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TODAY

ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MAGAZINE



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Over 250 registrants from across Canada, Australia, Mexico and the United States attended the Fifth Annual Building Reconciliation Forum held at Algoma University.



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STAYING CONNECTED

Message from the
Alumni Council Chair

It is with great pleasure that I have had the opportunity to serve as Alumni Council Chair. I have been a member of the Alumni Council since 2011 and have been fortunate enough to meet so many great alumni over the years.

Whether for networking opportunities, career advancement, engaging in recruitment and reputation building activities for the University, or providing input and support to help shape the educational experience for future students, it is important for alumni to stay connected to their university. It truly is a lifelong relationship, and one that I value very much.

Over the past years, we have seen the school and our alumni base expand larger than ever. Although we were unable to hold traditional Convocation ceremonies this Spring, there are many new graduates that we would like to welcome to our

alumni family, and we hope that as the Algoma U and alumni communities continue to grow, that we, as alumni, are able to continue to give back to help pave the road for our future graduates.

I encourage you to reach out to our Alumni Association and share your stories, so they too can be heard. Every minute a new memory is created. Help us ensure that they will never fade. Come out and support the University's activities and recapture those memories while we witness new memories being made. I look forward to seeing many faces, both new and old, as the Thunderbird pride continues to grow.



Patrick Murray – BBA
(Business Admin/Accounting) 2011



MOVING FORWARD DURING UNPRECEDENTED TIMES

The President's message

This is an exciting time for Algoma University as we move through this period marked by transformational change. We are experiencing unprecedented and record growth, we are moving forward with new academic and research programs on all three expanding campuses and in partnership with the communities we serve, and we are making significant investments in capital projects and infrastructure. Currently, we welcome a growing Indigenous presence, increased local enrolment and an international enrolment spanning over 50 countries; this brings a beautiful and rich diversity to our communities and to our classrooms. The future is bright for Algoma.

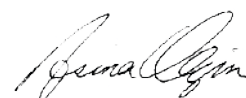
While the current pandemic and its impact have caused us to reconsider some strategies, we are confident that through this crisis will also come tremendous

learning and new opportunities - and we are ready! The University is being guided by the strategic thinking and leadership empowered through the Board and Senate retreats and the resulting strategic priorities shared in the President's Annual Report. This fall we look forward to unveiling and beginning the implementation of the Sault Ste. Marie Campus Master Plan, continuing with Phase 3 campus developments (programming and space enhancements) in Brampton and an expanded partnership with Northern College that grows University programming opportunities within this region of the province.

The summer issue of Algoma U Today, highlights a number of individuals, groups and initiatives that exemplify who we are and what it is like to be part of the AU family. Enjoy this issue and don't forget

to share our stories with your friends and family! Thank you for your continued support - together, we are making a difference.

Wishing all our alumni and members of our extended community nothing but the best in the weeks and months ahead, and until we are able to meet in person, I encourage you all to stay well, stay safe, and stay connected! We love sharing the progress and successes with you and remember, you are always welcome to visit or participate in events on campus. Take care and all the best!



Asima Vezina,
President and Vice-Chancellor
Algoma University



PHOTO COURTESY OF DARREN TAYLOR/SCOOTODAY

ALGOMA U BECOMES A FAMILY AFFAIR

Written by Nadine Robinson

The Chief of the Missanabie Cree First Nation, Jason Gauthier, had never really thought about university until his father, Dennis Latrielle, attended Algoma University College in the mid-eighties for Sociology. *“He was very proud and put a lot of work into his studies. I remember being at his graduation and seeing the accomplishment on his face, especially as a mature student in his mid-forties, who came to the Sault with nothing, from Toronto.”*

Chief Gauthier’s mother, Lois Carolyn Nolan, graduated from Algoma next, with a Psychology major in 1994.

Having grown up fascinated by his mother’s psychology books, Gauthier began his studies at Algoma in Psychology in 2006, but wasn’t interested in the biology side of psychology. His academic advisor suggested that he speak to Dr. Deborah Woodman. *“I was hooked. I took classes with Drs. Jan Clarke, Harvey Briggs, and Deborah Woodman. I like to say that I got a major in Woodman, and a minor in Psych.”*

“I was also almost starstruck with Dr. Linda Savory Gordon. She has had such an impact on the community. I feel very fortunate to now be working with a mentor.”

During his time at Algoma, Gauthier was a teaching assistant for Dr. Julian Hermida, and was inspired by Hermida’s ability to engage students. Hermida also published one of Gauthier’s papers on Restorative Justice in his online law journal.

Since then, his wife Natalie has also graduated from Algoma with honours in Sociology in 2019, at the same time that his stepson Michael Tremblay graduated with the same degree.

Even though he had been asked several times, before running for council of the Missanabie Cree First Nation, Gauthier wanted to finish his degree. He wanted the credibility of backing up his life experiences with academics. Gauthier completed his course work in 2009, and officially graduated in 2010 with a BA (Hons) Sociology, which he completed in only three years.

“I loved being at Algoma, so I took as many courses as I could, and I participated in the summer institute credit programs as well.”

In 2010, Gauthier was elected to council, by just three votes, as the fifth of five councillors. When Chief Kim Rainville chose not to run in 2013, Gauthier stepped up. He ran against another Algoma U graduate, Jutta Horn (daughter of Shirley Horn, who is also an Algoma grad and the Chancellor of Algoma University). Gauthier won narrowly. While happy with the win over a respected opponent, Chief Gauthier was concerned with the number of votes cast: *“Such low turnout and complacency gave me my mandate to get people engaged.”*

In 2016, he asked his wife if “we” should run for Chief again, acknowledging that

he couldn’t do it without her support. Chief Gauthier did ask for another term. *“It was a significant victory, and I saw it as a testament to the work we were doing. I negotiated a resource revenue sharing agreement as the lead negotiator on tribal council with the Ontario government and negotiated a substantial federal settlement. We also got our land back after 112 years. That said, my biggest accomplishment is maintaining family at the same time as making this happen. Every chance I have, I am with them.”*

In August of 2019, Chief Gauthier was again re-elected, in a decisive victory over his closest opponent. “We had doubled the number of voters, which meant our engagement efforts were working.”

Chief Gauthier maintains his connection with Algoma U by doing lectures on applied sociology and reconciliation. *“It’s nice to be able to give back and inspire the students to think differently.*

Algoma was a very accommodating, safe place to learn. It is also special because of the recognition of the First Nation relationship with Shingwauk University,

and the history of the building itself as a residential school.”

He is proud to note that the Missanabie Cree First Nation has one of the highest percentages of post-secondary degrees, at approximately 30 percent of their members, many of whom studied at Sault College and Algoma University.

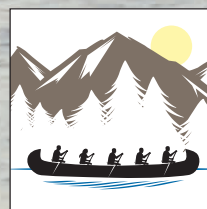
It’s nice to be able to give back and inspire the students to think differently.

PHOTO LEFT: MOTHER AND SON GRADUATE TOGETHER, NATALIE GAUTHIER WITH SON, MICHAEL TREMBLAY.

INSET PHOTO: CHIEF, JASON GAUTHIER

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: Algoma U committed to moving forward

Written by Rick McGee



5th Annual
Building
Reconciliation
Forum



Growing recognition of Algoma University as a national and international leader in truth and reconciliation emerged from a seminal 2019 conference at the school's Sault Ste. Marie campus.

Over 250 registrants from across Canada, Australia, Mexico and the United States attended the Fifth Annual Building Reconciliation Forum, presented in partnership with Universities Canada. Algoma was a joint host with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig, Nipissing University, Cape Breton University and the University of Northern British Columbia.

From October 8 through 10, representatives from 61 universities, Indigenous community leaders, First Nations Elders, Residential School Survivors, partners and students shared ideas and best practices *"to advance healing and reconciliation."*

Algoma's expanding leadership profile has been long in the making, said Liz Elizabeth Edgar-Webkamigad, a Forum organizer and Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre at Algoma U.

"This didn't just happen overnight. The grammas and grandpas that I've been working with have been doing this work for 44, 45 years now. They are the ones who came here when it was a residential school. They are the same ones who gathered in 1981 and said we need to

figure out a place to come together, to reconnect, to share our stories and talk about these experiences."

Those grassroots efforts — supported by key Algoma faculty — set the stage for dramatic breakthroughs that followed.

