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T O D A Y

SUMMER/FALL 2007

Algoma University College Alumni Magazine

Aideen Nabigon

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**Correction:**

Liisa McMillan has written many articles for Algoma U Today over the past few years. Unfortunately she did not receive the proper credit as the author of the following articles: the profiles on Brenda Small and Dianne Bob that appeared in the Winter/Spring 2007 issue, and the profile on Tracey O'Donnell that appeared in the Winter/Spring 2004 issue. Algoma U Today regrets the error.

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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

As I write this I am sitting on the front deck of a log cabin north of Wawa, watching a fall storm whip across the lake. Despite nature's violence on display, this is a peaceful place. Hearing of the desperation and fear that rules so much of the globe today makes this tiny camp even more of a treasure.

We live in a complicated world. From our own front steps to places far around the globe, communities and individuals struggle to understand the same questions: Am I safe? Is my world safe? What can be changed for the better?

The word 'safe' can be interpreted in many different ways and can have many degrees of meaning. Algoma U alumni can be found working for change all along the spectrum. In the next few issues you will read about alumni working to change communities for the better through business, social and political development. These alumni are leaders in their professional fields, their volunteer lives, and/or in their personal lives. In each of these profiles you'll meet someone who is pushing for change that will make our world better.

In Algoma U Today, your editorial team brings you the stories of the people who have graduated from this campus. Algoma U alumni now number just over 4,000 - and many thousands more started their university degrees here and moved on to graduate from other

institutions. Classes started in 1967 - remember those portable buildings anchored in the parking lot at what was then Cambrian College? Or maybe your memories of Algoma U include playing volleyball on the lawn in front of Shingwauk Hall; hanging out in the T-Bird Lounge/hallway; being one of the first students to study in the new Arthur A. Wishart Library; or sharing a drink in the new student lounge, the Speakeasy.

The campus is bigger now, and more modern, but there is no doubt that the men and women graduating next spring will carry versions of the same memories that past alumni hold dear. And they, too, will graduate with the skills and characteristics they need to reach their own unique personal and professional destinations.

Algoma U is now poised to take a big "next step" into the provincial, national and international arenas. In this issue, Dr. Ross and Dr. Perlini talk about the development planned for the Algoma U campus. The Ontario government's promise to introduce legislation creating the new, independent Algoma University has generated great excitement about the future. Watch what happens to your university over the next few years, as we build on Algoma U's strengths, and play our unique part in the educational system.

## INDEPENDENT THINKING: AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT AND DEAN

By: Nadine Robinson



When speaking with Algoma University College's President, **Dr. Celia Ross**, and **Dr. Arthur Perlini**, Academic Dean, about the path towards becoming the seventh university to be created in Canada since 1970, there is a contagious sense of excitement and anticipation in the room.

*"To borrow a phrase, there has been a 'declaration of independence' internally,"* comments Dr. Perlini. *"There is a profound meaningfulness to declaring yourself as being your own person or in this case declaring your own institution. And although I honour the fact that we are today an affiliate of Laurentian, this process by which we have defined ourselves and our raison d'être for the future has been significant."*

He likens the process of becoming a "university of international distinction" to the stages of independence that one undergoes personally, with Algoma U on the cusp of exiting adolescence: *"Anytime anyone is undertaking a process where they are reflecting and introspecting, it is not always an easy process. It can be filled with strife and uncertainty, but through that process you become redefined and gain clarity of purpose - this is a transformational moment. We've come to that stage of our development where we're fully prepared to assert and avow who we are and why we are."*

Becoming the university of choice for all students from the North is one of the goals for which Dr. Ross says Algoma U strives. *"At the same time, the campus will also be open to the wider world,"* says Dr. Ross. *"Our students will continue to come from a wide range of countries and learn about themselves as contributing members of a global society."*

Today, students find their way to Algoma U from across the province and around the globe, students come from Blind River to Brazil, from Algoma to Asia, and from Moosonee to Mexico.

She further points out that Algoma U alumni can already be found throughout Canada and around the globe, noting that, *"As the new Algoma University takes its place as a full and equal member of the Canadian university system, the options for students and alumni will only increase."*

Being an independent degree granting university will give the new Algoma University the ability to develop its own academic degrees based on the needs and desires of

↑ Algoma University College's President, Dr. Celia Ross, and Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean

students, the region, and the province. The new Algoma University will expand programs in: environmental and health sciences relevant to emerging provincial, national and international needs; economic and social development; business; and selected technology sectors such as computer gaming. As a member of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada, Algoma U has already passed a rigorous review of its ability to deliver a quality of university education comparable to every other university in Canada.

Today, Algoma U is a campus committed to offering a highly personal education experience. Dr. Perlini specifies: *“While it is true that we have programs that are unique, it is my belief that our student experience is highly unique, particularly amongst the 18 other university choices in the province of Ontario. We know that while learning in smaller group environments, students become engaged in their learning and it is through that engagement that deeper understanding and ultimate application is arrived at. Ultimately, learning is personal.”*

The President and the Dean want the Algoma U campus to be a magnet for local, regional and international students who are seeking a personalized university education. *“We will be the university in Ontario that creates and maintains an environment where students are engaged in their studies and research, with faculty who spend time and energy interacting, leading, and teaching. Small class sizes, accessible and highly-qualified professors, strong student services and absolutely the best facilities possible, all found here today, create an excellent place for learning, for all students,”* stresses Dr. Ross. She believes that these are the elements that will make the new Algoma U degrees desirable and sought-after; she continues to say, *“Students at Algoma University will earn the degree they want in the liberal arts, business, and sciences that will take them wherever they want to go in life.”*

The main campus of Algoma U sits proudly on the Shingwauk site, a location dedicated to Anishinaabe education since 1870. *“Algoma U will increasingly be known as an institution where students can successfully earn their chosen degrees in a warm, welcoming, supportive environment,”* says Dr. Ross. *“Right now, you will find a relatively high number of Anishinaabe students studying here, and it is our hope that more and more First Nation, Metis and Inuit students will find success here.”* She goes on to say that, *“On this campus, Anishinaabe and non-Anishinaabe students come to know their own and other cultures better while developing the skills and knowledge that will allow them to achieve their personal and career goals, wherever they choose to live and work.”*

Specific courses and programs of interest to Anishinaabe students are being introduced at Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, a new sister institution situated right beside Algoma University College. Dr. Ross points out that this will provide all Algoma U students with an unparalleled opportunity to heighten their understanding of Anishnaabe culture, history, governance and languages. Course credits will be interchangeable between Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig and Algoma U, and services and resources will be shared.

