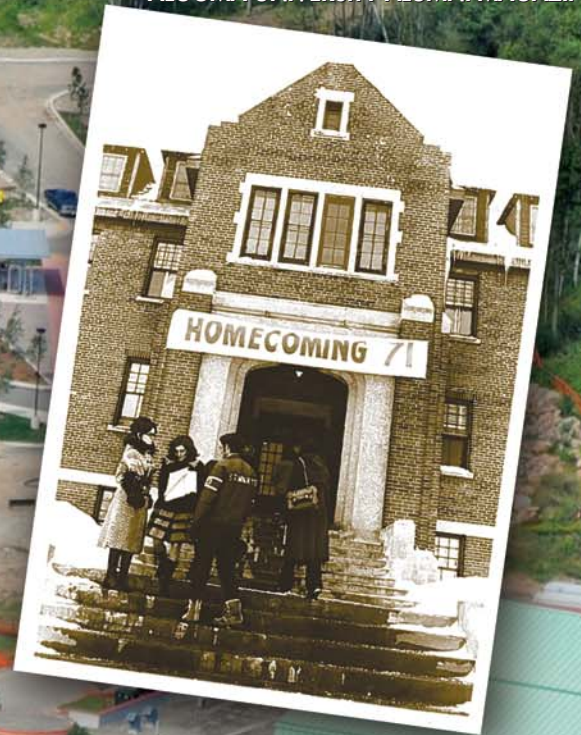


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T O D A Y

WINTER/SPRING 2012

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE



SMALL UNIVERSITY -
BIG EDUCATION



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NEWS

Weeknights 6:00
Tony Ryma and Michelle Tonner

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Contents

Alumni Council Chair's Message 3
 President's Message - Dr. Richard Myers 4
 Student Profiles: Shelby Goodlass & Farrukh Asif Khan 5
 Algoma U Convocation 2011 6-7
 Alumni Profile: Victoria Thomas 8
 Alumni Profile: Andrea Palombi 9
 Sports Profile: Stepping Up Our Game: Algoma U Applies to Compete in Ontario University Athletics 10
 2010-2011 Community Report - Algoma University Foundation Supplement
 Student Profiles: Steven Groulx & Ashley Shantz 11
 Alumni Profile: Paul Skeggs 12
 Keeping in Touch - A Message from the Alumni Office 13
 Bharati (Bee-Bee) Mukherjee: A Decade of Magic Comes to an End 13
 ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: The Campaign for Algoma University 14-15
 Algoma University News 16-17
 Faculty Profile: Dr. David Schantz 18

Contributing Editors

Joanne Nanne,
Communications Officer
joanne.nanne@algomau.ca

Bev Teller, CFRE
Alumni & Development Officer
bev.teller@algomau.ca

Kevin Hemsworth
Divisional Director, External Relations
kevin.hemsworth@algomau.ca

Photos

Colin Crowell
Tammy Fiegehen
Alisha Gilbert

Contributing Writers

Nadine Robinson
Rick McGee
Melanie Nolan
Marc Capancioni
Victoria Thomas
Bharati Mukherjee

For information about this publication, please contact:

Algoma University
c/o Communications Department
1520 Queen Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada P6A 2G4
705-949-2301 ext. 4120
communications@algomau.ca

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ALUMNI COUNCIL CHAIR'S MESSAGE

By: Jessica Ferlaino, Chair, Algoma University Alumni Council

"*Small university, big education*" is more than just a slogan at Algoma University - it is a guarantee! What makes Algoma U an exceptional place to learn and to grow is the fact that as an institution, and as a community, there is an unwavering commitment to excellence, relative to capacity and desire. Essentially, Algoma U is a blank canvas, enriched with history: a ready-made network of amazing people, groups, departments, and partnerships which are prepared to help you tailor your very own experience.

I have been a member of the Algoma University community for 8 years. When I began as a student in 2003, fresh out of high school, my intention was simple. My goal was to graduate in four years with the best marks possible and hopefully move on to bigger and better things. I figured my experience would be a flash in the pan. It turns out that my expectations were far surpassed academically and in terms of extra-curricular activities. Ultimately, my time at Algoma University not only changed the person I was, but also who I intended on being and where I hoped I could go.

Academically, Algoma University provides a careful balance of challenges and support. The quality of the classroom environment is bar none due to its small class sizes and personable and dedicated faculty and staff, many of whom practice open door accessibility to ensure students maximize their capacities. Based on my own experience as a student, there is no doubt in my mind that upon graduating I was fully prepared for anything that was going to come my way, and indeed it has.

Algoma U also provides a wealth of opportunities to participate in extra-curricular

activities, including athletics (varsity and recreational), arts, music, student government, social justice, student clubs and many more. Due to its small size and commitment to campus life, if you have an interest and need an avenue to express it, Algoma University provides the type of environment where anything is possible and it is easy to create your own niche and ultimately your own undergraduate experience.

This commitment to the development of well-rounded students is what makes Algoma University a special place to study and the primary reason for my continued involvement and dedication to the institution and its many initiatives. The role of the Alumni Council is to assist the institutional progress of Algoma University as it continues to grow, whilst ensuring the retention of everything that has made Algoma U a special experience for the many cohorts who have crossed the stage at convocation, since the very first graduating class.

The Alumni Council should bridge gaps between the past and present, strengthen existing and create new networks, essentially keep the essence of our history alive as we traverse the present and move into the future. I have watched this campus grow tremendously over my time here, and I have grown along-side it. I have tremendous hope for the future of Algoma University and I look forward to what we will be able to accomplish together, carrying with us recognition of the past, an appreciation of the present, and a well informed future, to ensure the very best post-secondary education and campus life experience for Alumni and future generations alike.



When I finished my PhD at Canada's largest university, I landed a faculty position at what was pretty much Canada's smallest university, an undergraduate liberal arts institution in the Maritimes. With a kind of unintentional arrogance, I told myself that this would be "a good first job," a place to gain some practical experience before moving on to a bigger school. It didn't take long before my perspective began to change. I was teaching small classes that fostered an easy give-and-take with the students, and it was a lot of fun. I couldn't help but draw comparisons with the institution I had just left, where classes were much larger and there was a greater distance (both literally and figuratively) between the professors and the students. And I couldn't help wondering who was really getting the better education. Eventually, it became pretty clear to me what the answer to that question was, and I became a firm believer in the power of a small undergraduate university to deliver a really big education.

That's the advantage of the Algoma U experience. Our small classes give students a chance to be more engaged in their learning and to find help when they need it. And as an undergraduate institution that has no graduate programs, we provide students an opportunity to assist professors in their research, taking on tasks that would normally be done by Master's students at larger schools. It's no wonder that our students often excel when they go off for advanced study elsewhere. They're comfortable engaging professors in discussion, and they've often had opportunities to do the kind of research that is normally reserved for graduate students. Some of our students have multiple scholarly publications by the time they leave Algoma U! All of this explains some interesting data I saw a number of years ago. A study by one of the major U.S. foundations indicated that ten percent of the students who received a doctorate in the previous year had done their first degree at small

undergraduate universities. Yet small undergraduate universities produced only 2.5% of the bachelor's degrees that year. The unstated implication was striking: the data set suggested small institutions like Algoma U were four times more effective at producing students who went on to get a PhD than the big schools that actually had PhD programs!

Institutions like Algoma U are common in the United States. South of the border, they're referred to as liberal arts colleges. Most of the universities in Canada's eastern provinces have a similar structure: the majority are small institutions that focus on undergraduate programming and that make teaching and learning their first priority. So what we do at Algoma U is not unusual. In the Ontario system, however, we are unique. No other university in this province caps classes at a maximum of 65 students. No other university in this province can boast that three-quarters of its classes are high-school size (30) or smaller. No other university in this province can offer the personal attention we do. All of that is a huge advantage for us.