In 2006 then-Algoma University College and the Shingwauk Education Trust signed a covenant to support each other's mission. Further, the agreement called for the realization of Garden River First Nation Chief Shingwauk's vision of a *"Teaching Wigwam."* It would prepare Anishinaabe students for success in modern society without compromising their traditional culture and knowledge.

Two years later Algoma became an independent, degree-granting institution. Its new charter featured a special mandate to *"Cultivate cross-cultural learning between Aboriginal communities and other communities, in keeping with the history of Algoma University College and its geographic site."*

Algoma is located on land provided by Shingwauk and his community for the education of their young. The legendary Chief also believed settlers should learn to live in harmony with the Anishinaabe and all of creation.

A 2018 addendum to the covenant brought Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig into the partnership. Provincial legislation

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"It's been a huge, huge opportunity but it's one that had a foundation that's already been established. The great work that's been done by Algoma University and Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig over the last few years has been based on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and that has been attributed directly to the Survivors of Shingwauk and the role that they have played here not just locally and regionally but also nationally."

Isadore Day, former Ontario Regional Chief, Founder & CEO Bimaadzwini



Continued from page 9...

passed in 2017 had made it one of nine Ontario Aboriginal Institutes forming a “*unique Indigenous pillar of Ontario’s publicly supported post-secondary education and training system.*”

“*Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig can provide those land-based and culture-based experiences, while Algoma provides opportunities for students to study psychology, business, social work and the various other programs that we currently offer,*” Edgar-Webkamigad continued.

Among watershed advancements nationally in

that period was the 2007 Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement. It included establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which ultimately produced 94 “*calls to action*” for healing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous populations. Then, only days after the commission’s actual founding in June 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper apologized, on behalf of the Government of Canada, to all Aboriginal peoples for the abuses and suffering caused by residential schools.

...continued on page 11

“*Given our special mission, Algoma University has increasingly assumed a leadership role in supporting national truth, reconciliation and healing efforts. The recent success of the 5th Annual National Building Reconciliation Forum is one key example. Furthermore, the Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall project has helped Algoma share the historical significance of our site and the true history of Canada’s residential school era with an ever-increasing number of visitors. Our efforts are making a positive difference to this important national dialogue.*”



Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor, Algoma University

“*I was so happy and thrilled to learn that so many university presidents were coming from across Canada. To me, that was a gigantic thing. I think from some of the ones I’ve spoken to, they learned so much in the short time they have been here. Education is so fantastic. Everything went so well. It couldn’t have been better.*”



Shirley Roach, Elder, Shingwauk Residential School Survivor, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig Governor

“*This has been an A-plus-plus event — really outstanding with a deep rich context, terrific people and beautifully organized. It’s been an outstanding national event. People are impressed by Algoma. They’re deeply touched by talking and meeting with Survivors and hearing their stories. They’re impressed by Sault Ste. Marie and how the city has also embraced reconciliation.*”



Paul Davidson, President, Universities Canada

“*The most important thing that I wanted to highlight was that just because residential schools are closed, it doesn’t mean that the ugliness still isn’t present in day-to-day lives. I am the second generation out. I had three grandparents that went to residential schools. I wanted to really share the perspective of being second generation out — it still affects me. I was chosen to represent my school and that was a big honour.*”



Makayla Webkamigad, Algoma University student and Forum presenter

Shirley Horn participated in the Forum as both Algoma University's Chancellor and a Shingwauk Residential School Survivor.

"I thought the Forum was very much needed as part of the journey towards reconciliation," she said. "In the halls of academia, we have the makers of the future. This whole reconciliation process started with a group of Shingwauk Residential School Survivors who wanted to move their issues forward. To be where we are now is another step forward towards our goal. It will take many, many years for truth and reconciliation to happen. It is essential if Canada is to have peace and harmony with Aboriginal people."

Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig President & Academic Dean Della Anaquod commented from another perspective.

"I think the most important part of this is that we shared stories, because not many

Canadians appreciate the tragedy, the outcomes and the ramifications of the residential schools. So, that to me is probably the biggest takeaway. How do we now start to heal? How do post-secondary institutions and leaders in education help find our true place in society? It started with education and it will end with education. It's ongoing."

The Forum's Survivor-led presentations and displays portraying life at Shingwauk Residential School left lasting impressions on visitors. Dr. Peter Geller, Vice Provost and Associate Vice-President Academic at the University of the Fraser Valley in Abbotsford, British Columbia, was moved by Algoma's permanent Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall exhibit.

"I think the most important part of this is that we shared stories, because not many Canadians appreciate the tragedy, the outcomes and the ramifications of the residential schools."

"I think this effort to reclaim the memory of the residential school in the University is awe-inspiring. I have never seen anything like this. This is important for teachers, students and visitors. The

exhibit is meaningful not just at Algoma but for the history of Canada."

Other attendees conveyed similar thoughts, said Krista McCracken, Researcher/Curator in the

Shingwauk Residential School Centre.

"The Forum visitors' comments were overwhelmingly positive with many reflecting on the importance of sharing the history of the Shingwauk site and the history of residential schools, and the importance of this information being available to teach students and the

broader public across Canada. Likewise, some folks remarked on the uniqueness of the space and the impact of centring Survivor voices and narratives throughout the Reclaiming Shingwauk Hall exhibit."

Jay Jones, the son of former Residential School students and President of the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association, addressed delegates during the Forum's opening and closing segments.

"To do what they're doing here at Algoma is a great thing," he said during an interview. "To do what they're doing here, you have to have the right heart. To me it's an educational facility learning about the true history of Canada and they're willing to teach everyone else about it. You need to know the truth before you can reconcile. This whole country is on a healing journey. We need to forgive each other. That's a huge part for me. You have to forgive to move forward."

SHIFTING OUR PERSPECTIVE

Written by Rick McGee

An innovative program called SHIFT (Shifting Indigenous Frontline Tactics) is helping to build "equitable, respectful and trusting relationships" between the Sault Ste. Marie Police Service and Indigenous peoples.

"All police officers and civilian staff — about 200 people in total — will have gone through the training by the time we finish," said Liz Edgar-Webkamigad, Director of the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre at Algoma.

The two organizations collaborated to develop a customized curriculum.

University classrooms and off-campus sessions help build cultural awareness. First Nations experts often participate.

Plans are underway to expand SHIFT. The City of Sault Ste. Marie, the justice system and child welfare are among other sectors interested.

Big strides are being made in the private sector, too.

The Delta Sault Ste. Marie Waterfront was a Co-host/Community Partner for the Fifth Annual Building Reconciliation Forum.

Two Delta employees visited the University's Shingwauk

Residential Schools Centre before the conference began to help enhance their guests' stays.

"We heard stories of terror and sadness in the past, and stories of unbelievable resilience," said the Delta's Lindsey Onishenko. "The residue Survivors live with is quite real and palpable. I shared what we learned with our team. Our partnerships with Algoma and the Centre are vital."

The Centre visit built on other reconciliation-based work the hotel began over a year ago.



DR. HUGH STEVENSON, CHIEF OF POLICE - SAULT STE. MARIE POLICE SERVICE

BRAMPTON CAMPUS SHOWCASE A HUGE SUCCESS

Written by Brian Leahy

It was a distinct honour to host so many community partners, advocates and officials at the Algoma University Brampton Campus Showcase held this past March, just days before provincial COVID-19 restrictions were initiated.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to explore our expanding campus, and share in this exciting milestone. We look forward to expanded partnerships, student spaces and innovative programming.

Without such exceptional support from the Brampton community, Algoma U would not be where we are today.



"We are celebrating the next phase of the City of Brampton and its partnership with Algoma University. We have the world in this city, and it is the perfect mosaic for Algoma to succeed."

Mayor Patrick Brown



SAULT STE. MARIE CAMPUS MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Written by Brian Leahy



Over the past year a range of internal and external stakeholder consultations have taken place under the leadership of international planning experts, the IBI Group, to help shape a new Campus Master Plan (CMP) in Sault Ste. Marie. A final virtual consultation session is being scheduled in mid-September prior to the final plan being presented to the Algoma University Board of Governors later in the month.

When completed, initiatives included within the plan will help support the continued development of the campus as we continue to expand our regional impact and chart a path to support targeted enrolment growth.

Some highlights include:

- Development of the concept for the Mukqua Waakaa'igan (Bear Place), formerly known as the National Centre (SRSC)
- Secure support to establish the Ontario Mental Health and Addictions Research and Training Institute in partnership with Sault Area Hospitals, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig and Sault College
- Finalized plans for new infrastructure for the School of Business & Economics in Sault Ste. Marie
- Improved spaces for the School of Computer Science & Technology
- Expanded/improved student spaces including offices for the Algoma University Students' Union (AUSU)
- And much, much more

We look forward to sharing updates in the fall and thank everyone who has contributed to the planning process to date.