Dr. Ross and Dr. Perlini believe that it is time for Algoma U to step forward as an economic, social and cultural development leader in the province. *“Leveraging our existing strengths while building on a history of successful public and private sector partnerships, we are building a university that will be an Ontario portal for intellectual, cultural, and scientific innovation,”* states Dr. Ross. *“Our early history was marked by great community support and through that support, by the community obtaining a university college. Right now there is the same feeling of widespread community support for the evolution to Algoma University: so it feels like it is exactly the right time to be attaining independent status.”*

In addition to its role as an educational institution, the President says that the new Algoma University will continue to develop an environment where ideas, skills, techniques and knowledge will combine in

new ways to support the development of rural and northern communities in Canada: *“The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre, located on campus, is such a place for the Information Technology sector. Algoma U’s NORDIK Institute is rapidly gaining recognition locally, regionally and internationally as such a place for community-focused research. The Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre is envisaged as a place for environmental and biological science to bring together pure research, students, industrial R&D, and businesses that want to commercialize technology.”*

In spring 2007, the provincial government stated that they would support the introduction of legislation for an independent Algoma University. Since then, Algoma U has been working with an implementation team at the Ministry of Training, Colleges, and Universities to prepare a proposal for legislation, knowing that the process could be lengthy or relatively quick. *“We are charting our future based on what we believe to be the direction in which we need to proceed,”* says the President. *“Independent status will move us forward much more quickly, and open up many more opportunities for us. But whether we move quickly or at a more moderate pace, we will move forward.”* Regardless of the status of the legislation, the exercise of “declaring independence” has been an excellent opportunity for Algoma U to reflect upon the past 40 years of classes, the present, and to focus on a very promising future.

## Algoma University College Vision Statement

### VISION

*Büidaabin*  
*A new dawn*

A university of international distinction enriching generations of diverse cultures and communities.

*Debwewin*  
*Truth*



**THE ABCs OF GRADING  
THE PROVINCE: DR. JUDI KOKIS**  
BA 1973 (Political Science & English)

By: Rick McGee

After earning a degree in two years at Algoma U, **Judi Kokis** went on to further successes in Southern Ontario.

Upon the conclusion of fourth-year Political Science studies at the University of Toronto, she attended the Faculty of Education. Judi subsequently taught primary and junior grades with the North York Board of Education, followed by work with visually impaired learners in the Toronto, Ottawa-Carleton and Halton boards.

In 1986, she joined the Halton Board as a Special Education Teacher and later held Special Education Consultant and Co-ordinator of Research positions.

New career opportunities arose through Premier Dalton McGuinty's strategies to change public education. In early 2006, Judi was seconded for a Ministry of Education position in Toronto. She currently works as a Student Achievement Officer and Research Evaluation and Data Management Team Leader in the Ministry's Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat.

*"The Secretariat was established to help implement the premier's priorities," said Judi. "Part of that commitment involves improving Grade 6 reading levels to the provincial standard. My colleagues are leaders recruited*

*from school boards and the Ministry. They have great expertise and skills to get things done.*

*"It's also a great privilege to work with Dr. Avis Glaze (a highly respected educator and Secretariat CEO). She's a remarkable leader who is fully committed to the mission."*

Having added to her academic credentials earlier in her career, Judi was well positioned for the Secretariat role. As a part-time student, she had acquired a MEd through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and then successfully pursued doctoral-level studies.

Looking back, Judi appreciates Algoma U's contributions to her development: *"The small classes allowed for a lot of participation in learning. You had to be engaged and that made the experience richer. It was quite inspiring to see English and Political Science faculty completely engaged in teaching."*

During her undergraduate years, Judi expanded her leadership skills by serving as Student Council president. She laughs when recalling tuition fee protests directed at then-premier Bill Davis when he visited the Sault Ste. Marie area.

Judi's husband, Ron Esposti, graduated from Algoma U in 1974 as a Political Science major.



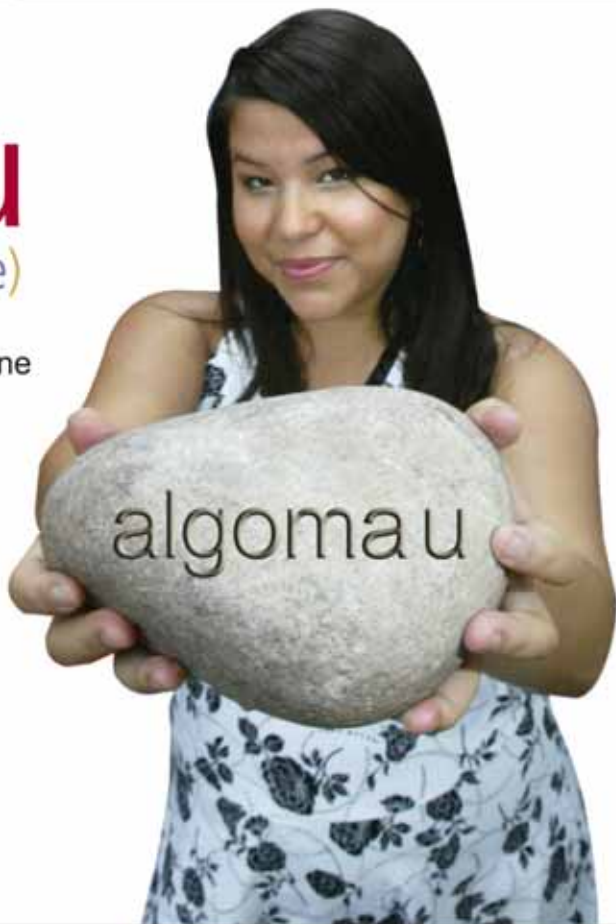
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## MASTERS AT PLAY: INTERNATIONAL DEGREE COMPUTES AT ALGOMA U

By: Cynthia Clement

A love of gaming bonds the inaugural class of students studying towards the prestigious **Master of Science (Computer Games Technology)** from the University of Abertay Dundee in Scotland. They are in Sault Ste. Marie to jump start a career in the billion-dollar video games industry. Algoma U is the first to offer the internationally renowned degree in Canada.