This past year, we decided to embrace that advantage and make it the focal point of our student recruitment campaign. Our marketing message is now Small University, BIG EDUCATION. We think that phrase captures perfectly the essence of Algoma University. We don't apologize for being small. We celebrate it. We revel in it. We affirm that a smaller school provides the biggest education because of the quality of the classroom experience, the attention students receive and the opportunities that they have. I'm confident that readers of the Alumni Magazine will know exactly what I'm talking about.

The response to our campaign has been overwhelmingly positive. Teachers, parents and students have all commented favourably on it. When we presented our new recruitment materials to the University's Senate, the Senators broke into spontaneous applause! And the Senators showed good instincts on this point because those materials recently won two awards in a very large and rigorous competition in the U.S. for college and university marketing. But the most important news is the record-breaking success of this year's recruitment campaign. Applications for September are up by ten percent and we expect to have the largest incoming class in the University's history!

So pass on the good word. Let people know about the Algoma U advantage. And take pride in the fact that having an education from the province's smallest university is a big deal!

SHELBY GOODLASS: COMING FULL CIRCLE

By: Nadine Robinson

When she was in Grade 12, **Shelby Goodlass** attended Ontario's University Fair in Toronto to learn about her postsecondary options. This year she was there as part of the contingent promoting Algoma University. *"It's nice to come full circle"* said Goodlass. She remembers not knowing which university to choose and she likes helping other students find their fit.

Goodlass, now a second year Social Work student at Algoma University, was a camp counsellor for special needs teens and through helping them, found her area of study. *"I saw how campers were improving and how we made a difference. The change was really rewarding."*

She wanted a BSW, instead of a BA with a focus in Social Work, so Goodlass turned to the Internet. A search on e-info returned Algoma University at the top of the page and she made enquiries. One of the recruiters contacted her, offering to meet her as he was in Southern Ontario at the time, and she remembers her mother saying: *"that's where you should go, they're so friendly."*



After visiting the campus and the residences, Goodlass was thrilled that she'd have a private room, and liked the benefits of studying at a smaller university. *"I've gotten to know a lot of people... it's not intimidating to ask for help from teachers and other students. And the professors are knowledgeable, really nice, accommodating, and willing to help you... they really seem to want you to succeed."*

Goodlass is also pursuing a certificate in Community Economic and Social Development.

Recalling one particularly memorable experience at Algoma U, she said: *"one of my CESD friends brought me into the SASA lounge for a smudging - I knew nothing about it, and being part of it was a great learning experience. We don't have a lot of exposure to Anishinaabe culture in Burlington."*

After her expected graduation in 2014, Goodlass plans to do her Masters and hopes to one day work and live in the Sault: *"I really have fallen in love with this place - I love the community feel."*

FARRUKH ASIF KHAN: AN EXPERIENCE OF A LIFETIME

By: Kevin Hemsworth

Farrukh Asif Khan had never owned a jacket before she came to Algoma University. With temperatures in her hometown of Jeddah in Saudi Arabia reaching 30 degrees - at night - she never needed one. How times have changed.

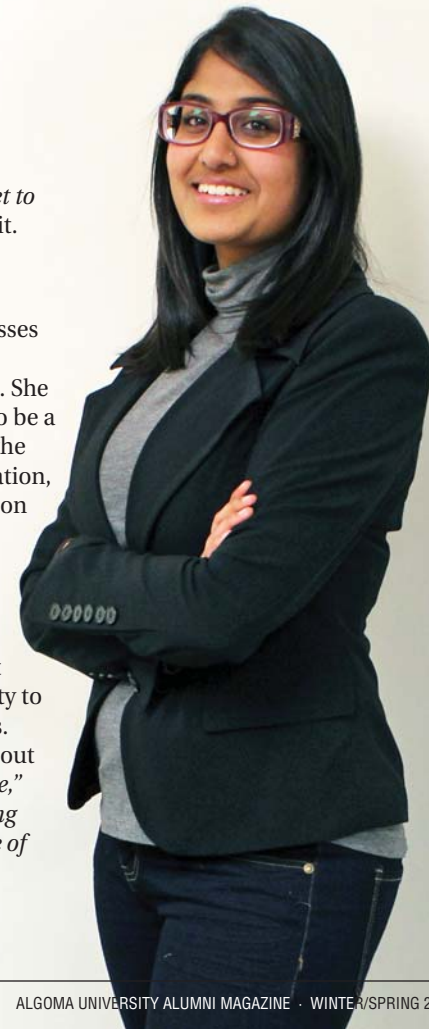
As Spring comes to campus, Farrukh welcomes the warmer weather, but the 2nd-year Business student takes the temperature in stride, calling it *"all part of the experience."*

The experience is why she ended up at Algoma University in the first place. She admits that it isn't the first place that students from Saudi Arabia choose when looking to study abroad, but as the oldest in her family, she blazed a trail here, along with her younger brother, Shahrukh Asif Khan. They chose Algoma U because *"it was small, cost less, and wasn't in a big city."* She admits to being surprised by the size of Sault Ste. Marie upon arrival, but she is an opportunist, and recognized that this was *"an opportunity*

to do something that most kids don't get to do." She is indeed making the most of it.

When Khan isn't working in the Development office as part of a co-op placement or taking the marketing classes that are her *"favourite"*, she serves as Secretary on this year's Student Union. She was a Frosh Week leader, has applied to be a Residence Advisor, is the President of the Algoma Multicultural Students Association, and has just successfully won an election bid to become the Algoma University Student Union's Vice President Internal for the next academic year.

As for her plans post-graduation, Khan would like to stay in Canada, but thinks she'd like to move to a bigger city to study corporate law or public relations. She credits Algoma U for breaking her out of her shell: *"I feel like I fit in better here,"* she says. *"Back home I was less outgoing and more rebellious - this has been one of the best experiences of my life!"*



algomaU

Convocation

2011

By: Rick McGee



Noteworthy “firsts” added extra significance to Algoma University’s 39th spring Convocation on June 11, 2011.

Graduation exercises took place for the first time at the Roberta Bondar Tent Pavilion in downtown Sault Ste. Marie. Degrees were awarded to 177 graduands during ceremonies attended by 1,200 family members, friends and guests of the university.

The occasion also marked Dr. Richard Myers’ first Convocation as President of Algoma University.

Thoughts of shifting Convocation from its established on-campus site in the George Leach Centre to the outdoor amphitheatre by the St. Marys River originated with Dr. Myers. He recognized the venue’s potential after joining Algoma U in 2010 from St. Thomas University in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

“From the first day I came to the Sault, the Bondar Pavilion struck me as the perfect place for Convocation,” Dr. Myers recalled. *“At my previous university, I had persuaded people to move Convocation outdoors, into a quadrangle that overlooked the river valley. The students absolutely loved it. The only challenge was that we were at the mercy of weather. We used to joke that if we could find a giant tent to cover the quadrangle, everything would be perfect. When I saw the Bondar Pavilion, I laughed to myself and said, ‘That’s it.’”*

“The tent itself lends just the right festive air to what is ultimately a very festive occasion - it’s certainly much better than a hockey rink or a gym. Of course, the other element in moving to the Bondar Pavilion was to get us downtown. Building stronger links into the Sault Ste. Marie community is a very high priority for me and I think that holding our Convocation downtown is a great way to make the point symbolically.”

Algoma U’s Registrar, David Marasco, said the university’s Convocation Committee readily endorsed Dr. Myers’ thinking and plans were adjusted accordingly. Post-event feedback confirmed that the change was well received, despite steady rain during much of this year’s ceremony.

“The Pavilion is very special to the community,” said David. *“It’s a community gathering place and it provides a great way to showcase the university. It’s a beautiful setting. Students actually liked it and the faculty said it was great. Immediately after the ceremony, we marshalled the graduates, faculty and President out of the Convocation hall and took a group picture of everyone. By the time we took the picture, all the families had come back into the Convocation hall for a nice reception.”*



↑ Mike Cachagee (Political Science, 1994) received the Distinguished Alumni Award.



