeling, the small classes and atmosphere of support," continues Heather. "It was a way for me to get my degree and at the same time be in smaller classes and have a connection with my professors and classmates."



↑ Christine Fix with Jeanne Cooper, Y & R's Catherine Chancellor.

↑ Christine Fix with Peter Bergman, Y & R's Jack Abbott.

CHRISTINE FIX: PSYCHOLOGY STUDIES AND TV VIEWING AT ALGOMA U WAS IDEAL CAREER TRAINING

Christine Fix, B.A. Psychology

By: Angie Gallop

After years in high school which she describes as “a bit mixed up,” **Christine Fix** says the one-on-one attention from Algoma U professors and staff gave her some much-needed confidence. And, all those hours with friends in the TV lounge watching Marlene’s second demonic possession on ‘Days of Our Lives’ turned out to be great career preparation.

Fix lives a dream life as Editor-in-Chief of *Soaps.com* and *Soapoperafan.com*. And, while she keeps her eye on the daily betrayals and romantic indiscretions on television, she has a double identity of her own.

It all started when she discovered her passion for psychology at Algoma U.

“I was initially interested in going into law, but then I fell in love with psychology and wanted to become a sexologist,” she says.

After graduating, she got a job with Bell Canada in London, Ontario. Then she switched to tech support for an internet service provider and, in her spare time, she started a sexuality- and- relationships Web site. She still runs that site under a pseudonym but she won’t reveal her assumed name or the URL of the site.

“I keep it separate because I’m very free and very open on the sex site and I’m not sure how that would mix and mash with my work on Soaps,” she says.

Her experience with the sexuality site helped her land the *Soaps.com* job. A couple thousand of people applied, but Fix’s application stood out with its mock-up to showcase her ideas and resume produced

with a ‘Days of Our Lives’ hourglass background. Her three-and-a-half years on the job have been a success. More than five million people visit *Soaps.com* each month.

Married and living in Toronto, Fix says the job isn’t as glamorous as most people think. She spends a lot of time making sure the site remains at the top of the search engine listings. But, she also admits to counting Daniel Goddard (Y & R’s Cane Ashby) and Christian LeBlanc (Y & R’s Michael Baldwin) among her Facebook friends. She’s chatted up Ellen DeGeneres and Jerry Springer during her annual trips to the Emmys. And, she’s interviewed Betty White (Golden Girls) on the red carpet.

Fix says she was only really ever ‘star-struck’ while interviewing Y & R’s Jeanne Cooper.

“I remember being six years old and watching her play Katherine Chancellor with those fancy rings and long talons. When I interviewed her last June, it was kind of a silly, funny moment.”

For the most part, Fix says celebrities are like everyone else once they get talking. Some are insecure and outright lie about themselves to project a certain image, while others are more open. Fix’s trick is to find a common interest she can use to build conversations.

“We don’t get a lot of time to talk to them, but there are ways to make yourself known. For instance, I’ve only talked to Melody Thomas-Scott (Nikki on Y & R) three times on the red carpet but she remembers us and says “You are the ones from Toronto!” She has a friend in Toronto and we build off of that commonality.”

It seems Fix has learned a thing or two from the celebrities about how to handle an interview. At the end of our conversation, she refuses to divulge her age.

“I can’t tell you that!” she jokes. *“Leave out the year I graduated too!”*



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY EXPANDING TO BRAMPTON, ONTARIO

Algoma University has opened a campus in Brampton, Ontario with programs for students who have graduated from university or college, in Canada or abroad.

Algoma University offers ‘accelerated degree programs’ that allow eligible students to earn a business or computer science university degree in as little as twelve months. These programs are open to individuals who have graduated from university or college, in Canada or abroad, and who meet Algoma University’s admission requirements.

There are three accelerated degree programs offered at Algoma University’s Brampton campus, a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, and the accelerated Bachelor of Business Administration degree. Classes start in September 2009.

All students who complete the Algoma University at Brampton accelerated degree programs will graduate with a university degree from Algoma University, Ontario’s newest university.

To learn more about Algoma University’s Brampton Campus please visit www.brampton.algoma.u.ca



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THUNDERBIRDS TEAMS HAVE A NEW SUPER-FAN

By: Algoma U Staff

Algoma University's sports teams have a new supporter ready to provide both them and their fans with a needed "jolt": **Boomer**, the University's mascot made his (or is it her?) debut on Halloween night in October of 2008.

The lightning-bolt figure and its accessories was designed by Maydwell Mascots Incorporated of Toronto, Ontario. The mascot also incorporates the traditional Algoma U red and blue tones into its colour-scheme. The name for the new mascot was chosen through fan balloting at the Halloween night games with Boomer being chosen as the winning entry.