Student Jason Shaver, from Ottawa, comments on why he chose the program, *"I always wanted to get into the game industry but didn't know how my degree would get me there - I was ready to sign up for another 4-year degree when I found this one-year program."* Excited at his career prospects, Jason believes: *"The program is going to be incredibly valuable for me to have under my belt, and valuable for the industry. The ideal profile for a student is probably a computer science student, but I think with a bit more effort, someone from another background can reach the same level of achievement."* Jason, who holds a Bachelor of Engineering Physics from Carleton University is living proof, *"If you have an interest, or a background vaguely applicable, then you should apply."*

The course is delivered from Scotland through real-time videoconferencing connecting two countries into one classroom. Danny Reid, the Divisional Director of IT Services says: *"Our MSc CGT students have top-notch facilities, including exclusive use of our Game Technology Lab. Each student has a Dell XPS gaming PC, and the lab is equipped with the latest gaming machines, game consoles, development kits, games, and peripherals. Algoma U is connected to the ORION research and innovation network, and we can now boast one of the highest bandwidths per student in Ontario."*

The course runs three semesters over 12 months, and includes classes in math, artificial intelligence, games markets, programming, and a master's dissertation. Tommy Brett, a graduate of Abertay's undergraduate program in computer science, is the program's technical advisor and onsite support. He says, *"It's truly an international degree program, and the classroom also reflects the globe with students from Brazil, India, China, and from across Canada."*

Chen Li immigrated to Canada three years ago from China and began work at a construction company in Vancouver as the 'IT guy', but he knew he was capable of more. He wanted to build on his BSc in Computer Science and gain entry into the dynamic gaming industry. Chen Li says, *"If someone wants a job in the game industry then they should choose this program."*

His advice is sound according to Nicole Leed, MSc CGT Promotions and Conference Coordinator: *"The industry no longer relies on individuals creating games in their garages. They need people with credentials. With 100% job placement in the industry, and companies already interested in recruiting Algoma U's graduates, both Algoma U and the University of Abertay Dundee are very happy with this program."*





## A DEGREE OF LEADERSHIP: PASSION IGNITED AT ALGOMA U

**AIDEEN NABIGON**

BA 1992 (Economics & Political Science)

By: Nadine Robinson

When **Aideen Nabigon** registered for classes at Algoma U, she didn't know that it would change the course of her life forever. Having first learned about residential schools at Algoma U, there hasn't been a time since when Ms. Nabigon hasn't been directly or indirectly involved in Aboriginal issues or residential schools issues. She is now the Director General of Policy, Partnerships and Communications at Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada (IRSRC), in Ottawa.

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts in Economics/Political Science in 1992, Aideen went to Ottawa to take graduate studies in Political Science and entered the public service as a co-op student with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in 1994. She rose quickly through the ranks and transferred to Health Canada as the Director of Mental Health and Addictions at the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, responsible for the resolution health program. Then she became the Director General of the Aboriginal Peoples Directorate, responsible for the Common Experience Payment and continued with similar work at Service Canada, until a six month secondment to IRSRC became permanent. *"I've been involved in residential school issues for quite sometime,"* says Aideen, *"and I have to say that I first learned about residential schools when I went to school at Algoma through student Mike Cachagee, Prof. Don Jackson and Ed Sadowski (then a student, now a Professor), and the absolutely fabulous work that they've done in bringing the issues to the attention of Canadians."*

Aideen has met dozens of residential school students over her career, but the first-cut was the deepest when she heard stories first-hand from a classmate at Algoma U. *"Mike Cachagee would tell me shocking stories that were hard to imagine - and his stories stay with you."* The stories affected Aideen deeply, especially as a mother, *"My son at that time wasn't much older than Mike would have been when he was taken away."* Aideen's son Jordan, born in Wawa and now 24, is half-Irish and half-Ojibway.



Shingwauk Indian Residential School was closed in 1970, and Algoma U moved to the site in 1971. Reflecting on studying on the residential school site, Aideen is humbled by the difficult times the families had to endure: *"We need to remember that these are things that happened to children. Many are elderly now, but we need to remember that some children were three, four, and five years old when they were taken from their families and had their language and culture beaten out of them. Then, when they were returned to their communities, they no longer fit in, and had no concept of family life."*

Aideen credits Prof. Don Jackson for his leadership in the residential school issue, *"He has always been extremely supportive of Aboriginal people - back in a time when people weren't talking about residential schools; he was raising it in all of his classes and making sure that his students knew what went on."* Speaking of the archives and photographs

Jackson and Sadowski have collected in partnership with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association, she continues: *"Everyone should go visit the archives: the photos are powerful and you need to see them. The archivists work is phenomenal and important. Some students lost their history and now are able to see photos of themselves as children for the first time."*

Aideen chose Algoma U for the program, and because she wanted to stay in the North. Born in Scarborough, she grew up in Cambridge then moved to White River at nineteen. After eleven years, she moved to Sault Ste. Marie, *"I was working at Lajambe Forest Products as a secretary and wanted to do more."* Attending Algoma U as a mature student, Aideen loved her studies, noting that she met her best friend Linda Williams in Dr. You's class: *"Algoma U was an excellent experience. It was a just a great place, especially as a mature student, because there*

*were lots of us - we formed very close friendships with the younger students. I have a lot of fond memories of Algoma U."*