PHOTOS LEFT
TOP PHOTO: CAMPUS MASTER PLANNING SESSION

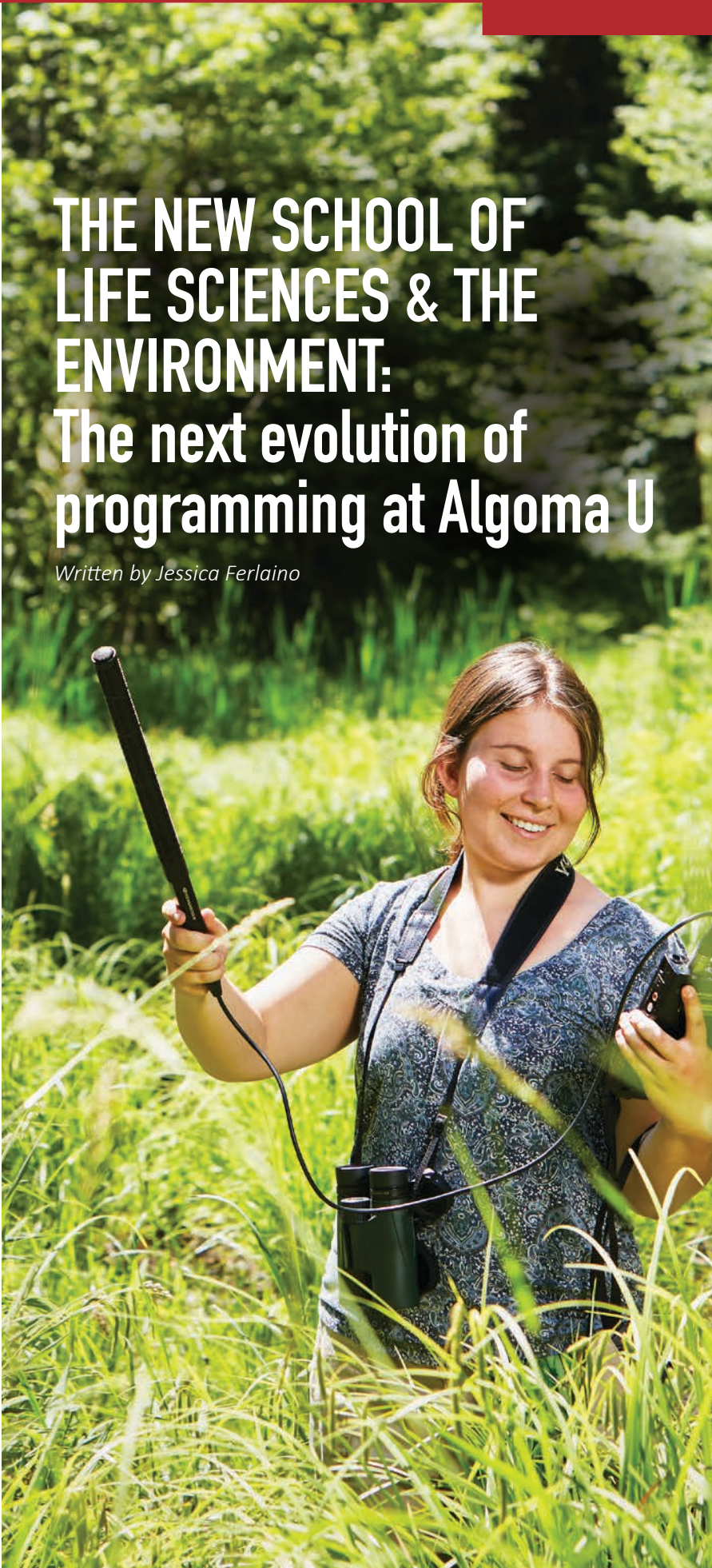
MIDDLE PHOTO: SHOWN FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, MINISTER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, THE HONOURABLE ROSS ROMANO, ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS, MICHAEL TIBOLLO, DR. PEDRO ANTUNES, EXECUTIVE LEAD RESEARCH, ALGOMA U, DR. BRANDON SCHAMP, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY, ALGOMA U, AND DEPUTY PREMIER OF ONTARIO, THE HONOURABLE CHRISTINE ELLIOTT GATHER TO LEARN ABOUT THE ONTARIO MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE.



BOTTOM PHOTO: SHOWN LEFT, THE HONOURABLE LISA MACLEOD, MINISTER OF HERITAGE, SPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE INDUSTRIES, AND MINISTER OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES, THE HONOURABLE ROSS ROMANO (FAR RIGHT), VISIT ALGOMA U TO ANNOUNCE \$2 MILLION IN NOHFC FUNDING TO COMPLETE THE ANISHINABEK DISCOVERY CENTRE. SHOWN IN CENTER, CHILDREN OF SHINGWAUK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBER AND RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL SURVIVOR, JACKIE FLETCHER.

THE NEW SCHOOL OF LIFE SCIENCES & THE ENVIRONMENT: The next evolution of programming at Algoma U

Written by Jessica Ferlaino



Dr. Brandon Schamp signed his contract with the Biology department at Algoma University in 2008, when the institution was still a part of Laurentian University. When he arrived months later, Algoma had become an independent university. From that point on, he had the unique opportunity to take part in the institution's evolution.

Today, an associate professor with the Biology department, Dr. Schamp reflects on that time as, "a great opportunity," which afforded him and his colleagues, "a lot of say in how we would shape the new Biology program," which included creating a new four-year Biology program and working to grow enrolment.

Dr. Schamp provided an indication of how much the program has grown in capacity and size, "When I began, the first-year biology class had seventeen students, many of which were taking the course as an elective in Psychology. This fall, there are over seventy-five students in that class, and most of them are completing majors in Biology or Environmental Science," the latter of which was introduced in 2018.

There has always been a strong link between the Biology and Psychology departments at Algoma University because of the overlapping nature of the two areas of study, and the same can be said for Biology and Environmental Science, which is why it made sense to come together in collaboration to develop the School of Life Sciences & the Environment.

Collectively, the Biology, Psychology and Environmental Science programs at Algoma University's Sault Ste. Marie campus are playing host to just under three hundred students majoring in the subjects, a number that is expected to grow next year as the environmental science program continues to grow.

"The three programs represent strengths at the university, with Biology and Psychology programs having strong enrolment, and with the Environmental Science program already up to over thirty students before we've even run the program for a full three years," said Dr. Schamp.

The new School of Life Sciences & the Environment is a collaborative effort to bring together the faculty of the Biology, Psychology and Environmental Science programs to create an integrated approach to teaching that emphasizes evidence-based scientific reasoning.

...continued on page 15



ABOVE PHOTO: DR. BRANDON SCHAMP SPEAKS TO CLASS.

“The School arose out of a series of meetings and discussions we held regarding how we wished to proceed and grow as a group of like-minded scientists and educators,” explained Dr. Schamp of the shared goals of the various disciplines of study.

Collectively, the School can offer greater experiential learning opportunities for students, where, as Dr. Schamp said, *“Students learn to become scientists while taking their degrees,”* through lab courses, internships, volunteer opportunities and summer research positions.

One remarkable way that the School of Life Sciences & the Environment is expanding both programming and opportunity for students is through the introduction of graduate-level programming, a Master of Science, Biology (MSc), which would be a milestone achievement for the institution.

By remaining focused on improving program quality, Dr. Schamp firmly believes that, *“we can drive positive outcomes for students and consequently increase the attractiveness of our programs*

to prospective students,” something that is especially important given the addition of psychology programming at the Brampton campus, which is underway.

When asked about student growth, Dr. Schamp highlighted that, *“with the natural growth of our environmental sciences program, our expanded options for students pursuing the health sciences, and our expectation that we will have a master’s program in biology, it is reasonable to expect the School to grow to five-hundred majors within the next five to ten years.”*

Algoma University graduates are already making a great

name for the institution in many different careers, but to elevate the degree of knowledge

and experiential learning opportunities for students in the School of Life Sciences & the Environment, there is continued effort to foster collaborations amongst faculty and partnerships with the local community.