Abbie DiDonato, a member of the class of 2011, welcomed the waterfront alternative. *"I really preferred the Roberta Bondar Pavilion over the George Leach Centre (where Convocation had been held since 1992). Everything went really smoothly down there except for the weather and you can never predict that."*

Abbie earned a Business Administration (Honours) degree in Human Resources/Marketing at Algoma U. She is now working toward a Sports and Events Marketing diploma at George Brown College in Toronto.

The extended DiDonato family was certainly well represented at graduation. Abbie's brother Michael also successfully completed Business Administration studies last spring. In addition, their cousin Laura received a Bachelor of Arts (General) degree at Convocation 2011.

Proudly sharing in their big day were two sets of parents and two grandparents.

Peggi DiDonato - mother of Abbie and Michael - gave the Roberta Bondar Pavilion a thumbs-up. *"If it wasn't for the rain, it would have been beautiful,"* she said. *"It was nice to get photographs by the waterfront, and the food was very good."*

Personal contact with those present highlighted the day for Dr. Myers. *"The best part of Convocation is always afterward, when you meet the families of the graduates,"* he enthused. *"I was especially pleased to chat with parents who had come quite some distance to help their children celebrate - a mother from Japan and a couple from New York."*

Algoma U's next graduation will return to the Bondar Pavilion for 2012.

"Using the George Leach Centre means depriving members of access to their facility for three days," Dr. Myers observed. *"And the set-up at the GLC takes a couple of days, versus a couple of hours at the Pavilion."*

Some adjustments for Convocation 2012 will be considered. A reception back on campus might be built into the program.

And Dr. Myers would like to see a student voice - perhaps that of a valedictorian or class president - become part of the special occasion.

↑ Honourable Justice Susan E. Lang presented with a Doctor of Laws, honoris causa.



↑ From left: Dr. Richard Myers, President; Don Mitchell, Honorary Senate Membership Award Recipient; Speaker of Senate, Dr. Gayle Broad; and Dr. Arthur Perlini, Academic Dean.



↑ The Alumni Achievement Award presented to Fred Pelletier (Fine Arts, 2006) by 2011 Chair, Algoma University Alumni Council, Brian Leahy.

SMALL YET MIGHTY: MY JOURNEY THROUGH ALGOMA U

By: Victoria Thomas

In my final year of high school, like a lot of high school students, I wanted to go to university in another city. I wanted a bigger city with more people and more to do. I thought Algoma University could not give me the experience I wanted or needed to be able to move on to law school or grad school like a larger university could. In June of 2004, it was very clear to me that I would have to stay in Sault Ste. Marie and attend Algoma University in September. I spent the summer watching friends going to visit the cities they were moving to, find apartments and/or getting to know their would-be roommates in residence. I had to come to terms with the idea that I would be left behind.

September rolled around and it was time to begin my university career. Course selection during Frosh Week was, to say the least, nerve-racking. I met with a Professor who walked me through the process and informed me which classes I was going to need in order to successfully complete the 4-year Honours Psychology program, as well as some of the recommended elective courses to take. The first day of classes I honestly don't remember. What I do remember was realizing that the horror stories my high school teachers had told me about university -the teachers don't care about you, you will be just a number, they don't care if you pass or fail, etc - was certainly not the case. No offence to my high school teachers, but they clearly had never attended Algoma U.

What I did find were professional, intelligent, friendly, and helpful professors with the knowledge and experience to help me succeed. Throughout my undergraduate experience, I developed relationships with my professors and fellow students. With assistance from Professor Jack Dunning I learned proper study techniques for test taking, I became a more confident public speaker and academic writer with the support of Dr. Dave Brodbeck, with guidance from Dr. Laurie Bloomfield I learned how to complete a budget and ethics proposal, and Dr. Paul Dupuis introduced me to the field of Forensic Psychology which linked my two academic passions together: law and psychology. Also, because of the diversified courses available at Algoma University, I was able to take courses in English, Geology, Computer Science, Law, Sociology and Political Science. One Political Science course was a special topics course in current environmental issues which will become important later.

During my undergraduate degree I became a Teaching Assistant for multiple

classes within the Psychology department, developed my own research study, conducted the research, presented my findings at the Algoma University Thesis Conference and was later invited to the Ontario Psychology Thesis Conference where I presented my research to students and professors from universities all over Ontario. There was an interesting phenomenon: the students from Algoma University had FULL audiences. At the time I had just assumed there were so many people there that all the presentations were full. I later found out that a lot of it had to do with the fact that each of us had conducted our OWN research. We were not given a piece of a larger study being conducted by a PhD candidate at a big university, each of us had chosen our area of interest and had conducted this research ourselves (with immense and continuous support from our Thesis Advisor, Academic Advisor, Thesis Course Professor and other professors within the Psychology Department). This drew in the attention of professors from other universities, specifically those looking for potential Master's students.

When it came time to decide next steps for me, I was very torn. I had always wanted to go to Law School so that was a given, I applied to Law School. I also loved psychology and could see myself working in any number of the subfields within psychology so I applied to Graduate School for a Master's in Psychology. I also applied to Graduate School for a Master's of Environmental Studies. While I was accepted into multiple Grad Schools in multiple different programs, something pulled me towards a Master's of Environmental Studies degree at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

I quickly learned how exceptional my education and experiences from Algoma

University were. When our Program Director told us we had to have our thesis topics chosen and abstract written within the first week and an annotated bibliography the week after that, I knew what that all meant and where to start. A week later our project proposals and budgets were due. Shortly after that our ethics proposal was required. Since I had written my own proposals and budget during my undergraduate degree I had an excellent starting point. Not everyone had these same advantages.

Over my two-year Master's program the value of Algoma University became abundantly clear: I presented my research at three conferences, including one in Beijing, China; I received funding from Dalhousie University's Faculty of Graduate Studies and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council; I was a Teaching Assistant; and successfully completed all the courses. While Dalhousie University's faculty and staff were important, none of these achievements would have been possible without my experiences from Algoma University.

Seven years later, my university career is not yet over however, I am employed full-time in my field. Where? The Northern Ontario Research, Development, Ideas and Knowledge (NORDIK) Institute of Algoma University.

While the lure of a different city is tempting, DO NOT leave because you are concerned about the value or level of education available in Sault Ste. Marie. From my experience, Algoma University has just as much, in fact in my opinion, more, than big universities. I would repeat my experiences at Algoma University in a heartbeat. Sincere appreciation and thanks to the faculty of Algoma U's Psychology department 2004-2009.



ANDREA PALOMBI: ALGOMA U'S CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTES TO GRAD'S SUCCESS

By: Melanie Nolan

Bigger doesn't always mean better. For alumna **Andrea Palombi**, Algoma University offered many benefits that only a smaller university can.

After attending Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan for a year, Andrea returned home and transferred to Algoma U to major in Business. She quickly discovered that Algoma U provides a unique, personal learning experience.

"I really enjoyed my first year at Algoma U. I appreciated the one-on-one interaction with teachers and students," Andrea says. *"Our professors knew most of us by name and knew what was going on in our lives, so this contributed to our learning."*

Andrea attended Algoma U from 2005-2009 and received a Bachelor of Business Administration with a specialization in Accounting. She benefitted from the practical knowledge of her professors.

"Most of our professors were also working in the industry at the same time, so we were able to learn from their experiences," she says. *"The flexible class schedule and night classes allowed students of all ages to work and get their degree at the same time, which meant that I got to meet and learn from my classmates who were all at different stages of their lives."*

"The smaller class sizes offered opportunities to really get to know, and collaborate with, other students," she explains.

"We had a tight-knit group and had a lot of fun together," says Andrea. *"I think I learned as much from my classmates as I did from my professors. We still keep in touch."*

Andrea moved to Calgary, Alberta soon after graduating in April 2009. She is employed with Enns & Company LLP Chartered Accountants. She has passed the Uniform Evaluation (UFE) and completed the articling process, earning the Chartered Accountant (CA) designation.