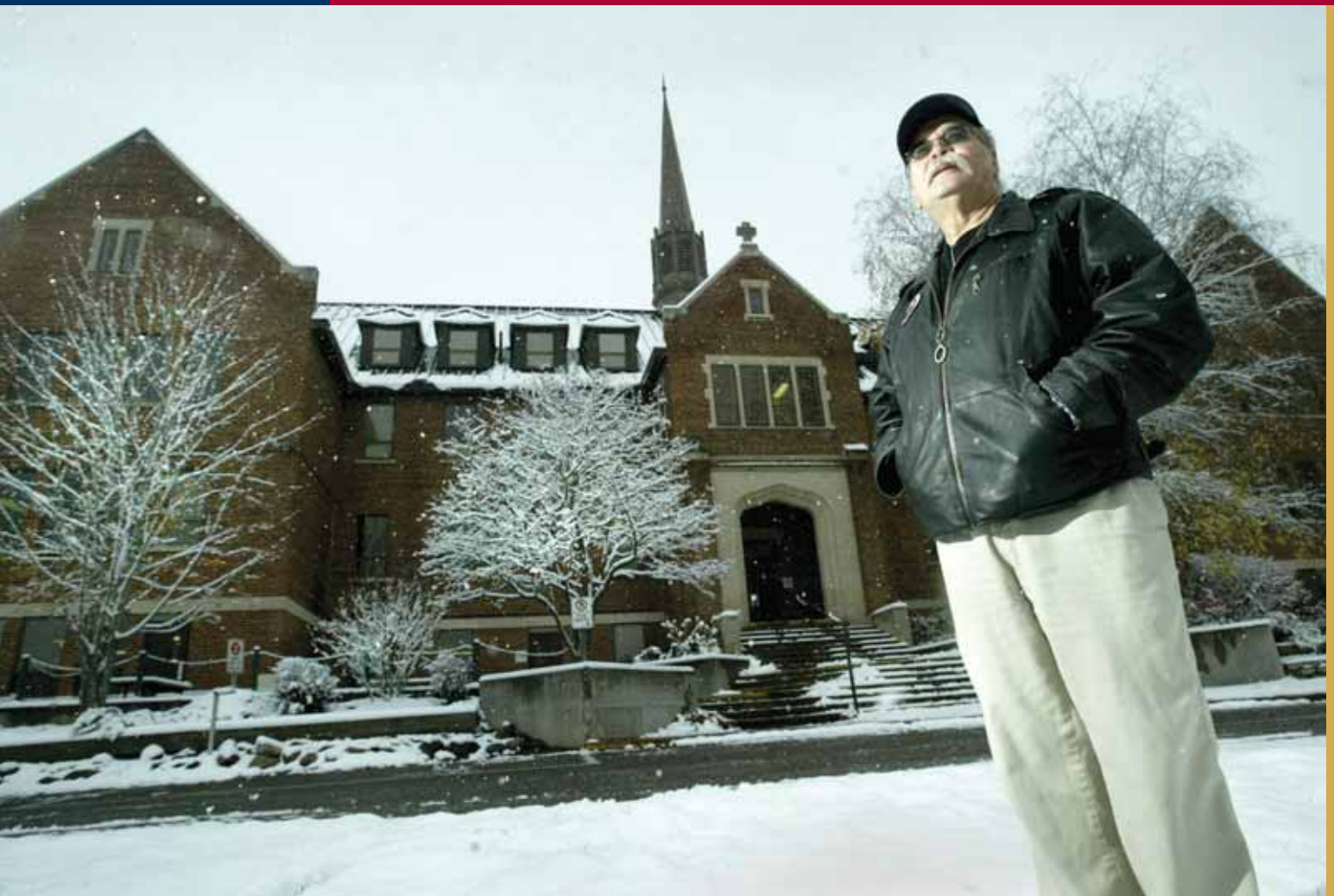
When asked of her greatest achievement, Aideen says, *"Ask me in a year from now, and I hope it will be the success of the settlement we are currently implementing."* Since it is estimated that there will potentially be more residential school claims than there are citizens of Sault Ste. Marie (around 80,000), this would be no small achievement, but one within reach of a passionate Algoma U alumna touched forever by the stories of the Children of Shingwauk Indian Residential School.

**UPDATE:**

*Aideen Nabigon was elected to the Algoma U Board of Governors in November 2007.*



↑ Jordan Nabigon



**THE POWER TO CHOOSE**

**ARTHUR NOLAN**

BA 2007 (Political Science)

By: Rick McGee



↑ Florence Fletcher, center, Shingwauk Residential School, c. 1935

Archie Nolan remembers a special day in 1980. His mother (Florence Fletcher) and he walked about the building she had unwillingly called home decades earlier. Little did Archie know that this exact spot - by then long since transformed into Algoma U - would one day change the course of his life.

More than time separated two journeys taken in the same place. *“My mother was forced to come to Shingwauk Residential School in 1927,”* Archie recalled. *“I came to Algoma U by choice. It was always my dream to go to university and acquire a degree.”*

After working in manual jobs, Archie returned to school in 1986. He completed Sault College’s Native Community Worker program and subsequently held holistic counselling positions with various organizations. He often combined traditional methods and Western practices.

Archie also participated in First Nations politics, playing a lead role in helping his home community - Missanabie Cree First Nation - achieve a land claim settlement that will come to full fruition in 2009.

That experience influenced Archie’s academic path at Algoma U. *“I love politics*

*and I thought this major (Political Science) would serve me best,”* he said.

Still, a return to full-time studies presented challenges. *“When I first came back, I wondered when I saw all these young kids and questioned how I’d compete with them,”* the alumnus chuckled. But he found his stride, completing a three-year BA in two years with an 80 per cent average.

While expressing appreciation for guidance from all faculty members, Archie singled out some individuals for special mention: *“The two professors who helped me the most were Prof. Terry Ross and Prof. Don Jackson. The new Director of Anishinaabe Initiatives, Jerry Fontaine, has also assisted me greatly. They were all key people for me.”*

Other critical help came from within the family, the recent graduate emphasized: *“Without the support of my brother Richard and his wife Christine, I might have had some difficulties. Their offer of accommodation and encouragement helped me tremendously.”*

Archie continues to be a positive presence on campus, serving as a Teacher’s Assistant for Native programs.



↑ From left to right: Mike Lajoie, Jake Rajnovich, Dan Gowans.

## ALGOMA U BASED STARTUP POISED TO JOIN THE BIG LEAGUES

*"Delivering visibility in the heart of the data storm,"* Exsalgo Corporation's slogan epitomizes the young company's mission and goal.

Founded in March 2007, **Exsalgo** soon joined the business incubator, on Algoma U's campus, at the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC). Leveraging local talent and

resources, the company hired three graduates and one student from Algoma U's Computer Science department to develop their product, Application Performance Factory (APF).