“There is tremendous support in the community for the School,” said Dr. Schamp who went on to

provide a number of examples including the Ontario Forest Research Institute which, *“has continually supported researchers in the Biology department, allowing us to use their research Arboretum for projects spanning over ten years.”*

Other community partners of mention were the Hiawatha Highlands Conservation Authority that allows research to be conducted in the Conservation area, the Invasive Species Centre, as well as the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, which, prior to the Convergence Centre being built, provided labs for faculty to teach many of the biology courses offered.

Dr. Schamp noted, *“Additionally, as we move along in our development of a Master of Biology, we have received considerable support from a number of external groups, including the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.”*

Dr. Schamp and the entire School of Life Sciences & the Environment are tirelessly committed to improving program quality to drive positive outcomes for students, attracting the attention of prospective students and employers alike.

Once the new program

request for the proposed master’s program in biology has been completed, health science specializations have been approved, and the Psychology program has been successfully introduced in Brampton, the focus will remain on building the tools and resources to improve the rate of student success in terms of knowledge, skills and capacity.

In the future, students of the School of Life Sciences & the Environment can look forward to greater experiential learning opportunities and improved access to problem-based learning approaches to guide and help them make the most of their time at Algoma University.

By offering expanded training, research and career advancement opportunities student success rates will continue to improve, enrolment will continue to grow and the school will continue to expand and evolve. This will position Algoma University as a recognized leader, and recognized destination for students interested in programs offered by the School of Life Sciences & the Environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE PROGRAM OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALGOMA U STUDENT

Written by Nadine Robinson

Kaitlyn Plastino just completed her third year of the Environmental Science program at Algoma U, but you'd never know it from all of the experiences she's amassed so far. Plastino has already beefed up her academic resume with: volunteer work in the labs, research opportunities, an internship, being a part of the Algoma Student Ambassadors Program, participating in the Biology Club, and experiencing an international exchange to Korea.

The experiences available to students at Algoma U set the university apart in Plastino's view, and they've allowed her to learn that she is capable of a lot. "Because of the guidance of the professors, classmates, and friends I've met here, I definitely have a better idea about what I'd like to do in my future."

This past summer, Plastino helped retrieve field data on white-throated sparrows for Dr. Jennifer Foote's research. She is also currently working on scanning and annotating recordings of Connecticut Warblers in the Boreal Forest for Dr. Foote's research.

Plastino also did an internship in Dr. Brandon Schamp's Plant Community Ecology lab. "I read scientific literature and compiled a list of forage species (plants grown to feed livestock). Then I collected data from

a variety of databases on herbaceous plots in northeastern North America, and determined the proportions of these forage species in comparison to other vegetation species. I really enjoyed the independence given to me during my internship, and the experience I gained on working with databases and spreadsheets. (. . .) I feel a lot more prepared for what it will be like to work on my honours thesis, and for what it might be like to conduct database research as a potential job in the future."

Her favourite place on campus is Dr. Brandon Schamp's research lab. "There's a lot of plants and large windows that really make a comfortable atmosphere. The people who work or volunteer there are so friendly and make it a calm space for me to do work, including on my continued work with forage species."

"I want to do my part in protecting our earth, and I knew that by choosing the Environmental Science program I would be one step ahead."

Plastino's favourite class so far is Conservation Biology. "I learned a lot about so many different species and the importance of protected areas. It also showed me how a seemingly simple solution can have such a large impact on wildlife. It's inspired me toward the potential path of working in conservation as a future career."

She feels that environmental science was the right path for her to learn more about the natural environments and



KAITLYN PLASTINO

how humans are impacting them. "I want to do my part in protecting our earth, and I knew that by choosing the Environmental Science program I would be one step ahead."

Plastino also took part in an international exchange to Korea through Algoma University at Soonchunhyang University. "In addition to language classes, I took a World Politics and Global Issues class and an Introduction to Korean History class. I really loved learning Korean, and it's something that I want to continue. I learned a lot of things from that experience that I'll keep with me for the rest of my life."

After graduation, Plastino is thinking of travelling to Japan and South Korea before she begins a master's program and is interested in seeing if she can do her master's in either of those countries. A trip back to Korea would get her back to her favourite food, Dak Galbi, a spiced mix of grilled chicken, cabbage, rice cake, and sweet potatoes.

"I would recommend Algoma U to people who are looking to get something extra out of their university education. You truly get to know your teachers and your classmates, and there's plenty of volunteer opportunities for you to gain experience in the things you're interested in. Additionally, Algoma U prides itself in its diversity of students, staff, and partners, so there's many different perspectives to learn if you have an open mind."



JENNA CONGDON, PH.D.

DR. JENNA CONGDON: Pursuing her love of science

Written by Nadine Robinson

Jenna Congdon, born and raised in the Sault, chose Algoma U to study Biology in 2009. Her brother Spencer attended Algoma before her, in Computer Science, and he had spoken highly of his education. *“Algoma U offered everything that other universities did, but without having to move away from home when I was still trying to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up.”*

Her dream as a kid was to be a mix of Ms. Frizzle (Magic School Bus), Bill Nye the Science Guy, and Ace Ventura Pet Detective, because she loved animals and science. She avoided prompts from people who told her that she should teach as she was terrified of public speaking.

Congdon’s path changed after taking Intro Psychology with Dr. Dave Brodbeck as an elective. She was hooked on psychology, and she decided that she wanted to be *“the female Dave Brodbeck.”* She also got over her fear of oral presentations in his class. *“I have never met a more passionate instructor, and he later became my honours supervisor.”*

Through her drive and love of psychology, she received a BSc (Honours) Psychology, cum laude in 2013. She was also on the Dean’s Honours List, and maintained the Algoma University Award of Excellence – Silver, for all four years.

“The small class size allowed me to get to know my professors, and that landed me a volunteer research position in Dwayne Keough’s laboratory first. Then

Cheryl Reed-Elder proposed that I work as a paid Teaching Assistant (TA), and I later became the head TA under Laurie Bloomfield’s supervision. I likely wouldn’t have had these opportunities in larger classes at another university.”

The summer following graduation, Congdon worked for Dr. Laurie Bloomfield funded through the NSERC USRA, before moving away for graduate school. *“I thank her for choosing me as a volunteer research student as well as an NSERC USRA student. She prepared me well for work in the lab and experience with studying songbirds.”*

Congdon credits all of her Psychology professors as being integral to shaping her into who she is today. *“People like Dave Brodbeck, Laurie Bloomfield, and Paul Dupuis taught me that being a scientist is the greatest job, meant for some very cool people. They guided me throughout, offering experiences which allowed me to figure out what I liked... and thanks to that experience I saw my future. I was never a number.”*

When not studying in the cafeteria, or spending time with her boyfriend T.J. MacIntyre (now her husband, whom she started dating at Algoma U), Congdon was active in Welcome Week every year, taught

snowboarding, and attended most of the themed pubs and events on campus.

Congdon continued her education, earning her Master’s and most recently her Ph.D. from the University of Alberta focussed on Comparative Cognition and Behaviour. She is now working as an Instructor in the Department of Psychology at U of A. Congdon has 18 (first- and co-authored) publications, including a textbook chapter. She has attended multiple international conferences presenting her research, including seeing her mentor Dr. Dave

Brodbeck at the Conference on Comparative Cognition annually.

“I cannot say enough good things about my experience at Algoma U -- it made me who I am. I would not have had the opportunities I did if it were not for Algoma U and the close-knit community it provided. I can’t believe that I ever considered going elsewhere and am so thankful I didn’t. At Algoma, I started dating my now husband, I met some of my best friends, I saved a lot of money and

have an even better relationship with my parents because I stayed at home. And I got all the information, skills, and reference letters to be successful in getting into graduate school and beyond. ... My husband and I wear our matching Algoma U grad rings with pride.”

“They guided me throughout, offering experiences which allowed me to figure out what I liked... and thanks to that experience I saw my future. I was never a number.”



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT ALGOMA U BRIDGES THE SKILLS GAP

Written by Jessica Ferlaino

Business and industry aren't the only ones concerned that a skills gap and talent shortage exist in the labour market. According to research conducted by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario, post-secondary students in the province also believe a gap exists between a university education and their future careers.

One of the most viable ways to bridge the gap between education and career paths is to have educational institutions and the business community come together and collaborate to identify the shortfalls in existing educational and training programs to address today's workforce needs.

Experiential learning (EL) has been proven to enhance the value of an

education an institution can offer students. By offering hands-on experience, students can gain practical skills and relevant work experience that match their career aspirations and provide them a more direct path into a career upon graduation.