"The environment at Algoma U corresponded really well with my learning style," says Andrea. *"The real test is when you start working and realize that your education gave you the tools you need to be successful in the workplace."*

Attending Algoma U helped Andrea determine that she wanted to pursue some type of consulting that was not necessarily accounting-related. *"The path to obtaining a CA designation teaches you so much more*



than just accounting and the designation itself affords a lot of flexibility," she notes. *"Now that I have my designation, I will be able to work in any industry, which is important to me."*

While at Algoma U, Andrea also identified that a smaller accounting firm was a better fit for her than a larger organization.

"I appreciate the relationships I will be able to make with small business owners while working for this company," Andrea shares. *"I really enjoy being able to participate in their growth and success. This is something that I learned being at Algoma U. Many of our group projects actually involved working with real small business owners in the community."*

In addition to relocating to Calgary for employment, Andrea's move out West was prompted by her love for the mountains and snowboarding.

Andrea's parents introduced her to skiing at a young age. She was a ski racer for several seasons, but then about 12 years ago, she discovered snowboarding.

"Winter is my favourite time of year. The season starts here in November, so I am out in the mountains almost every weekend enjoying the snow," says Andrea.

In November 2009, Andrea won a free trip to Whistler.

"Red Bull sponsored the contest and they ended up hooking me and my friends up with lift tickets and nights out on the town," Andrea says. *"It was a pretty cool experience."*

Andrea is also an avid runner and enjoys cycling, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and hiking. She also played on the indoor women's soccer team for one year.

She says that attending Algoma University has a tremendous impact on her life.

"Seeing the progression that is taking place at Algoma U and all of the new developments, makes me really proud that I obtained my degree there," Andrea states. *"I feel like I owe a large part of my success so far to Algoma U because being a part of that tight-knit community helped me figure out my next steps."*

As for the future, Andrea says, *"I want a career that constantly challenges me and I want to be successful. To me, being successful doesn't necessarily mean making a lot of money. It means enjoying my work, being able to participate in my hobbies, and being able to influence others in a positive way."*

With the valuable education and experiences she gained at Algoma U, Andrea has a strong foundation for a long and successful career.

STEPPING UP OUR GAME: ALGOMA U APPLIES TO COMPETE IN ONTARIO UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS

By: Kevin Hemsworth

On April 16th and 17th, Algoma University President Dr. Richard Myers and Athletic Director Mark Kontulainen toured a group of delegates from Ontario University Athletics (OUA) to a number of athletic facilities in Sault Ste. Marie, including our very own George Leach Centre. The site visit by the delegates is part of the application process that Algoma University has undertaken to see its sports teams compete against the other universities in the province, and ultimately across the country.

In February 2012 the University presented its formal application to move its varsity athletics programming into the OUA, from the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA), a league composed primarily of the province's colleges of applied arts and technology.

"Algoma U has been an independent university for several years now. It's time to adjust our varsity programming to reflect that fact," says University President Dr. Richard Myers. *"If we want people to think of us as a university, we should probably associate ourselves with our sister universities. The OCAA is an excellent organization, but playing in a league composed primarily of colleges sometimes leads to confusion about who we are and what we do, especially in Southern Ontario."*

Algoma U has applied to join the OUA starting in 2013-2014. As part of the membership criteria, the OUA would like the University to compete in both the men's and women's categories in six sports. On the advice of a panel that included faculty, staff, student athletes, alumni and members of the local sporting community, the University proposed varsity teams for both men and women in basketball, soccer, curling, cross-country running, wrestling and Nordic skiing.

"Sault Ste. Marie is a great town for sports," says Kontulainen. *"In making our selection, we considered factors such as the quality of facilities, whether on campus or in town, the strength and depth of local programming, the level of coaching expertise available in Sault Ste. Marie and the potential for fan interest, from both the campus and the city. We also had to consider affordability. We think we can be competitive at the university level in these six sports."*

Algoma University will present their application to the OUA at their AGM in May, and the OUA members are planning to vote on the application prior to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) AGM in June.





COMMUNITY REPORT



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada
2010-2011

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Andrew Ross

This past year has seen tremendous growth and change at Algoma University, and this has been no less true for the **Algoma University Foundation**. With our growing campus, the increase in student enrollment, exciting new scholarship and bursary opportunities, and announcement of new academic programs, there is a lot happening at Algoma University.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: The Campaign for Algoma University continues to move towards its goal of raising \$6 million, with a current total raised of more than \$4 million. One of the major accomplishments for the Campaign has been the development and recent opening of the the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre. This building has become a signature piece on the Algoma University campus, and is a state of the art facility that houses a dynamic collection of University programs, private sector partners, and public sector research. The continued development of programs and services through the Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre will ensure strong growth for Algoma University as an institution, and will be a cornerstone of development for Sault Ste. Marie as a whole.

We are honoured and excited to be able to incorporate many new Scholarships and Bursaries in the coming year, thanks to the efforts of the ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS Campaign and the generosity of the Algoma University and Sault Ste.

Marie communities. These scholarships and bursaries are geared to both general applicants as well as specific programs, and offer many new and returning students the financial opportunity to make their schooling that much more affordable. We look forward to being able to continue to expand the scholarship and bursary offerings at the University in the future.

We want to thank everyone who has worked so tirelessly on our behalf, and the community for your continued support. And while we have made great strides forward towards our goals, there is still some work to do. With that in mind, I want to bring your attention to the pledge forms inserted within this magazine. Our goal with the ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS Campaign is to provide the community and the City with the best for our students, and we ask for your continued support to be able to make that goal a reality. We look forward, with your support, to achieving our goals and growing Algoma University into the future.

Andrew Ross

Chair, Algoma University Foundation

VOLUNTEERS (May 1, 2010 - April 30, 2011)

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

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ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

...Supporting Algoma U Students

www.algomau.ca

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

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

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

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



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: The Campaign for Algoma University will raise funds in support of three goal priority areas:

Science & Technology:

- Supporting university-led science research and funding state-of-the-art laboratories and equipment for university researchers and students in the new Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre (BTCC). With the infusion of funding from the provincial and federal governments to construct the BTCC building, this initiative brings together teaching, research and commercial activities in a dynamic new structure.

Artistic & Creative Endeavours:

- Providing funds to support the Fine Arts and Music education programs including the new and growing Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, and providing a home for our longstanding partner, the Algoma Conservatory of Music.

Scholarships & Bursaries:

- Investing in students and building for the future by growing the University's endowment. A well-funded scholarship and bursary program is instrumental in making Algoma U even more inviting to talented students, and helping students with financial limitations to continue their education.

Gifts to the campaign will help Algoma University achieve its goals, and provides the essentials elements for a strong, growing university community. The Foundation invites you to learn more about this transformative opportunity by contacting **Bev Teller**, CFRE, *Alumni & Development Officer* at 705-949-2301, ext 4125 or by email: bev.teller@algomau.ca

2011 JOHN R. RHODES SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Celebrations of integrity, leadership and an exemplary commitment to community service abounded during a special Algoma University evening on November 4, 2011.



Dr. Lou and Mae Lukenda Charitable Foundation Award. It benefits student athletes who may require assistance to complete studies while competing in varsity sports.

Three John R. Rhodes Scholarship recipients – including two who qualified for renewal by maintaining high academic standing – were recognized for scholastic excellence and contributions beyond the classroom.

First-year Community Economic and Social Development student Jonathon Young's volunteerism has included cooking breakfasts for homeless shelter residents, filling backpacks for children in Guatemala, supporting *Take Back the Night* and developing anti-drunk driving campaigns.