Jake Rajnovich, VP of Development, who holds a BA 2004 (IT) from Algoma U, was the first to join the four founders at Exsalgo. Senior Developers, Dan Gowans, BSc 2007 (Computer Science), and Mike Lajoie BA 1991 (Accounting) and BSc 2007 (Computer Science) were next at the company. Bill Jones, currently studying towards his BSc 2008 (Computer Science), started work for Exsalgo part-time in October 2007.

Born from customers' demands for enhanced business intelligence tools, in just eight months, the team brought the APF product from concept to commercialization. With APF, IT experts can monitor network and application performance and understand why, when, where and at what time network applications misbehave.

The team is currently working on additional modules to enhance APF capabilities, while branching out into a new line of security software. Exsalgo also offers a high end Customer Assistance Program which provides training, ongoing support, and professional services.

Exsalgo (EXponentially Smoothing ALGORithms) further benefited from on-campus expertise when it approached Dr. Jay Rajnovich, head of Algoma U's Computer Science department, to code the smoothing algorithm and produce a white paper explaining its usage. They looked to a fellow SSMIC incubator client, Miramar Design Studio, to design the company website at: [www.exsalgo.com](http://www.exsalgo.com)

The company's first big win came when it formed an alliance with EMC of Massachusetts, the seventh largest software company in the world, to resell APF to their clients. Exsalgo capitalized on known shortcomings within EMC's Smarts product, filling the void for application performance monitoring and historical reporting. Currently, Exsalgo's APF is being reviewed and evaluated by a number of Fortune 500 companies, and the potential for the future is limitless.

*"Exsalgo is the type of company we hope for at the business incubator. It has a sophisticated solution addressing real marketplace needs, and a talented team pursuing International business,"* commented Tom Vair, SSMIC's Executive Director.

## ACCOLADES FOR GRADUATE

**Dan Gowans**, a recent Honours Bachelor of Computer Science graduate from Algoma U, received the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's IT Student/Graduate of the Year award in October. He was recognized for his work as part of the team developing visualization modules for Exsalgo's Application Performance Factory. Academic excellence was also a factor in the judging. While studying at Algoma U, Dan earned the John Rhodes Scholarship - the Award of Excellence for maintaining the highest GPA for his degree, and was on the Dean's List.

# CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF CLASSES: from small beginnings, great things grow

By: Michael C. Ward

On September 25, 1967, Algoma College began offering first-year university level courses to an enrolment of eighty students. The institution's opening as a "tutorial college" marked a turning point for post-secondary education in Sault Ste. Marie.

To gain a better understanding of those momentous times, we asked alumni who began their studies here in 1967 for their insights, and then talked to more recent alumni and current students.



**Name:** Armand Grandinetti  
**Degree:** History/Political Science, 1967 Algoma U student  
**Career:** Teacher, currently retired  
**Resides In:** Richmond Hill, ON

**Algoma's opening:** "The inaugural year of Algoma College was a significant moment in the Sault's history. Before Algoma, educators, adults and students were essentially forced to leave the Sault to pursue higher education."

**Favourite Profs:** "Professor Schwarz instilled me with a love and appreciation of history, but I also fondly remember the determination with which Madame Donald would "sweep" the student lounge and washrooms in search of stray students before her classes began."

**Editing Algoma's first yearbook *Invictus*:**

"The idea of a yearbook seemed an insurmountable task. We lacked the benefit of a previous academic year and we were starting from scratch. However, we knew it had to be done. We realized that there would be no record of our year unless we documented our experiences."

**Changes at Algoma U:** "I have observed the growth and evolution of Algoma College from afar, from Algoma College to Algoma University College and soon Algoma University. We should be proud that this institution has played such a formative role in our lives and in the history of Sault Ste. Marie."

**Name:** Allan Frederick  
**Degree:** Economics/Geography, 1967 Algoma U student  
**Career:** Vice President, Customer Services & Billing, PUC  
**Resides In:** Sault Ste. Marie, ON

**Choosing Algoma:** "Algoma had the courses that I required. The transition from high school to university was made easier due to the smaller classes and interaction with the professors. It was also a cost savings as I could work part-time while at university without incurring any debt."

**Favourite Course:** "Economics was an interesting course as it introduced me to the theory of what made the economy run and the reasons for the ups and downs."

**New students, new school:** "It was great. We all knew each other either through classes, social or athletic events. The numbers were small for full-time students but you also had the opportunity to interact with mature students as some courses were only available in the evenings."

**Favourite Memory:** "Getting through calculus which I found much different than in high school. I think giving the math professor a ride home one cold winter evening put me over the hump."

**Changes at Algoma U:** "The changes have been very progressive: moving from the portables at Sault College to Algoma U's present location, the addition of residences, the focus on technology and the partnerships that Algoma U has built with the Innovation Centre and PUC."





**Name:** Beth (McMaster) Courtney  
**Degree:** Sociology/Philosophy, 1967 Algoma U student  
**Career:** Retired after 30 years of teaching  
**Resides In:** Keewatin, ON

**Choosing Algoma:** *“Having grown up on St. Joe’s, the prospect of taking classes at Algoma U was really no different from going away to a Southern Ontario university.”*

**Favourite Course/Prof:** *“Dr. Donald who taught French was a wonderful professor. I also enjoyed Sociology.”*

**Facilities:** *“We had a library and some pretty good resources. There were several portable classrooms as I recall. The student lounge was fun, with people always playing euchre and willing to teach me how to play bridge.”*

**Favourite Memory:** *“The freedom and independence that we had, which you didn’t get much of in high school at the time. At Algoma U you didn’t have to go to class, although I always did!”*

**Changes at Algoma U:** *“I stay informed from the alumni magazine and I toured Algoma U in 1990 thanks to Dr. Francis Guth. The school certainly has a very prosperous feel. I really have to give credit to the people of the Sault. They recognized the need for education beyond the high school level and they worked hard to make it happen.”*



**Name:** Jessica Ferlaino  
**Degree:** Law and Justice, Algoma U 2007  
**Notable for:** Powderpuff football player, current AUSU (Algoma University Students’ Union) president and very active on campus.