After a collaborative planning process with the Board of Governors, Senate, and University Administration in 2018, Algoma University identified EL as one of its four strategic priorities and as such, has dedicated a great deal of resources to support the growth and development of EL.

"The priority responded to an enhanced focus by students, parents and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities on the importance of fostering career preparedness and the development

of career skills in university students," explained Dawn White, Director of Experiential Learning and International Affairs.

There is a strong body of literature to suggest the impact of focusing on EL is enormous, especially in terms of student learning and retention. Retention is an important part of Algoma University's strategic enrollment plan. To support its tracking and evaluation efforts in this regard, Algoma is in the process of implementing a coding system in its Student Record System to better manage the complex EL offerings the institution has to offer.

"One of Algoma's strengths is the

...continued on page 19

opportunities students have to conduct research and complete project work with faculty.” White noted, “There were forty-eight students on campus this past summer working with faculty on research projects. In many academic programs, students complete hands-on research projects to fulfill capstone thesis requirements.”

Further to research opportunities, Algoma University students who participate in the study abroad program can now take advantage of internship programs that have been arranged for them in their host countries, which is only possible because of the support of its international partner universities.

Changes have also taken place at the programming level to expand the number of courses that include an EL component. From co-operative education to internships, to service-learning and field experiences, the number of opportunities for EL continue to grow and students are taking advantage of them.

White explained that the number of students who were able to participate in course-based EL with a community partner has grown by over two hundred over the past year and a half, while the number of students completing co-op work term placements also experienced growth over that same period.

One of the resources available to students participating in EL at Algoma University is the Experiential Learning Hub, a physical and virtual space with a, “mission to help students navigate meaningful career paths by facilitating learning experiences that build professional skills, knowledge, and values and to connect academic learning to real-world experiences,” said White.

The Experiential Learning Hub at Algoma University brings together faculty, students

and employers to, as White put it, “bridge the gap and prepare graduates to thrive in diverse careers of the twenty-first century.”

Students can also take advantage of Career Link, which provides them with the chance to undertake work experience and skill development while earning a Co-Curricular Certificate and building a career portfolio.

Partnership is at the heart of EL at Algoma University and a major partner has been RBC, which recently made a significant financial contribution in support of the Career Link program. It will dedicate funds over a five-year period to help the institution continue to invest in its students’ skills and career preparedness through this program.

“RBC is also providing support for Algoma U to run its own network through Ten Thousand Coffees. Ten Thousand Coffees is an online networking platform that pairs students with working professionals,” explained White, which provides students with access to mentors with relevant experience, enabling them to build professional contacts prior to graduating.

Networking activities, like Ten Thousand Coffees is also an important element of EL opportunities and, once again, partnership is key to providing networking opportunities for students to not only give them a chance to speak with local employers in their field, but to recognize the needs of the business community and the skills required to achieve their career goals.

Algoma University works in partnership at the public, private and institutional level to offer EL experiences for students. White acknowledged that EL at Algoma University would not be possible, “Without the support of the Government of Ontario through its Career Ready Fund,” credit was

also paid to Algoma University’s faculty, especially the Social Work and Community Economic and Social Development programs which have long incorporated a strong EL component in their course offerings.

“Faculty are reaching out to community partners to incorporate projects and service learning into courses. Faculty are also reaching out for support as they explore new opportunities for their students. I am impressed with the level of commitment and creativity as faculty lead the EL work,” said White.

For anyone who graduated from Algoma University over a decade ago, it is incredible to see how far the institution has come in terms of its expanded programming and student supports, both in and outside of the classroom: EL is certainly an aspect of growth the school can be proud of.

Algoma University has long thrived on providing a personalized level of learning and a tailored experience for students who want to thrive, but in the context of EL, it has certainly elevated the level of service and commitment to student success.

Looking ahead, efforts are being dedicated to continuing to enhance both the number but also the quality of the EL opportunities from which students can benefit, extending those benefits to the entire student population.

“In the long-term, the goal is to have all students at Algoma, regardless of which program they are in, have options to participate in hands-on learning opportunities. The aim is for all graduates of Algoma U to possess the professional skills, knowledge, and expertise needed to navigate meaningful career paths based on their individual interests and areas of expertise,” explained White.



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, EL HUB.



MEMBERS OF ALGOMA U, RBC AND THE COMMUNITY CELEBRATE RBC'S CAREER LINK CONTRIBUTION.



ALGOMA U CELEBRATES GRADUATING STUDENTS

ALGOMA U SAULT STE. MARIE CAMPUS CLASS OF 2019

Given the current global pandemic, Algoma University has deferred the 2020 Spring Convocation until it is safe for all to gather. A virtual graduation ceremony was held in June 2020, as a precursor to the future ceremony, where Anusha Kunasingam earned the 2020 Governor's Silver Medal for exceptional academic achievement. Established in 1873, the medal is one of the most prestigious awards that can be received by a student in a Canadian educational institution. The Silver Medal is awarded to the undergraduate student who achieves the highest academic standing upon graduation with distinction from a bachelor's degree program.

We are sharing photos and stories from

our 2019 Convocation ceremonies from Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton and Timmins to give a sampling of what's in store.

Algoma University celebrated the achievements of its graduating students during the 2019 Convocation ceremony held at the Roberta Bondar Pavilion located on the beautiful Sault Ste. Marie waterfront. Algoma University Chancellor Shirley Horn conferred degrees on 234 candidates of the Class of 2019, while also awarding 67 certificates.

Melissa Reed earned the 2019 Governor General's Silver Medal for exceptional academic achievement. Reed earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology and is now attending the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa.

Josephine-ba Mandamin was the recipient of the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award. The Alumni Achievement Award acknowledges the professional, civic, and personal accomplishments of an Algoma alumnus/a who has graduated within the last 10 years. Nokimis (Gramma) Bidasige Josephine-ba Mandamin was an Elder and an environmental activist from Wikwemikong Unceded Territory. She was well known for her work in the preservation of water, the healing of water and the advocacy of water. She is an alumna of Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig and Algoma University, graduating in 2012 with a degree in Anishinaabemowin. Gramma Bidasige was a kind and generous Anishinaabe Kwe, one who embraced all



2020 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDALIST, ANUSHA KUNASINGAM.



2019 GOVERNOR GENERAL'S SILVER MEDALIST, MELISSA REED WITH ASIMA VEZINA, ALGOMA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS, BRIAN LEAHY, ADAM CARPENTER, 2019 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER, AND ASIMA VEZINA, ALGOMA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT.



PHOTO ABOVE LEFT: REGISTRAR DAVID MARASCO AND CHANCELLOR SHIRLEY HORN.



PHOTO ABOVE RIGHT: FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF JOSEPHINE-BA MANDAMIN FROM LEFT TO RIGHT; DALLAS ABITONG, CEREMONIAL DAUGHTER AND HELPER FOR JOSEPHINE-BA, MELVINA FLAMMANG, SISTER OF JOSEPHINE-BA, AND ANDREW MANDAMIN, HUSBAND OF JOSEPHINE-BA, ACCEPT THE 2019 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD POSTHUMOUSLY.

that this good life had to offer her. Sadly, Josephine-ba passed away in February of 2019. Her legacy lives on through the water walks that she has inspired and passed down to the next generation.

The Algoma University Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award recognizes the accomplishments of an Algoma U alumnus who has reached a pinnacle of personal and professional achievement in his or her chosen field. Adam Carpenter, CPA, CMA and Controller/Owner of R.F. Contracting was the 2019 recipient of this award. Adam is actively involved in his community having served with a number of organizations, including the Safe Community Partnership Board, Sault Ste. Marie Basketball Association, Algoma

University Golf Tournament Committee, Alumni Council and the Station Mall/ Rotary Club Golf Tournament. Adam is not only a successful and active Algoma University alumnus; he is a mentor and a champion of the importance of a post-secondary education.

The Distinguished Faculty Award, recognizing exceptional faculty contribution at the University, was presented to Dr. Cheryl Reed-Elder. The recipient embodies the ideals of teaching excellence and scholarship with a demonstrated commitment to community and institutional citizenship.

The 2019 Honorary Member of Algoma University award, bestowed upon persons who have contributed distinctive and

distinguished service to Algoma University and/or the community, was presented to Mr. Bob Cooper, a sessional instructor of English. Bob, who has taught numerous courses in English, English as a second language and theatre, is also a veteran (and award-winning) community theatre actor, who is a driving force behind Theatre Algoma.