Second-year Honours Psychology major Michael Maniacco won the award in 2010 and 2011. Besides sitting on the St. Mary's College Students' Council, he played high school hockey and football. Music and traveling also interest him. Michael hopes for a career focused on serving others to the greatest capacity possible.

Fourth-year Honours Biology student Jessica Wilson studied in England last fall and could not attend the dinner. The Research Council of Canada grant

On that date, the Algoma University Foundation hosted the *2011 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner* at Algoma's Water Tower Inn. Three hundred people attended and the fundraiser generated \$34,000 for the prestigious award.

The gala honoured Dr. Lou Lukenda and Mrs. Mae Lukenda, unceasingly generous supporters of Algoma U and countless aspects of community life in both Saults.

Dr. Lukenda donated the former Windsor Park Retirement Residence to Algoma U. The school's largest-ever endowment (with an estimated value of \$4-million) houses the Downtown Student Residence and the University Medical Clinic.

In addition, the couple created the



↑ Jonathon Young (centre) - recipient of the John R. Rhodes Scholarship 2012.

recipient has been the Students' Union science representative, helped recruit students to Algoma U and volunteered at the F.J. Davey Home.

John Rhodes passed away in 1978 while travelling abroad as Ontario's Minister of Industry and Tourism. Born in Sault Ste. Marie, he first gained prominence as a local radio-television personality. John's profile grew after he was elected a City Councillor and then Mayor. In 1971, he became the local Member of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Following John's death, friends and family established the scholarship in his memory to recognize the kinds of leadership and devoted community commitment he exemplified.

Several prominent Sault citizens instituted the scholarship dinner in 2000 as a fundraiser to ensure the award would be presented annually.

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION ENDOWED FUNDS

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

Alexander M. Ross Award
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2010 - 2011 ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

We take this opportunity to thank the individuals, corporations, businesses, organizations and foundations who donated to the Algoma U Foundation's Annual Campaign in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

ALGOMA U FUND

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

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Donations to the Arthur A. Wishart Library are used to secure research materials for Algoma U students.

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SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES FUND

Donations to the Scholarships & Bursaries fund provides entrance and continuing scholarships, and other financial awards, to Algoma U students.

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ALGOMA U THUNDERBIRD VARSITY SPORTS PROGRAM

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

T-Bird Game Champion

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T-Bird Champion

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ANNUAL CAMPAIGN NAMED STUDENT AWARDS

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

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(Donations of \$10,000+)
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 Algoma University Support Staff

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 G. Verdi & Princess Marie José Lodges,
 Order Sons of Italy of Canada

Builder's Club

(Donations of \$250 - \$499)
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IN MEMORIAM DONATIONS

In memoriam donations were made to the Algoma U Foundation to honour the memory of:

Connie Avery	Rene Cyr	Christine Gripper-Sharpe	Rita Pseniczny	Jim Rudack
Margaret Beausoleil	Robert Dechambeau	Heidi Mollari	Alexander M. Ross	Tilt Tammik
Dorothy Beemer	Helen Fletcher	Edward Murphy	John Rowswell, M.Eng., P.Eng.	Angelina Walz-Doran

GRAD CLASS CAMPAIGN - Class of 2011

Congratulations and thank you to the following members of the Class of 2011 who have chosen to commemorate their graduation from Algoma U with a donation to the Class of 2011 Grad Gift.

Michael Didonato	Kathryn A. Lawrence	Uddanaiah S. Malemath	Susanna Shrestha	Christopher Trevisan
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2010-2011
COMMUNITY REPORT ALGOMA UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Thank you to all of the sponsors, golfers and volunteers who make the **Algoma University Classic Golf Tournament** such a huge success. Funds raised are used to support *Algoma University's Scholarships & Bursaries Program*. These funds provide financial awards to qualifying students. The success of the annual Algoma University Classic Golf Tournament has raised over \$250,000 to assist post-secondary students with their educational goals. **THANK YOU!!!**

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This report acknowledges donations to the Algoma U Foundation for the period of May 1, 2010 to April 30, 2011. Donors' names have been listed with their permission. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report, errors and omissions may occur. Please accept our apologies and bring any errors to the attention of the Advancement and External Relations Department by calling 705-949-2301, ext 4125, so we may correct our records.

A FAMILY TRADITION: STEVEN GROULX RETURNS TO ALGOMA U

By: Marc Capancioni

Though it may be one of the smaller universities around, Algoma U has a powerful magnetic draw that's tough to replicate.

Just ask **Steven Groulx**. The biology major spent two years studying out of town before feeling the itch to come back home and enroll at Algoma University for the fall 2011 semester.

The upside of transferring made the choice a no-brainer for the 20-year-old. To start, Groulx wanted a small university feel - a cozy atmosphere.

"I find it a lot easier to get to know people and to get involved," he said. *"I also find it much easier to learn when I can get a lot of one-on-one time with my professors."*

Before enrolling, Groulx got a chance to see, firsthand, what Algoma University had to offer. During the summer, he volunteered as a field assistant for biology professor Brandon Schamp, who's researching the impact of invasive species.

"It was a great way to get to know the school and to get involved," said Groulx, who enjoys hiking and other outdoor activities available in the Sault Ste. Marie area.



Another key factor in his choice to come home and study at Algoma University was the new Biosciences and Technology Convergence Centre. The state-of-the-art, \$21 million complex houses the biology department and a number of other business and technology tenants.

"Having the (centre) helped make my decision much easier," said Groulx. *"It's a beautiful new building. I just love the aesthetics of it."*

Put simply, he feels right at home at Algoma University. And as well he should.

The school runs in the Groulx family. His mother, Lynda ('87), has a degree in political science, and now works at the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation here in Sault Ste. Marie.

Meanwhile, his father, Lt. Col. Eric Groulx ('86), joined the 49th Field Regiment upon graduation, and has since moved up the ranks to become an officer in the Canadian Armed Forces.

"Algoma University is sort of a family tradition of ours," said Groulx. *"I'm thrilled to be back home, carrying on this tradition."*

ASHLEY SHANTZ: BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

By: Nadine Robinson

Ashley Shantz's hands are stained black as she leaves the studio where she's been working on charcoal and ink gestural drawings.

From Iron Bridge, Shantz wasn't sure what to do after she graduated from W.C. Eaket Secondary School in Blind River. She worked retail for a year, and then her mother suggested she take a few courses at Algoma University. *"I enrolled in a few random courses, like Visual Fundamentals, and Professor Tom O'Flanagan suggested I take Drawing I. I did, and I fell in love with the Art program."*

Now Shantz is in her fourth year of the Bachelor of Fine Arts. *"When the world seems really chaotic, I find that art... just the process of making something... helps me deal with things, even if I'm not directly dealing with them. Art for me is a language where I find I can communicate something more easily."*

Shantz works at the Art Gallery of Algoma, teaching art for the Saturday Art Clubs and she hopes to be able to continue teaching art for a career after graduation, in addition to producing her own work. *"The BFA program focuses on drawing, print making, painting, and mixed media - but I really like painting. Paint is fluid and it can move as fast as my thoughts are moving at that time. It is a very musical tool."*

She raves about the connection between students and professors in her program at Algoma University: *"they know you personally - they help build you up; encouraging you, and challenging you at the same time - it's a big family."*

Shantz focused on sciences in high school, and was exhausted from it. *"Algoma U helped me see that I am capable of achieving things; that it doesn't have to be a struggle all the time and that you can enjoy what you are doing."*

Shantz's and her fellow graduates' work appeared at the FINA exhibition at the Art Gallery of Algoma this Spring.





↑ Paul Skeggs and his father, Fred Skeggs.

PAUL SKEGGS: LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

By: Nadine Robinson

In 2011, Paul Skeggs graduated from the University of Sheffield in England with a degree in Law (LLB) (Hons.). Upon graduation, he returned home to Sault Ste. Marie to work at Skeggs Paciocco Lawyers.