**Favourite Prof:** *“Don Jackson from the Law and Justice and Political Science department. His style of teaching is different than many others. He truly knows and believes what he teaches and he can apply the theory of his studies into practice.”*

**Involvement in Student Life:** *“I like to make things happen. This is a very exciting time of growth for Algoma U. When I first came to Algoma U, I knew I wanted to get involved but I was hesitant due to workload. However once second year came around, I knew it was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up.”*

**Aspirations:** *“I intend on completing my graduate studies in Political Science. From there, I would like to become a professor of Political Science which may lead me back to Algoma University.”*

**Algoma U in 2047:** *“I think I could be reading a profile on ‘then and now’ and it will be the same as the first graduates reading anything said by the present students. There will be more growth and more excitement. Algoma University has the potential to be a leading post secondary and even graduate university in forty years time.”*



[www.ausu.auc.ca](http://www.ausu.auc.ca)

→ From left to right: Paul Skeggs, Greg Rumble & Jessica Ferlaino.



**Name:** Paul Skeggs

**Degree:** Law and Justice, Algoma U (2009)

**Notable for:** A fixture at The Speak Easy “open mic” night and also AUSU, VP Internal and Finance Commissioner.

**Favourite Course/Prof:** *“I have a few different classes and professors which I can say are my favourite because they have the same characteristics. My favourite professors know how to keep the class on its toes while displaying a thorough knowledge of the material. This keeps the class interested and promotes scholarship.”*

**What makes Algoma U different:** *“I previously attended Wilfrid Laurier University. Even though Laurier is known as a smaller university, it still felt like a giant. At Algoma U it’s easy to be on a first-name basis with most of your classmates and even your professors after just a few weeks.”*

**Aspirations:** *“After I leave Algoma U, I plan to go to law school. I decided this after a few years of post-secondary studies. When I came to Algoma U, I was certain I wanted to pursue law as my career and switched into the Honours Double-Degree program of Law and Political Science.”*

**Algoma U in 2047:** *“With Algoma University being completely independent, it will be a well-recognized school. Enrolment will be much higher than what it is today, the campus will span over where the soccer fields are to the north and expand to the St. Mary’s river on the south, perfectly balancing size and beauty.”*



**Name:** Greg Rumble

**Degree:** Finance/Economics, Algoma U (2008)

**Notable for:** Contact for The Summit Student’s Club

**Favourite Prof:** *“Small Business taught by Pelham Matthews, and Business Strategies by Cathy Denomme. These fourth year courses bring together all the ‘memorizing’ in a practical and real-life way. I’d also give a shout out to Jill Zago from the BIZMAP Business Plan Competition for listening and providing critical feedback on several ideas.”*

**On choosing Algoma U:** *“It was close to home and offered a full four years in the Sault.”*

**Aspirations:** *“Gain experience working for a large national corporation, and then later venture out with my own business.”*

**Favourite Memory:** *“Getting to know a wide variety of people, and hopefully seeing them in whatever city I choose to work in.”*

**Algoma U in 2047:** *“Student enrolment will be up, but the traits that Algoma U is known for will still be the same: small class sizes, close association with the profs, meeting the President spontaneously in the cafeteria.”*



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↑ From left to right: *Top Row:* Heather Schmidt, Noah Kamara, Alicia Mills, Shannon King, Theresa Binda, Linda Savory-Gordon. *Bottom Row:* Jan Clarke, Jose Reyes, Gayle Broad, Diane Merini, Madison Saunders Absent: Jude Ortiz, Sharon Sayers, Deborah Woodman, David Thompson.

## NORDIK INSTITUTE: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR A NEW NORTH

By: Michael C. Ward



**Research:** the word conjures images of individuals hunched over ancient texts in library corners, spending hours in solitude. At Algoma U however, the recently incorporated NORDIK (*Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge*) Institute has smashed such preconceptions by offering an exciting, collaborative and team-oriented approach to community-based research.

NORDIK and its predecessor CNODS, was a research group started by recently retired Economics Professor Dr. Jong You. NORDIK is now based in Algoma U's Community Economic and Social Development program, and is focussed on research on regional development and indigenous communities. Led by Dr. Gayle Broad, it has brought its uniquely inclusive and sustainable principles to many projects at the local, regional, and international level.

Says Dr. Broad: *"NORDIK provides an opportunity for Algoma to build research capacity in Northern Ontario by developing the skills of our students and youth interns, and working with community partners from the local to international levels. We have also benefited from our partnerships with other universities such as the Centre for Cooperative Studies at the University of Saskatchewan."*

### Penokean Hills Farms

Designed to support agricultural development, NORDIK research assists Penokean Hills Farm locally. Comprised of nine farmers located between Desbarats and Iron Bridge, Penokean Hills Farm cooperatively markets local beef that is free of hormones and antibiotics.

*"All the beef they sell is a minimum of grade 'A',"* says research assistant Alicia Mills. *"They sell directly and have received the Premier's Award for marketing innovation. They sell twenty-five and fifty pound boxes of meat which many families find convenient."*

### Coalition for Algoma Passenger Trains (CAPT)

CAPT is a regionally-based group of individuals, businesses and other interests who are dedicated to preserving and

enhancing passenger train service in the Algoma district. NORDIK assisted CAPT in developing a strong case for tourism development along the rail corridor in a recently completed opportunity study.

*"NORDIK has been instrumental in helping us develop a viable go-forward strategy,"* says CAPT research supervisor Linda Savory-Gordon. *"The institute took the lead on arranging the financing necessary for the study and the researchers they hired, Bonnie Gaikhezheyongai (CESD degree graduate), Diane Merini and Sharon Sayers (CESD degree graduate), have contributed tremendously."*

### ASOPRICOR

ASOPRICOR is a rural association engaged in holistic development in Colombia. A participatory action research project led by CESD Certificate program graduate Jose Reyes of ASOPRICOR and NORDIK Research Director Dr. Gayle Broad is engaging seven communities in finding answers to youth out-migration, regional development and conflict resolution.

NORDIK is a learning, growing part of Algoma U. For further information, please visit: [www.nordikinstitute.ca](http://www.nordikinstitute.ca)



## SERVICE WITH DISTINCTION: FROM THE SAULT TO AFGHANISTAN

**ERIC GROULX**  
BA 1986 (Psychology)

Lieutenant Colonel **Eric Groulx's** Thanksgiving was not spent with his family this year: he was attending pre-deployment training in Kingston, Ontario. When he finished there, it was off to Oberammergau, Germany for more training in preparation for a six month tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Canadian Armed Forces.