Also presented at the 2019 Convocation was the newly formed Award of Excellence in Teaching. This award recognizes the outstanding efforts made by one full-time faculty and one part-time faculty who engage, inspire, and motivate students to learn. Recipients of the award went to Marissa Ross, part-time instructor and Dr. Brandon Schamp, full-time professor.



DR. CHERYL REED-ELDER, 2019 DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD RECIPIENT



2019 HONORARY MEMBER OF ALGOMA UNIVERSITY, BOB COOPER.



PRESIDENT VEŽINA (MIDDLE) WITH AWARD OF EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING RECIPIENTS, MARISSA ROSS (LEFT) AND DR. BRANDON SCHAMP (RIGHT).

ALGOMA U'S BRAMPTON CAMPUS APPLAUDS GRADUATE ACHIEVEMENTS

The academic achievements of the Algoma University Class of 2019 studying in Brampton was recognized during the Spring Convocation Ceremony, held in the Atrium of the Brampton City Hall.

Chancellor Shirley Horn conferred degrees and certificates on 66 students who successfully completed the requirements of the Bachelor of Business Administration degree or Graduate Certificate in business programs offered through the Algoma University School of Business & Economics. This was the first graduating class from the School of Business &

Economics that launched in the summer 2018.

"Convocation is a special time for the University as we recognize student achievement and scholarship," stated David Marasco, University Registrar following the ceremony. *"The University has made student success a strategic priority and today, we acknowledge academic excellence as we honour the graduating class of 2019."*

Iman Sohail was the recipient of the Convocation Award, presented to the graduating student with the highest overall academic achievement. She also

delivered the "Expression of Thanks" on behalf of the graduating class.

Bobby Karmakar delivered the Alumni Welcome.

Patrick Brown, Mayor of the City of Brampton served as Honorary Speaker, delivering an inspiring convocation address to all in attendance. *"It is an exciting day for the Algoma University School of Business & Economics graduates here in Brampton,"* he shared. *"I am honoured to have been asked to speak at Convocation today. I want to extend best wishes to the graduates in their next pursuit. I encourage you to pursue a business career in Brampton!"*



2019 CONVOCATION AWARD RECIPIENT, IMAN SOHAIL.



HONORARY SPEAKER, PATRICK BROWN, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BRAMPTON SPEAKS TO CONVOCATION GRADUATES AND GUESTS.



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY BRAMPTON CAMPUS CLASS OF 2019

GRADUATE SUCCESS IN THE NORTH



PICTURED ABOVE: COMMITMENT TO 'NORTHERN VALUE.' BURSARY RECIPIENT, AMANDA CARTER.

Algoma University celebrated the academic accomplishments of its graduating students from Algoma U at Timmins on Friday, May 24 at the Northern College Spring 2019 Convocation Ceremony.

Algoma University President and Vice-Chancellor, Asima Vezina, conferred degrees on students who successfully completed the requirements of the Honours Bachelor of Social Work and Bachelor of Arts in Community Development programs offered in Timmins.

"We are delighted to participate in the Northern College Convocation ceremony and to share as a partner in the celebration of the success of both Northern College and Algoma University students. Congratulations to each and every one of the graduates celebrating today!" said Vezina.

In addition to celebrating the achievement of those who successfully completed their studies, incoming Algoma University student Amanda Carter was recognized during the 2019 Northern College Grad Awards Ceremony, held on Thursday evening.

Carter is the second-ever recipient of the Commitment to 'Northern Value.' Bursary. The bursary is awarded to Northern College graduates who are continuing their post-secondary education through Algoma U offerings in Timmins. The bursary is tied to a special joint admissions agreement established between Algoma University and Northern College.

Congratulations to all 2019 and 2020 Algoma U graduates!

PICTURED BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT: DONNA ROGERS, VP, ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH; SUPPORT SERVICES COORDINATOR-TIMMINS, EMILENE DUMOULIN; CHANTAL MANN; JOCELYNE AUBE; SHALISSA HANNABERRY; NATALIE BEDARD; ANICK FONTAINE; CASSANDRA BROUSSEAU; PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, ASIMA VEZINA; AND UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR, DAVID MARASCO.



ALGOMA U GRADS POWERING THE SAULT'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Written by Marc Capancioni



DAN HOLLINGSWORTH

To drive growth and prosperity, communities across Canada and around the world use a variety of economic development models. These tried-and-tested tools are designed to improve economic well-being and quality of life for citizens.

In Sault Ste. Marie, there are a number of organizations that work to diversify the economy by attracting and supporting businesses, fostering cultural vitality, and drawing visitors to the city. To generate successes, the agencies are powered by professional staff teams. Many of these individuals are Algoma University alumni.

Take, for example, Dan Hollingsworth, who graduated from Algoma U in 1990 with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics. Since then, he has worked for a number of organizations, including the Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation, RAPIDS Community Investment Inc., and the Government of Canada's FedNor regional economic development agency.

In all of these roles, Hollingsworth's job was to work with partners to drive economic growth in the city and throughout Northern Ontario. He led teams that undertook a variety of activities and initiatives, including investment attraction, export development, innovation applications, tourism development, and helping entrepreneurs start and grow businesses.

"In my economic development roles, I have partnered with local post-secondary institutions on projects. It's great to work with the university I graduated from."

"In a nutshell, if a company is looking to establish or expand, we'll help them assess the business model to identify potential funding opportunities and other resource requirements," said Hollingsworth, who became Director of Economic Development for the City of Sault Ste. Marie in January 2020. *"A large part of our time is spent meeting and interacting with current and aspiring business owners. When we meet with clients, one of the first questions we ask is: 'What can we do to help you succeed?'"*

Economic developers typically work with private sector firms. But they also work to support organizations such as post-secondary institutions. Throughout his career, Hollingsworth has regularly collaborated with Algoma University on expansion and development projects.

"A thriving post-secondary sector is vital for the local economy," he said. *"Over the years, I've been pleased and proud to have worked with the Algoma U team on a number of growth initiatives. It's great to see things come full-circle. In my economic development roles, I have partnered with local post-secondary institutions on projects. It's great to work with the university I graduated from."*

For Algoma U alums working at economic and community development agencies, Josh Ingram is another prime example. From 2016 to 2019, he was Executive Director of the Sault Downtown Association. The non-profit organization helps



JOSH INGRAM



TODD FLEET

Queen Street businesses – between Pim Street and Dennis Street – organize, finance and carry out physical improvements.

The association is an advocacy group for small businesses in the downtown core of Sault Ste. Marie. It's also a social enterprise that coordinates and hosts free events for the community, including the annual Moonlight Magic and holiday tree-lighting party.

In recent years, the organization facilitated a community art project, in partnership with the municipality, which saw five large-scale murals painted at various downtown locations. In 2019, staff also initiated Poutine Feast, now the Sault's largest food festival.

The association is now working with the City of Sault Ste. Marie to develop a downtown plaza. Once complete, the four-season community gathering place is expected to feature a skating rink, stage and large screen, play equipment for children, public art, seating, trees and other amenities.

Simply put, the Downtown Association fostered many successful initiatives under Ingram's leadership. And he credits his alma mater for allowing him to be a part of these community-wide achievements.

"My university education helped teach me social interaction

skills," said Ingram, who graduated from Algoma U in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and History. Ingram is still utilizing these skills as he more recently accepted a position with Northern Credit Union as their Community Impact Manager.

Todd Fleet, Arts & Culture Coordinator for the FutureSSM division of the City of Sault Ste. Marie, also credits Algoma University for helping drive his career trajectory. He graduated in 2003 with an Honours Bachelor of Arts degree (cum laude) in Fine Art Studies and Graphic Design.

This education is a perfect fit for Fleet's position with the municipal government. In the role, he coordinates, implements and monitors initiatives designed to improve the arts, cultural and heritage sector of the community.

"Through my program at Algoma U, I not only learned the fundamentals of the fine arts and design, but I also learned how to develop a career in the arts, culture and heritage sector," said Fleet, who also spent 14 years – eight as Curator – working at the Canadian Bushplane Heritage Centre. *"The problem-solving skills I developed while in university have continued to be a constant asset to my career, and I have found that they are fully transferable to any discipline."*

"The problem-solving skills I developed while in university have continued to be a constant asset to my career, and I have found that they are fully transferable to any discipline."