He'd never planned on being a lawyer, having begun his studies in the Business program at Wilfred Laurier, but after first year, Skeggs transferred to Algoma University to study Law and Political Science. This led to his desire to pursue law as a career.

"The atmosphere at Algoma University was great - it was so easy to speak to profs and colleagues, the availability of them was great, ...and I really appreciated the strong sense of community and care." Skeggs said. *"Nothing seemed too far away - literally, Algoma U is not a big campus, and figuratively, there is easy access to knowledgeable people - allowing you to set high goals and achieve them."*

When asked what he thinks of his son being home, Fred Skeggs commented: *"He's not only my son but he is a buddy. Having him at the office makes it even more enjoyable going to work; it truly makes it more worthwhile. We're very happy to have him back in the Sault, but if I had one complaint it would be that Paul is never home, he loves to get involved and be with people - he's never still."*

As his dad highlighted, Paul Skeggs never has just one thing on the go - he paired his undergraduate studies with committee work; balanced Law school with volunteerism and travel; and throughout it all has found time for athletics and musical pursuits.

At Algoma U, Skeggs wanted to get "more involved," and became the Social Science Representative for the Students' Union in 2007, Vice President (Internal) 2007-2008, editor-in-chief of the student newspaper "The Sentient" and played varsity soccer. He graduated from Algoma University in 2008 with a degree in Law & Political Science (cum laude) and received the award for a combined degree program.

After graduating from Algoma U, Skeggs pursued his education at the University of Sheffield. *"I wanted to travel and not take time away from my studies. I spent Easter break in Spain one year, Italy the next, and visited Belgium, France, Amsterdam, Prague, and the Canary Islands, among others."*

Academics were his first priority, but somehow Skeggs squeezed extra hours out of the day and he held a number of prestigious roles at the British university. He was elected President of the Edward Bramley Law Society for a year (the largest student run law society in Europe), was a member of the Sheffield University Mooting team (similar to a debating team), and he volunteered on a number of boards and committees.

"I like being busy - it keeps me productive in all areas of my life." Skeggs said. Productive indeed, he was also one of only two people accepted onto both the Innocence Project (helping the convicted innocent) and the Law School's legal clinic. *"I was motivated by the impact my time and effort were having on these programs, it was highly rewarding."*

Between his time at the law clinic (which Skeggs managed in his last year of study), his committee work, mootings, and classes, his roommates also questioned if he really lived there. *"I was often in the library quite late."*

Sought after by firms in England, Paul researched the lifestyle of recent graduates at the larger firms. *"I wanted a better work life balance and was drawn back to the Sault for its fantastic lifestyle with excellent outdoor pursuits all so close. When I hear about people's commuting nightmares in big cities, I just laugh."*

The Sir James Dunn Valedictorian enjoys his work alongside John Paul Paciocco (also an Algoma U grad) and his father Fred: *"I'm lucky - weeks of court experience, hands on work on files, mentoring from the partners - the practical experience is invaluable; at a big firm I wouldn't have that kind of exposure. There's no one better to learn from than dad and John Paul."*

Thinking back on his education, Skeggs added, *"My experience at Algoma U proved valuable and transferrable. If you take advantage of the opportunities at Algoma University you can reach almost any goal you set. The tools are there, the knowledge is there, and if you apply yourself and set goals you have a strong potential to reach them. Sheffield is a much larger university than Algoma U, with over 28,000 students, so it took more drive to get the same relationships with my profs there."*

Paul's brothers also attended Algoma University: Rob Skeggs graduated with a BA (History/Law) in 2007, and Steve Skeggs with a BA (Geography) also in 2007.

KEEPING IN TOUCH - A MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE



Bev Teller, CFRE,
Alumni & Development Officer

A new year brings new hopes, dreams and opportunities. As we ushered in 2012 it was a time to welcome new and returning students to campus for another term. It was also the time of year that we celebrated our students' success with our annual Student Awards Celebration, an event that congratulates students on their academic success, and allows us the opportunity to thank our donors who have so generously supported our students with their donations to our fundraising programs.

As this magazine goes to print, we in the Alumni office are thinking about students who are finishing up their studies this year and soon will be taking their victory walk across the stage at Convocation. It truly is both an exciting time, and a sad time. Exciting because all their hard work and effort has culminated into the successful completion of their respective degree. Sad, because over the course of the time students spend with us, many friendships have been formed and it is hard to say goodbye.

Thankfully goodbyes are short lived because as alumni, you always have a place here. Your Alumni Council exists to ensure that alumni continue to have an opportunity to stay involved in their alma mater, to stay connected to friends, faculty and staff, and to have a voice in decisions that shape the future of Algoma University.

Your Alumni Council has already planned a number of ways for you to stay in touch and keep connected. Plans such as hosting a Homecoming celebration this fall; capturing the history of Algoma U, supporting our athletes, and recognizing and celebrating the success of our alumni with our annual Alumni Awards Program.

In my time here at Algoma U, I have had the distinct pleasure to welcome alumni back, to work alongside a group of very dedicated people who chose to give back by making a difference for current students, sharing their stories about the great opportunities and education that they received at Algoma U, supporting our varsity sports athletes and of course, reconnecting with people they formed lifelong friendships with.

It's sure to be a busy year and we would really like you to be a part of it. Make this the year that you get involved. Contact me or any member of the Alumni Council and find out how you can get involved.

For more information, contact **Bev Teller, CFRE, Alumni & Development Officer** at 705-949-2301, ext. 4125 or by e-mail at: bev.teller@algomau.ca

BHARATI (BEE-BEE) MUKHERJEE: A DECADE OF MAGIC COMES TO AN END



Ten years of learning and lifelong relationships bonds **Bharati (Bee-Bee) Mukherjee** to Algoma University. In 2002 Mukherjee started on campus by attending French courses. She was featured in the 2010 Summer/Fall edition of Algoma U Today after earning her B.A. in English (2007) and publishing her first novel, *"That European Summer"*. At the time Mukherjee gave credit to her professors for encouraging her writing. *"My professors gave me the confidence and guidance to write, polish and publish the book"*, she stated.

Two years later, she credits her professors again for their support on the completion of her second novel, this time in French, called *"Recueillements"*. *"Dr. Rene Gagne, Ms. Isabelle Michaud, Dr. Joelle Papillon and Dr. Vincent Simedoh proved to be brilliant professors, and made it possible me to complete my second book."*

The book, *"Recueillements"* is divided into six sections, namely, Nature, Love, French Drama, French Poetry, History and a chapter on Mukherjee's experiences in the West. She hopes that her French readers will enjoy reading her book as much as she enjoyed writing it.

Mukherjee has been a Patron of Algoma University, setting up an Interdisciplinary scholarship in the name of India's Nobel Laureate R.N.Tagore and donating at least fifty books to the Wishart Library. The Department of English recently hosted a farewell party to wish her well on her next journey.

Mukherjee is moving to Toronto in June. In parting, she expresses, *"Thank you to all of my Professors for their guidance during the past decade. I wish all the students of this prestigious University the very best."*

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

DR. KEN MCLARTY RESEARCH AWARD

By: Rick McGee

A distinguished retired educator and professor emeritus with deep roots in Algoma University's early years has established a scholarship that will benefit students for decades to come.

The Dr. Ken McLarty Research Award will be presented annually to a human services student conducting research into the thesis portion of a senior honours course.

A lifelong Sault Ste. Marie resident, Dr. McLarty's association with Algoma U began in 1969 when the Sault Collegiate Institute teacher was invited to apply for a position as a Geography lecturer. The opportunity had followed his completion of a master's degree in Geography from the University of Western Ontario, where he later earned a second graduate degree in Environmental Engineering.

Thirteen years earlier, while teaching and holding vice-principal and principal responsibilities at the elementary level, he had earned a Western baccalaureate via distance education courses offered in Sault Ste. Marie during the winter months and summer school sessions in London, Ontario.