Groulx has steered through life guided by three over-riding influences: the desire to serve his country, dedication to education and career accomplishments, and his father's encouragement. His military experience began as a Navy Cadet in Sudbury. He continued through the cadet corps with the Air Cadets in Chapleau, ending as an Army Cadet in Sault Ste. Marie.

While attending Algoma U, at 18, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Artillery 49th Field Regiment (Reserve). *"It was a natural progression,"* the St. Mary's College graduate says. After graduating from Algoma U with a BA in Psychology, Groulx obtained his BA Honours (Public Policy Administration) from York University while continuing with the Army part-time.

Groulx extols the virtues of enrolling in the Reserves: *"Students receive employment, military training/education, advancement, plus post-secondary tuition. There is definitely something to be said for graduating from university debt-free."*

Wanting to return to the Sault after finishing his studies, Groulx joined the Ministry of Community and Social Services. After that, he worked for the Ontario government in various positions in the Algoma region while taking military courses and continuing with the 49th Field Regiment.

In 2002, having risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, Groulx became the commanding officer of the 49th Regiment. After five years, he handed over command of the unit to serve overseas.

Groulx's next military move sends him to the International Security Assistance Force headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan as Liaison Officer, RC South Kandahar. His six month tour begins New Year's Day, so he won't miss Christmas with his wife and three children Steven, 16 (an International Baccalaureate student at Korah and Army Cadet), Thomas, 14, and Emily, 11.

Eric's wife, Lynda (Thompson) Groulx, obtained her BA 1987 (Political Science) from Algoma U, then went on to York for her BA Honours (Public Policy Administration).

## NIJMEGEN MARCH HONOURS LOCAL VETERAN

In the summer of 2007, an 11-person team from the Royal Canadian Artillery 49th Field Regiment (Reserve) took part in the annual 700 km, four day Nijmegen March in the Netherlands. They were among 5,000 military and over 35,000 civilian participants, each carrying heavy packs over rough mountainous terrain. Lt. Col. Eric Groulx, alumnus of Algoma U, refers to the march as *"one of the highlights of my career."*

The regiment's team dedicated the feat to Captain Alexander Ross, father of Algoma U's President, Dr. Celia Ross. *"An outstanding soldier, author, and man, Capt. Ross is a figure at the Armoury, providing guidance and inspiration,"* says Groulx.

Groulx' team trained for months before their departure. While there, they walked the battleground and cemetery where Canadian soldiers are buried and brought back photos for Capt. Ross. In appreciation for the team's efforts, Capt. Ross gave each of them a personally signed copy of his book, *Slow March to a Regiment*. The book is his memoir of service with 17th Canadian Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery, emphasizing the importance of the battle at Otterloo, which led to the liberation of the Netherlands. The captain received his Military Cross for valor in defending and taking this significant point.





**Professor Vincent MANCINELLI** - Passed away peacefully surrounded by his family at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie on October 7, 2007 after a courageous battle with cancer. Born in Crecchio, Italy on March 17, 1939, Vince Mancinelli began his tenure at Algoma U as an Assistant Professor

in the Department of Modern Languages in July 1970, and retired from teaching in April 2003. Best known for his passion for the Italian language, love of travel, and inspirational instruction, he was named Professor Emeritus by the Senate of Algoma U in the fall of 2003. Luci Marini-Wurdemann, Professor in Modern Languages remembers her professor, friend, and colleague: *"He always said that the greatest compliment was not that he was a professor, but a teacher. He was very passionate about literature, and leaving his classroom you felt inspired to go write poetry or a novel."* Professor Vincent Mancinelli will be remembered by the Algoma U family. To make a gift in his memory, please contact Bev Teller (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125 or bev.teller@algomau.ca.



**Donald Alexander (Sandy) MACHUM** died comfortably at his home in Edmonton, Alberta on October 24, 2007 at the age of 79. Don was one of the original five local people who were the applicants for the *"Letters Patent"* that set up the corporation of the Algoma College Association on October 23, 1964. He held an LLB from Dalhousie, and an LLM from Harvard. Don was a top executive with Algoma Steel in the Sault during the 1960's and 70's, before moving to Edmonton. From the

time of incorporation to the time he left the Sault, Don was a member of the Algoma College Board of Governors. Dr. Francis Guth remembers him as an enlightened thinker, *"a tough, but very fair and knowledgeable man."* This fall marks the 40th anniversary of classes at Algoma U, and we would like to pay tribute to people like Don Machum who were responsible for the very existence of this institution. To make a gift in memory of Don Machum, please contact Bev Teller (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125 or bev.teller@algomau.ca.

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



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

I enjoy the opportunity to meet Algoma U alumni, and welcome new grads into the alumni family. I love to hear your stories of what Algoma U was like when you were a student and the paths you have taken since graduating. You make us proud!!! Please keep your stories coming.

As you flip through these pages you will see a small sampling of the successes, our alumni have achieved. This year the Alumni Council introduced the Alumni Recognition Awards. These prestigious awards recognize and celebrate the achievements of our alumni. Congratulations to the first recipients, Jody Rebek and Diane Marshall.

As alumni you have much to contribute to the success of our institution and to today's students. The Algoma U Alumni Council invites all alumni to become actively involved. Serve on a committee, attend events or cheer on our talented athletes. This is your university - you *still* belong here!

My sincere thanks to our alumni and friends for your financial support of the Algoma U Annual Campaign. Your gifts have a direct impact on our students by providing financial support for our scholarships & bursaries program, library resources and varsity sports programs. Time and time again students tell me how this financial support encourages them to keep working hard. **Thank you for investing in our students!**

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).



### ALUMNI UPDATES, NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Elizabeth Oja**, BA 1990 (Psychology/Sociology) recently retired from her teaching position at the Algoma Youth Centre. She and her husband spent three months in Arizona and are looking forward to spending more time there in the future.

**Shelley-Ann (May) Goulet**, BA Hons 1992 (Psychology) is married to John Goulet and they have two children, ages eight and nine. They relocated their family to Camrose, Alberta, after living in Red Deer, to work in the new Camrose Resort Casino.