ALGOMA U COMMUNITY PROMOTES DIVERSITY BEYOND CAMPUS

Written by Rick McGee

SHOWN IN PHOTO, ROBERT AND GILBERT TOTIME

As the son of a Ghanaian foreign service officer, Algoma alumnus Gilbert Totime discovered multiculturalism's many benefits at a young age. His father's career meant family moves to different countries every four years.

Such experiences helped Gilbert and his brother Robert later assume important roles in helping Algoma become Ontario's most diverse university.

The Totimes began Business Administration studies in 2009 and graduated four years later. But the brothers achieved more than academic success.

"Robert and I were instrumental in changing a lot of things when it came to diversity at the University," Gilbert recalled. "We started a club called the Algoma Multicultural Students Association. Robert was President and I was Vice-President. We were instrumental in developing cultural activities, bridging the gap between domestic students and international students so they could experience some of our culture."

Further, the duo became the first black students elected to the Algoma University Student Union.

"We were trying to influence changes in

the University's culture," Gilbert continued. "So, we kind of started a pathway for things to change. We were very, very active in the student government. The University learned a lot from us and we learned a lot from them. It also opened up pathways for us to travel to other parts of Ontario and engage with the Canadian Federation of Students. We learned a lot from that, as well."

Improvements to institutional policies went a long way towards ensuring that international students would have the supports needed to reach their academic goals.

The Totimes' commitment to diversity extended beyond the campus out into the community. They helped establish ACCANO (the African Caribbean Canadian Association of Northern Ontario) and the local celebration of Black History Month, along with other special events.

These days, Gilbert remains a strong voice for diversity and the "go-to guy" in the post-secondary environment. He currently works as the Student Services Coordinator at Algoma University's Brampton campus.

"I've had so many opportunities to grow as a person and on this diversity portfolio

in three settings — Algoma University, Sault College and the city of Sault Ste. Marie," Gilbert concluded. "There are so many opportunities for domestic and international students to learn from each other."

Beneficiaries of the Totimes' contributions include international students at Algoma University's Brampton Campus.

After coming to Canada from India, Simran Soi began working towards a Business Administration degree in Accounting and is now in third year.

"The University has a lot of international students," she said. "Everyone helps each other make Brampton their home. The staff is also very supportive and they are always open to helping."

Smaller classes proved especially appealing as Soi considered her options.

"It is very important for me to connect with my professors and after some extensive research, I determined Algoma best met my requirements. It is also really exciting to be studying in the heart of Brampton.

"The multicultural environment of Algoma, Brampton has really helped me learn new ways of approaching situations.

The addition of new perspectives has really helped me refine my critical thinking and grow as a person, as well as professionally. I would recommend Algoma, Brampton to other international students as I believe the culture and atmosphere are truly unique. It has a pure feeling of 'home,' and everyone helps each other to grow, which is one of the best environments to be part of."

Being President of the Algoma University Business Society, a teaching assistant and a tutor, Soi leads a very busy life at school. She also participates in many University events.

After graduating, Soi will pursue CPA (Chartered Professional Accountant) certification and hopes to join a large accounting firm.

"Last fall, Algoma welcomed a record number of students to our University," said Algoma President and Vice-Chancellor Asima Vezina. "Including those of Anishinaabe descent, these students represent 53 different countries from across the globe helping to create a rich and vibrant cross-cultural learning environment both inside and outside the classroom. Chief Shingwauk's vision is coming to life at Algoma — many cultures coming together to learn from and with each other. It is beautiful to see and an inspiration for us all!"

Algoma's leadership in diversity will become even stronger in the years ahead. The University anticipates growing to 3,000 students, about half of them international, by 2023-24.

"We are working on having a very diverse international student body for lots

of reasons," said Brent Krmpotich, Director of Enrolment Services & International Operations. "Part of it is managing risk, but it's also important in terms of campus culture. You want to be as diverse as possible. The heart of it (diversity) is probably around educational experience. It's great to have as many points of view in a class as you can."

In late 2019, Krmpotich travelled to China for meetings with officials at Beijing Vocational College of Finance and Commerce.

Through an agreement under development, 15 to 20 Chinese students would transfer into third-year Business Administration (Finance and Economics) and Fine Arts programs for the fall 2020 semester.

But that's just the beginning, Krmpotich noted.

"It's a 10-year agreement that we're working on with the college. So if it goes well — if students come here, enjoy their time and are successful — that would be 20 students a year for 10 years."

"Algoma is a welcoming University, small and friendly. That makes a big difference. If you're sending your kids across the world, you want to be sure they'll be taken care of. That's the concern of parents. Will they be safe? Are they going to succeed? Is their mental health going to be okay? Algoma answers a lot of those questions. The Sault is a good fit for them."

Potential international partners find Algoma good to work with, Krmpotich added. *"We're flexible and open-minded. I would say in Ontario we are experts in working with colleges. That's what we*

do well — we recognize college credits. We also have the ability to move pretty quickly. There aren't that many levels of bureaucracy."

Algoma U's diversity aspirations align closely with those of Sault Ste. Marie. In 2019, the University was named recipient of the Sault Ste. Marie Chamber of Commerce Diversity Award.

This award *"recognizes a business or organization that embraces, celebrates and applies holistic inclusion and participation of a diverse people, making the workplace a better environment in which to work, and the community a better place in which to live, work and raise a family."*

Jane Omollo, Manager of Newcomer Programs with the Sault Community Career Centre (SCCCC), works closely with Algoma and serves as a member of the University's Diversity Committee. She and Algoma representatives also partner in other Local Immigration Partnership activities that share a common goal: to make Sault Ste. Marie a very welcoming and diverse community.

"Algoma U has been very supportive," Omollo said. "Normally, they invite us to their orientation sessions at the beginning of the semester. So, we go there and have a presentation about the services we provide and how important they are for the students."

"Students come here (SCCC) for various reasons. We have students coming because they are looking for employment or because they have immigration-related concerns and they are looking for support. We have students coming here because they are new and they are looking for ways to make connections. Sometimes they are looking to make connections with other cultural groups that they identify with. So that's how we come in, because we have partnerships with the other cultural groups."

Additionally, SCCC staff help students accompanied by their partner and children to settle in new surroundings. That can mean finding schools, searching for employment and attending a host of other details.

FROM LEFT, DR. SHEILA GRUNER, CESD ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND DEPARTMENT CHAIR; LIZ EDGAR-WEBKAMIGAD, DIRECTOR, SHINGWAUK RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS; ASIMA VEZINA, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, ALGOMA UNIVERSITY; DR. VIVIAN JIMÉNEZ-ESTRADA, SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND BRITTANY PAAT, ACADEMIC SUPPORT OFFICER ACCEPT THE 2019 SAULT STE. MARIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIVERSITY AWARD.



DRS. PAYANDEH CREATE

a lasting tribute

Written by: Rick McGee

“Both Simin and I are so dedicated to higher education that we decided to provide these scholarships as a lasting tribute to our name for individuals who should be able to benefit from it for their future progress and families.”

Dr. Bijan Payandeh



Thanks to the altruism of an exemplary Sault Ste. Marie couple, select high-achieving Algoma U students in two disciplines will receive recognition and financial support for years to come.

Drs. Bijan and Simin Payandeh have funded new scholarships in their name. Their donation creates two \$2,500 awards for presentation annually, beginning in 2020.

Born and raised in Iran, both Payandehs were gifted learners who excelled academically. Their accomplishments led to many rewards, including being selected for scholastic medals from the late Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Simin earned the top marks in her class for five straight years while completing D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery) studies in her native land.

Meanwhile, merit-based scholarships helped Bijan fulfill Ph.D. requirements in forest biometry during seven years of study at Oregon State University.

Just over 50 years ago, the young, newly married immigrants relocated to Sault Ste. Marie to begin a new life together. In 1968 Bijan had accepted a research scientist post with the Great Lakes Forestry Centre, where he worked for three decades.

Major barriers, however, delayed the start of Simin's career. She first needed to learn English, including the complex terminology of her profession. Next came the matter of qualifying for a provincial licence. That meant passing

two weeks of rigorous examinations administered by the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario.

“It was very difficult,” Simin recalled. “It was in Toronto and I was on my own.”

But the determined young woman came through with flying colours. When Dr. Lou Lukenda provided an opportunity in his practice, Simin became Sault Ste. Marie's first female dentist. She later established her own solo practice and, overall, served patients for 38 years.

Unusually compelling life experiences and deeply held values shaped the Payandehs' largesse and the awards that have emerged from it.