Boomer is having a great year. The men's basketball team started the season defending their silver medals from the OCAA championships. They were following the success of the women's team, who took home silver from the provincial finals. The women's curling team has also been silver medallists at their OCAA championships for the past two years.

The identity of the person behind Boomer is a closely-guarded secret, known to only a few persons within the inner-most sanctum of Algoma University athletics. Although speculation as to who inhabits Boomer runs rampant, there has been no confirmation yet as to whom this mysterious person may be.

STAY AT ALGOMA U!

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algomau alumni notes



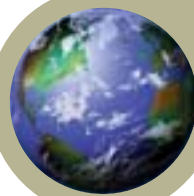
↑ **Wes Hill** - BBA 2002 (Accounting) and **Rachel (Bolduc) Hill** - BA 2000 (English/History), BBA 2002 (Accounting) are thrilled to announce the much awaited arrival of their beautiful daughter, **Claire Isabel Hill**, born February 8th, 2009, weighing in at 8 lbs. 11 ozs. and 21.5 inches long. Claire is the first grandchild for Don and Carol Bolduc and Stephen Hill and Bonnie Rose. Proud great grandparents are Doreen Archibald (late Bill), Neil and Aura-Lee Rose, and Agnes Hill (late Charlie). Also joyful of her arrival are uncle and aunts Ben and Lisa Bolduc and Ashlee and Dr. Carlo Biasucci.



↑ **Jianing Xu**, BSc 2008 (Computer Science) from Beijing, China and **Ayako Kawasaki**, ESL graduate from Chiba, Japan, were married in the summer of 2008. They met here at Algoma University in 2005.



↑ **Earfan Uddin Sarder**, BSc 2007 (Computer Science) and his new wife, **Sarna**.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

LOST ALUMNI

Can you help? If you know of any **Algoma U Alumni** that are not on our mailing list and would like to be, please let us know at: alumni@algomau.ca, or (705) 949-2301 ext 4125.

WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU IS NEWS TO US!

Share your alumni news.

Moved? New job or promotion? Another degree? New baby? Just married and keeping your name, hyphenating it or changing it? Let us know so we can adjust our records and let your classmates know too.

Please send us your updated address, photos, letters and stories for future issues of Algoma U's Alumni Magazine by:

E-mail: alumni@algomau.ca, or by *fax:* (705) 949-6583 or by *mail at:* Algoma University, 1520 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 2G4

You can update your alumni information online! Go to the Alumni section of the Algoma U website: www.algomau.ca

For further information please contact: Bev. Teller, Alumni & Development Officer, at (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125, or by e-mail: alumni@algomau.ca

Please include your full name, degree and graduation year, along with home phone, mailing address and e-mail address.

FUTURE ALUMNI GET A HEAD START ON SAVINGS FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

When Algoma University officially celebrated its new status as a fully independent university in September 2008, seven lucky newborns and their parents were surprised to find themselves a part of the festivities, thanks to a special joint program put on by Algoma U and the Sault Area Hospital, Algoma University's *Future Alumni Program*.


As part of Algoma University week (September 1st-8th) the first seven babies born during that time period at Sault Area Hospital received a donation of \$200 to a Registered Education Savings Plan from Algoma University. The lucky youngsters were Malaya, Ella, Angele, Justin, Matthew, Ryan and Jeremy and of course their families.

While it is hoped that these young future scholars will one day elect to attend Algoma University, the contributions have been made with the understanding that they will be available to assist with paying for university or college costs regardless of which institutions the children ultimately decide to attend.

In addition to the RESP contributions, each child also received a commemorative baby graduate cap and a certificate. Photos were also taken with the infants, parents and officials from both Algoma U and SAH. Algoma University has also committed to continue running the *Future Alumni Program* for the next three years.

So, if there are any expectant mothers in the Sault Ste. Marie area with a late August or early September due date reading this, take heart! With a little good fortune your baby might become one of the recipients of the 2009 *Future Alumni Program* sweepstakes!





Creating a legacy by investing in futures

support in perpetuity. There may also be tax benefits and implications that are important considerations for your family and heirs, both now and in the future.

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

- Bequests
- Life Insurance
- RRSP/RRIF Funds
- Securities
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

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

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

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

Did you know:

In May 2006 the Federal government removed the obligation to pay capital gains tax on donations of marketable securities to charities. Gifts of marketable securities (stocks, mutual funds) receive the benefit of a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the security without the requirement to pay tax on the capital gain. The elimination of the capital gains tax creates many opportunities and advantages for donations of stocks rather than cash, whether for a gift today or as part of an estate plan.

Planning is such a major part of our lives. We plan for our daily activities, upcoming events in our personal or professional lives and unexpected situations. Planning is both prudent and responsible.