**Alison Brooks**, BA 1993 (Sociology) accepted a position with the City of Sault Ste. Marie Housing Corporation as the Tenant Support Worker in December 2006. Alison has contributed greatly to the community through her previous employment as the Executive Director of Big Sisters Association of Sault Ste. Marie and through her active involvement in community services.

**Vincent Buczel**, BA 1993 (Computer Science) is a teacher at Bawating Collegiate & Vocational School in Sault Ste. Marie and has been teaching Technological Studies for six years.

**Mark Allard**, BA 2000 (History) returned to Sault Ste. Marie in December 2006 after spending six years in Nagasaki, Japan where he began his career as an English teacher. In April 2007, Mark took on the role of International Student Advisor for Algoma U. Mark and his wife Allyson welcomed a new addition to their family with the birth of their son Henry, born June 16, 2007.

**Sarah Crowell**, BA 2001 (Sociology and Anishinaabemowin) was the proud recipient of the Hassan Gardezi Award for Excellence in Sociology and was in the inaugural class of the Anishinaabemowin program. Sarah and her husband Colin moved to Ottawa in 2001, where she joined Statistics Canada to work on the 2006 Census, the Aboriginal Peoples Survey, and the Aboriginal Children's Survey. In 2007, she moved back home to Sault Ste. Marie for the position of Indigenous Student Advisor at Algoma U.

**Wesley Hill**, BBA 2002 (Accounting) received his Certified General Accountant (CGA) designation in February 2007. Wes is employed by the Ontario Lottery Corporation in Sault Ste. Marie as a Senior Financial Analyst.

**Rachel Hill**, BBA 2002 (Accounting), BA 2000 (English) recently accepted a position with the Ministry of Natural Resources, Forest Management Planning Branch, as the Training Coordinator. Rachel will be greatly missed by the staff, faculty and students of Algoma U where she has worked since August 2001, as a Liaison Officer, Coordinator of Liaison Activities, and Career and International Services Advisor.

**Danny Reid**, BSc 2003 (Computer Science) is employed at Algoma U as the Divisional Director of IT Services and teaches the occasional course for the COSC Department as a Sessional Instructor. Danny was married in April 2007 to Avy Ehikwe. Danny and Avy met as students while attending Algoma U. Their wedding ceremony was officiated by Algoma U's own Bruno Barban.

**Megan Storms**, BA 2006 (Fine Arts) is attending Teacher's College at Sunshine University in Australia. Megan will complete her Bachelor of Education degree in December 2007 and will begin her teaching career in junior education. Megan first attended Sunshine University as an Algoma U exchange student. While in Australia, she met the love of her life and they were married in September 2007.

**Tamara Musgrove-Boissoneau**, BA 2006 (Sociology) went on from Algoma U to complete her Bachelor of Education from Queen's University. Tamara is excited about beginning her teaching career in remote First Nations communities in the fall of 2007.

# 1st Annual

## ALGOMA U ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARD WINNERS



### Jody Rebek, BBA 1997 2007 Alumni Achievement Award

Jody Rebek is the first recipient of the Algoma U Alumni Achievement Award. She received her award at the Algoma U Convocation Ceremony on June 9, 2007.

After graduating from Algoma U, Ms. Rebek continued her education at Royal Roads University, in Victoria BC, where she was awarded the Canada Graduate Scholarship from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada to complete her Masters of Arts in Leadership and Training.

Ms. Rebek is the Managing Director of Destiny Sault Ste. Marie, a position she has held since 2006. Prior to joining Destiny Sault Ste. Marie, Ms. Rebek was the Executive Director for Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). There she spearheaded community partnerships and established relationships with various government and private sector leaders to engage in the development of continuous quality improvement for Sault Ste. Marie and area.

Ms. Rebek has researched and published a number of reports and publications including the Community Resilience Project of Sault Ste. Marie, The Blossom's Project, Vision 20/20, and Healthy Youth Needs Assessment. She has been actively involved in the community through her service with organizations such as the Lake Superior Conservancy and Watershed Council, Sault Ste. Marie Best For Kids Committee and the Sault Ste. Marie and Area Physician Recruitment program. In addition, at the 2007 Chamber of Commerce Awards, Ms. Rebek was awarded the Athena Award.



Dave Pitcher, Chair, Algoma U Alumni Council and Dr. Celia Ross, Algoma U President congratulate Jody Rebek, center, on her award.



### Diane Marshall, BA 1974 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award

The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a well known and respected individual who has *"enriched the community of Sault Ste. Marie both professionally and through exceptional volunteer work."* Diane Marshall is the deserving 2007 winner, in the inaugural year of the award.

She began her career with the Sault Ste. Marie Board of Education as an educator, where she developed programs for gifted children and children with special needs. Her career path took her from the classroom to the Board office where she was the Administrator of Special Education and later became the first female Superintendent.

Mrs. Marshall is very passionate about her community and has committed a great deal of her time, talents and expertise to such organizations as the Sault Area Hospital Board, the Canadian Cancer Society, United Way, Algoma University College Foundation Board, Central United Church, Rotary Club, Christmas Cheer and the Council for Exceptional Children, among others.

Most recently Mrs. Marshall was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the community, by the City of Sault Ste. Marie, as a recipient of the 2006 Medal of Merit award. The Sault Ste. Marie Medal of Merit Selection Committee described Mrs. Marshall as a *"generous, compassionate individual whose desire to nurture the best in all has extended beyond her career as an educator and overflowed to benefit the community at large."*

# 2nd Annual

## ALGOMA U ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS



The deadline for nominations for the **2nd Annual Algoma U Alumni Recognition Awards** is **May 1, 2008**. After being reviewed and awarded by the Alumni Awards Selection Committee, the awards will be presented at the Algoma U Convocation ceremonies in June.

Details on these awards can be found on the website at [www.algomau.ca](http://www.algomau.ca) on the Alumni tab, under Alumni Services, or by contacting **Bev Teller**, CFRE, Alumni & Development Officer, at (705) 949-2301 ext. 4125 or by e-mail at [alumni@algomau.ca](mailto:alumni@algomau.ca).

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