After joining Algoma University's faculty, Dr. McLarty enrolled in Michigan State University's Department of Higher Education Administration courses at Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan.

"A research paper for Dr. Walter F. Johnson prompted an invitation to apply for a Ph.D. program and in 1979 I graduated from Michigan State," Dr. McLarty said.

He then spent 23 years at Algoma U before retiring in 1992.

"Early positive growth of the university was guided by Ian W. Brown who was the principal and the late Harold M. MacDonald, a retired elementary school principal who became the registrar," Dr. McLarty recalled.

"Building a solid, dedicated core of faculty included the hiring of people like Jim Gibson whose stabilizing influence and sought counsel would survive into a new century."

Steady advancements also occurred in Dr. McLarty's immediate area.

"In 1970, our Geography Department expanded with the addition of Dr. Robert G. Ewing, by then a longtime friend and colleague," he continued. "Growing enrollments necessitated acquiring the instructional assistance of Richard P.W. McCutcheon, A.A. Haller and Carolyn Harrington. Our original map collection was built

around topographic maps and surplus copies of maps of Canada produced by the Department of Mines and Technical Surveys. Our faculty contributed to the Canada-hosted International Geographical Union's 'Trans Canada Field Excursion' (Sault Ste. Marie to Marathon) in 1972."

Dr. Ewing recalled that Dr. McLarty's encouragement brought him to Algoma University "For over 20 years, we were the entire full-time Geography Department. The longer we worked together, the more I came to appreciate the wide range of his knowledge and interests, his devotion to geographical study and scholarship, and, above all, his concern for the students who were the focus of his work."

Dr. McLarty recognized distance education's role as "a valuable adjunct in building Algoma U. I enjoyed, on several occasions, meeting with groups in Thessalon, Iron Bridge, and Wawa while delivering Geography courses on winter weekends."

An avid lifelong learner, the retiree continues to study and consider.

"I have had the pleasure of relatively unrestricted reading and learning. Authors are suggested by an increasing number of sources and media. Fareed Zakaria is host of Global Public Square (GPS) on CNN. He is also an editor-at-large and columnist for TIME magazine. Tom Friedman, author with Michael Mandelbaum of *That Used to Be Us*, and the earlier *The World Is Flat and Hot, Flat, and Crowded*, writes a blog for The New York Times. Explorer and adventurer Thor Heyerdahl is remembered mainly for his famous book, *The Kon-Tiki Expedition*."

Dr. McLarty's interests explain why he created the new scholarship that bears his name.

"Education reform is seen as a fundamental need in the transformation of social systems facing the new realities of civilization globally in the twenty-first century. There is every likelihood such reform will be sparked by suggestions arising from innovative research. This belief accounts for my choice of academic research as the area to support when I became able to contribute appropriately to Algoma U's fundraising efforts."



Centre, Dr. Ken McLarty stands with Algoma U's Academic Dean, Dr. Arthur Perlini, left and Past President, Dr. Celia Ross, right.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS: *The Campaign for Algoma University*

STUDENTS HELPING STUDENTS BURSARY

By: Rick McGee



Photo, from left: Mr. Brian Curran, ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS Campaign Chair, Robert Totime, AUSU VP Internal, Lance Thunder, AUSU President, Farrukh Asif Khan, AUSU Recording Secretary, and Dr. Richard Myers, Algoma University President

Establishing bursaries for Algoma U's part-time learners has received special attention during the 2011-12 academic year.

Progress accelerated when the Students' Union approved a concept presented by the university's President, Dr. Richard Myers, and Brian Curran, Chair of the school's ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS fundraising campaign. They suggested getting behind an idea to lower part-time registrants' educational costs.

"We came to the conclusion that this is one of the best ways we can help our fellow students and show support for Algoma University," said Lance Thunder, student President for 2011-12. "Everyone in the Union seems to think Algoma U is a really great school and we want to see it grow in the future."

The result is a new Students Helping Students Bursary to benefit recipients with limited financial resources. Plans are underway to secure \$150,000 over six years. Awards from interest earned will then be presented annually in perpetuity.

To build the endowed bursary's principal, beginning in 2012-13 student ancillary fees will include \$10 payments during the fall and winter semesters.

"At Algoma U, there are a lot of part-time students and there just isn't quite enough part-time support," Lance noted. "We have an above-average amount of part-time students (currently about 350), so it makes sense that we would try to step up and try to do something to help them meet their financial needs."

Related fundraising is being done through the ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS Access Algoma – Scholarships and Bursaries initiative (see enclosed pledge form).

Farrukh Asif Khan, the Students' Union's Recording Secretary in 2011-12, also welcomed the bursary's inception.

"It is important because right now the only scholarships and bursaries we have are focused on full-time students. Both full-time and part-time students have financial needs and both should be taken care of. This is one way to help them out.

I want to thank the Students' Union Board of Directors, Brian Curran, Dr. Myers and Bev Teller [Alumni & Development Officer] for their support and interest. This is looking good and we're happy with it."

Momentum grew even stronger when it became known in January that part-time students would not qualify for the province's 30 per cent tuition grant ("rebate").

"The rebate definitely was a catalyst but what really pushed this was ending the [Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities dollar-for-dollar] matching program," Farrukh continued.

For his part, Brian commended the students' commitment from two perspectives.

"One is obviously the altruism that the students have. It's also an indication of a confidence in their particular futures and the value of the education they're getting . . . that they want to make it available to others, as well.

"What is really laudable about this is that they are focusing on the students that don't have available to them the kinds of scholarships and bursaries that full-time students have. In many cases, those are students who have to work because they just can't afford to go full-time. This is going to make it easier for them."

To date, well over \$1-million (towards a target of \$2.5-million) has been contributed for scholarship and bursary endowments under the ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS umbrella.

The overall campaign is moving steadily towards its \$6-million goal, adds Brian. "It's going well. We're over the \$4-million mark, which is a significant milestone and we've got fairly broad support from the business community and from individuals. There are many more businesses that we hope will contribute as we contact them and hopefully they'll step forward and make a generous donation because it is important for the economic diversification of our local economy."



Algoma University News

Algoma University Joins Project Hero

In a ceremony at the Sault Ste. Marie Cenotaph last June, Algoma University announced our participation in Project Hero, a scholarship program providing financial aid for children of Canadian Forces personnel who have lost their lives while serving in an active mission.

"Becoming part of Project Hero makes sense for Algoma University, for many reasons," said Algoma U President, Dr. Richard Myers. *"Sault Ste. Marie and the Algoma Region have a*



Dr. Richard Myers announces Algoma University's participation in Project Hero.

long and proud military tradition, and offering scholarships to the children of men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice is the right thing to do."

"Many Canadian service personnel have made the supreme sacrifice, whether it is in a war like Afghanistan, a UN Peacekeeping Mission or a Humanitarian Mission," said Lt. Col. Clyde Healey of the 49th Field Artillery Regiment RCA in Sault Ste. Marie. *"To have the knowledge that a concern they may have for the future of their children is now taken care of by this very grateful contribution by Algoma University and other Canadian post-secondary institutions is one less thing that a Service Person has to worry about. The acceptance by Algoma U's leadership of this program is very much appreciated."*

Algoma University Goes Solar Panels on Recreation Centre Roof to Feed Into Grid

Algoma University, the Public Utilities Corporation (PUC), and Superior Energy Solutions have embarked on a green energy project that have blanketed the roof of the George Leach Centre with solar panels. The green energy generated from these panels is returned to the grid.

The total cost of the installation was approximately \$1,150,000, with a large portion of the equipment and labour coming from local suppliers. A total of 540 panels were put in place, generating 135kW AC green energy. The new solar system will reduce negative emissions from the Centre equal to the carbon dioxide created by automobiles driving over twelve million kilometers. Annual revenue under the province's Feedin Tariff program is expected to be \$127,356, a portion of which will go to the University and will be allocated towards scholarships.