Planning is also a thoughtful and important way of approaching our charitable giving. Planning gifts to charity through a gift in your will or through life insurance ensures that the causes and organizations that you have deemed important during your lifetime continue to benefit from your

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel # (Home) _____ Tel # (Work) _____

E-Mail: _____

- 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.

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KEEPING IN TOUCH - A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE



Bev Teller, CFRE,
Alumni & Development Officer

Where do you go when you have graduated with a degree from a small university in Northern Ontario?...anywhere you want! Well, at least that's what our grads do.

Look across this country or even around the world and you will find people who share a common experience; Algoma U alumni, making their mark in their profession and in their community. Some choose to stay in Sault Ste Marie, making this community, and for some this country, their new home. Others start adventures in new communities or new countries. Wherever they go, they are sharing their talent and skills and becoming an important part of their social and economic network.

Algoma U alumni are actively involved in their communities in varied and diverse roles - in education, all levels of government, the financial sector, legal communities, major industry, medical and healthcare fields and even the arts and entertainment world, just to name a few.

Some of these stories have been captured in the pages of this magazine or on our website. Other stories are still waiting to be told - and we're anxious to share them! Please take a moment to tell us where you are and what you are doing today. Remember, there are lots of ways for you to keep in touch. Update your information on the Algoma U Alumni website (www.algomau.ca/alumni); join the Algoma U Alumni's group on Facebook and become a fan, volunteer your time with your Alumni Council or stop by the campus for a visit.

Please keep in mind that the **3rd Annual Algoma U Alumni Recognition Awards** are coming up soon. Use this opportunity to nominate a fellow Algoma U alumnus/a who you believe deserves to be recognized for their outstanding contributions.

Most importantly, we'd love to hear from you!

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

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: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sault-Sainte-Marie-ON/Algoma-University-Alumni/58686986506>

Or visit: www.algomau.ca/alumni and follow the Facebook link.



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Alumni Achievement Award

The Alumni Achievement Award acknowledges the professional, civic, and personal accomplishments of an Algoma U alumnus/a who has graduated within the last 10 years.

Recipients of this award will have successfully demonstrated:

- Achievement in their chosen field;
- Leadership abilities; and/or
- A commitment to their community through active involvement.

Recipients of the Alumni Achievement Award should be individuals who have truly distinguished themselves since graduating from Algoma U, and who have become a source of pride and/or inspiration to the Algoma U community.

Distinguished Alumni Award

The Algoma U Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the accomplishments of an Algoma U alumnus/a who has reached a pinnacle of personal and professional achievement in his or her chosen field.

Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award will have successfully demonstrated outstanding leadership abilities in business and industry, community service, or public life. They will have brought distinction to Algoma U through endeavours which have been heralded within their profession or community, or even beyond it.

Supporting documentation may include:

- Notable achievements in other fields of endeavour;
- Degrees and honours previously bestowed by Algoma U or other bodies;
- Other information deemed helpful to the Selection Committee.

General Criteria

- The Alumni Recognition Awards Committee reserves the right to amend the category in which the person is nominated.
- Unsuccessful nominations will be kept for a period of two years providing candidates meet the specific criteria in the category in which they were nominated.
- All nominations will be kept confidential.
- Awards will not be given posthumously or in absentia, except in the most unusual and/or exceptional circumstances.

2007 Recipients

Alumni Achievement Award – Jody Rebek, BBA 1997
Distinguished Alumni Award – Diane Marshall, BA 1974

2008 Recipients

Alumni Achievement Award – Dr. Laurie Bloomfield, BA Hons 2000
Distinguished Alumni Award – Dave Jones, BA 1989

Algoma U Alumni Recognition Awards NOMINATION FORM

AWARD: (please check one)

- Alumni Achievement Award
 Distinguished Alumni Award

PERSONAL DATA:

Nominee's Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

Employer: _____

Business Address: _____

City, Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Fax: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

EDUCATION:

Nominee's Year of Graduation from Algoma U: _____

Degree(s) Earned: _____

Honorary Degree(s): _____

SERVICE to ALGOMA U and CIVIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Please attach a description of specific significant contributions by nominee; benefiting their school, community, provincially or nationally, through public service, civic activities, social services and membership and offices held in civic, educational social, religious and other community service organizations. Letters of endorsement, resumes and/or other supporting documents may be attached.

Nominator's Name _____

Address _____

City: _____ Prov.: _____

Postal Code: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Bus. Ph.: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Nominator's affiliation to Algoma U: _____

Nominator's Signature

Date

The deadline for award submissions is May 11, 2009

Return completed form to:

Alumni Awards Selection Committee - Algoma University
c/o Department of Advancement & External Relations
ATTN.: Alumni & Development Officer
1520 Queen Street East · Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4
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