Algoma U President Richard Myers sees the solar project as another way that the University can be a leader in the community: *"One of the responsibilities of a university is to be at the forefront of innovation,"* said Myers. *"Algoma University has long been a leader in implementing green solutions, from using environmentally friendly cleaning products to our new Bioscience and Technology Convergence Centre that is expected to achieve LEED Gold certification. Solar power has great potential as a resource, and we are delighted to have the opportunity to work with our partners to harness that power on our campus and return it to the grid, while at the same time using the resources generated from this project to fund student scholarships."*



Ted Curry (left) of Superior Energy Solutions, with Dr. Richard Myers, President of Algoma University.

Tim Lavoie Named Chair of Algoma University Board

Algoma University named Tim Lavoie Chair of its Board of Governors in June of 2011. Lavoie took over from outgoing Chair Brady Irwin, who took the post in 2009.

Lavoie has been a member of the Algoma University Board of Governors since 2007, and Vice-Chair since 2009.

"It is an exciting time for Algoma University, and there are important decisions to be made about the future of this promising institution," said Lavoie. *"The Board is strongly committed to the growth of our community's independent University. We are uniquely positioned at Algoma U to deliver a broad variety of programs with a strategic focus on First Nations education. I look forward to the challenge and the opportunity to play a part in the continued development of this student-centric University."*

Lavoie is the Regional Manager and Director of Northern Development for Algoma Power Inc. For over 20 years, he has held various roles in the electric utility industry. He also serves on the Accounting/Business Advisory Committee at Sault College. Lavoie holds a Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) degree from Wilfrid Laurier University, and is also a member of the Certified Management Accountants of Ontario.



Tim Lavoie, Chair, Algoma University Board of Governors

Algoma University Receives National Archives

Aboriginal Healing Foundation Resource Centre Moves to Sault Ste. Marie



Participants at the 2011 Residential Schools Gathering hosted by the CSAA and Algoma University, July 1-3, 2011.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation Board of Directors has announced that the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and Algoma University have become the beneficiaries of the Gail Guthrie Valaskakis Memorial Resource Centre.

This resource centre, which commemorates Dr. Gail Guthrie Valaskakis (the AHF's original Director of Research, who passed away in 2007), contains over 6,000 items, among them video and audio interviews of Residential School survivors, research materials, and AHF project reports. This one-of-a-kind public centre functions as a library, a reading room, and a private screening room.

"The Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association (CSAA) and Algoma University are entering our fourth decade of partnership for the true realization of Chief Shingwauk's Vision," said Daisy Kostus, President of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Council. *"The Library is a unique and extremely valuable collection that significantly complements and enhances Algoma's and the CSAA's capacities and efforts in assisting all Canadians, including students at the elementary, secondary, and postsecondary levels, in understanding and addressing the Indian Residential School system and its impacts."*

The Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association and Algoma University were chosen on the basis of their long-standing grassroots-driven commitment to "sharing, healing and learning" in relation to the legacy of Canada's Indian Residential Schools policy. The campus and central buildings housing Algoma University and the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association were from 1873 to 1970 the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Indian Residential Schools, in Sault Ste. Marie.

New Residence at Algoma U

Workers began pouring concrete in January for the foundations of a new 96-bed residence at Algoma University. The new residence is scheduled to open in September 2012, and will bring the total number of beds in the University's residence buildings to 283.

The University is constructing in order to keep pace with the growing number of students who come to Algoma University from outside the region and even outside of the country. Both the existing on-campus residences and the renovated Windsor Park facility downtown are almost at capacity. "We know that we have to be able to guarantee students housing if we want to attract them here from out of town, so this new residence is essential to our continued growth," says Algoma University President Dr. Richard Myers.

The new residence is located north of, and parallel to, the George Leach Centre, creating a new courtyard between the two buildings. The courtyard will overlook a pond that separates the campus from Snowdon Park. "One of the collateral benefits of this project is that it's going to create a very inviting pedestrian entrance to the campus from the east. I think people are going to be quite struck at how beautiful that part of the campus will become," says Dr. Myers.

University Case Competition Draws Quite A Crowd

Luncheon At The Water Tower Well-Attended By Business Community



L to R: Professor Cathy Denomme, Marc DeAmorim, Matthew Karwaski, Andrew Johnston, Evan Situ, Professor Dave Galotta.

Matthew Karwaski came away with top honours. Each team was evaluated on two cases they presented to the judges panel, with the cumulative total determining the winner.

Aside from a host of local business people, this year's judge's panel featured Amanda Lang, co-host of CBC's *Lang & O'Leary Exchange*. Lang also spoke to the city's business community as well as the students at a luncheon between the first and second round of the competition. She spoke to the students, and the business leaders, about the importance of innovation and the creative process to being successful in business.

The 6th Annual Algoma University Business Case Competition has "raised the bar" for the event, according to Business Department Chair Cathy Denomme.

"Having this event here at Algoma's Water Tower Inn, with a featured guest judge like Amanda Lang, has truly elevated our competition to the next level. It's hard to believe how far we've come in such a short period of time."

This year's competition saw 51 graduating Algoma University students, from both the Sault Ste. Marie and Brampton programs, competing for the title. In the end, the team of Andrew Johnston, Evan Situ, Marc DeAmorim and

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MEET THE VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC & RESEARCH: DR. DAVID SCHANTZ JOINS ALGOMA U COMMUNITY

By: Kevin Hemsworth

Ask Dr. David Schantz what brought him to Algoma University, and he'll openly admit that the possibility of being a part of a small university on the rise is incredibly exciting.

"This University is poised for growth," says Schantz. "The relationships we have with the community, with local industry, and with our First Nations partners position us well to be a real asset in a way that universities can be to the region."

Schantz is quick to point out all of the great things that are already happening on campus: student population growth, from outside the region and internationally; faculty doing research that is meaningful to the local community; and a state of the art teaching environment that emphasizes the relationship between the teacher and the student. *"All of these things will be important factors to the growth of this University,"* he says.

Before taking the role of Vice President, Academic & Research at Algoma University, Dr. Schantz served as the Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina from 2006 to 2011. He earned his Ph.D. at the School of Social Work at the University of Washington in Seattle, after completing his Master's and undergraduate degrees at the University of Georgia and Greenville College in Illinois. He has worked extensively as a social worker in Georgia, Montana, and Washington State where he was lured to academe to become an Adjunct Professor in the School of Social & Behavioral Sciences at Seattle Pacific University. From there he became an Assistant Professor at Valdosta State University in Georgia before returning to Montana to teach and assist in the development of a graduate program in social work at the University of Montana. His experience with accreditation and administration and developing two Masters of Social Work programs led him north of the border to his appointment at the University of Regina.

The VP Academic and Research is the Chief Academic Officer at the University, responsible for setting and guiding academic goals, establishing institutional priorities, and allocating resources. In this role, Schantz will work with the university community to enhance the culture of academic excellence, promote dynamic learning environments and generate program growth and development. An important aspect of his new role is to oversee student recruitment. *"Successful*



outreach to prospective students is crucial to the life of the university and its contribution to the community [but] investment in students does not stop with enrolment". Promoting "a nurturing, positive and vibrant learning environment" is a crucial role for the Vice President and "an important defining element of university education that is key to student success," Schantz says.

Schantz is no stranger to Northern Ontario, having grown up in the Detroit area, and visited the Sault area many times. His memories of the region were a catalyst for his decision to pursue this opportunity. *"I see the natural environment of this region as a great asset to the University,"* he said.

"Certainly the environment, coupled with the area industrial and business base has strong potential to provide opportunities for program development and growing university-community partnerships that will draw people to the region." The importance of the university connection to the community is something Schantz noted while visiting the University during the recruitment process. "Algoma U faculty are providing quality educational programs to the benefit of the community and are also engaged in meaningful world-class research that is important locally. This combination of effort is the foundation of a strong institution. I am honoured to become part of the Algoma University community."

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