“The main reason for this scholarship is that Simin and I came to this country with very little money and although our families could have helped us — especially hers — they didn't offer any and we didn't ask for it,” Bijan said. “We decided that we were going to do it on our own depending on our dedication, relying on our own perseverance and so forth.”

“We were fortunate enough to be blessed with three children who were healthy and bright. We brought them up the way we were used to back home with extreme love and attention, following the Zoroastrian traditions of ‘Good Words,’ ‘Good Deeds’ and ‘Good Thoughts,’ in addition to working hard to set an example. They grew up to be very successful and very hard working.”

The children are: Nina, a Sault Ste.

Marie registered massage therapist with a master's degree in nursing education; Jubin, a Thunder Bay orthopedic surgeon; and Jian, a Lead Scientist in Structural Biology with Genentech Pharmaceuticals in California.

“Both Simin and I are so dedicated to higher education that we decided to provide these scholarships as a lasting tribute to our name for individuals who should be able to benefit from it for their future progress and families,” Bijan continued. “We would like to see younger people follow our example.”

Simin cited the influence of her father.

“He sent us all (including her two sisters and one brother, who also became highly respected professionals) to private schools when he didn't have to. He did so because he believed in education. Bijan and I worked hard. We saved and we started from nothing. We are so glad that we can do this.”

AU President and Vice-Chancellor Asima Vezina underscored the new scholarship's significance: “Access to top-quality undergraduate programs in areas such as Biology and Computer Science continues to be a challenge for many students. Algoma University is grateful for the generous support provided by Dr. Bijan and Dr. Simin Payandeh that will help ensure the academic dreams of worthy recipients from these academic disciplines become a reality.”

Pictured above: Drs. Simin and Bijan Payandeh



PRINCE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE & PRINCE TOWNSHIP

pay it forward

Written by: Marc Capancioni

"Our goal is to build a better livelihood for our community, and we see education as a great way to do that."

Sandy Fulcher, Prince Women's Institute member

The Prince Women's Institute has a mandate – to help improve the quality of life for its community and residents by promoting personal development through education and partnerships.

A few years ago, the Institute saw an opportunity to further deliver on its mandate. The charitable organization partnered with Prince Township to establish a scholarship at Algoma U.

The Prince Women's Institute and Prince Township Scholarship Award provides \$500 annually to a first-year, full-time student who's a resident of the area township. If a first-year student does not meet this criteria, the award is made available to an upper-year student who does.

"Our goal is to build a better livelihood for our community, and we see education as a great way to do that," said Sandy Fulcher, a member of the Prince Women's Institute who previously served as the organization's President and Chair. *"That's why our members established the scholarship award at Algoma University. We wanted to give back to our community by supporting and promoting education."*

These sentiments were echoed by Prince Township. Its Council also saw the scholarship as an opportunity to give back to citizens.

"It's really important that students have support," said Peggy Greco, the township's Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk-Treasurer. *"Our Council felt that it was important to provide support to students attending Algoma University. If we can help them – even a little bit – the support goes a long way."*

"Our Council felt that it was important to provide support to students attending Algoma University. If we can help them – even a little bit – the support goes a long way."

Peggy Greco, Prince Township

Past recipients of the Prince Women's Institute and Prince Township Scholarship Award are Graham Slater (2019) and Trista Curran (2018).

Meanwhile, to undertake its charitable work and give back to the community, the Prince Women's Institute delivers a number of programs and activities throughout the year, including bake

sales and other fundraising events. The organization is part of the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada, a registered charity dedicated to serving cities and townships across the country through advocacy and educational programs.

With a rich and storied history of giving back, the first Women's Institute was founded in 1897 in Stoney Creek, Ontario. Since then, the organization spread worldwide with chapters opening up in countries throughout the British Commonwealth, including the United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.

To learn more about the Federated Women's Institutes of Canada please visit www.fwic.ca.

Pictured above, left to right: Margaret Christenson, Prince Women's Institute; Jenna Bannister, student recipient of the Prince Women's Institute & Prince Township Scholarship; and Peggy Greco, Prince Township.



FAR LEFT; ASIMA VEZINA, ALGOMA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR; MCDOUGALL ENERGY INC, FAMILY MEMBERS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT, DARREN MCDOUGALL, CHRIS MCDOUGALL, BRYAN MCDOUGALL, JENNIFER MCDOUGALL; AND FAR RIGHT; MARK LAJAMBE, DINNER PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBER.

2019 JOHN R. RHODES SCHOLARSHIP DINNER HONOURS MCDOUGALL FAMILY & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

Last October, Algoma University hosted the 2019 John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner at The Water Tower Inn, raising \$50,000 to support the ongoing issuance of this prestigious annual award.

The dinner honoured the tremendous contribution the McDougall family has made to our community while recognizing the recipient of the John R. Rhodes Scholarship, Claudia Aguas.

For the McDougalls, family values and community-minded investment has been

the forefront of a business model that has successfully guided the family-owned business for over 70 years. Now in its third generation of family ownership, the company has grown to become one of Canada's largest marketers and distributors of heating oil, propane, gasoline, diesel fuel, and commercial lubricants, as well as being a leading multi-brand retailer.

The scholarship recipient, Claudia Aguas, is a Psychology student from Ajax, Ontario.

Aguas, who assumed a range of student leadership and athletic roles while a secondary level student, is also a member of the Algoma University Thunderbirds varsity soccer team.

Thank you to all those who made this a special night to remember! While we anticipate a delay in this fall's dinner due to the pandemic, we encourage you to watch for updates on the upcoming 20th anniversary celebration of the John R. Rhodes Scholarship Dinner.



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1. 2019 JOHN R. RHODES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT, CLAUDIA AGUAS
2. DARREN MCDUGALL, PRESIDENT, MCDUGALL ENERGY INC.
PHOTOS 3, 4, AND 5: ATTENDING DINNER GUESTS
6. MASTER OF CEREMONIES, DONNA HILSINGER



ANNUAL HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES RECONNECT OUR GROWING ALUMNI FAMILY

It's always a pleasure to reunite with old friends, especially when many of them feel more like family! Algoma University's 2019 Annual Homecoming celebration provided the perfect opportunity for our ever-growing alumni family to gather and reminisce about their time spent at the University, celebrating with old friends and meeting the new generation of T-birds.

Over the course of three days, Algoma's annual fall Homecoming event offered alumni and students an action-packed lineup of events in both Sault Ste. Marie and Toronto.

The 2019 festivities commenced on Thursday, September 26th with a sign-making event followed by the annual Alumni Hockey game where players from as far back as the 1970's laced up their skates for a little friendly competition.

On the Friday, past and present members of the Algoma University community were invited to enjoy a dinner celebrating Anishinaabe culture and cuisine. In the evening, Homecoming guests were welcomed to cheer for the Thunderbirds Basketball teams as they took on visiting teams from Nipissing and Humber. The evening ended with the ever-popular Acoustic Open Mic Night where local musicians, including Algoma U alumni, entertained many onlookers at Algoma U's Speakeasy with the top three performers taking home cash prizes.

Homecoming wrapped up on Saturday, September 28th, with students, alumni and guests in Sault Ste. Marie invited to cheer on the Thunderbirds varsity soccer teams in OUA regular season action versus the Brock Badgers. Following the game, the Algoma U community was encouraged to head back to campus to cheer on former and current players at the Alumni Basketball game.

On the same evening, alumni living in the GTA along with students from our growing Brampton campus had the opportunity to attend a Toronto Argonauts football game as the team suited up against the Saskatchewan Roughriders at the BMO Field.

Stay tuned for future Homecoming details. We look forward to connecting once again!!

PHOTO LEFT: ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ACOUSTIC
OPEN MIC NIGHT



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- 1. ALGOMA UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COUNCIL SIGN-MAKING NIGHT
- 2. ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAME
- 3. ALUMNI HOCKEY GAME
- 4. TORONTO ARGONAUTS FOOTBALL GAME
- 5. ANISHINAABE DINNER
- 6. WOMEN'S SOCCER GAME VS. BROCK BADGERS
- 7. CHANCELLOR, SHIRLEY HORN, CENTRE RIGHT, WITH THE HEALING LODGE SINGERS AT THE ANISHINAABE DINNER
- 8. WOMEN'S THUNDERBIRDS BASKETBALL GAME AGAINST NIPSSING LAKERS



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UNIVERSITY PARTNERS WITH ONTARIO COLLEGES ON 2+2 AGREEMENTS

Written by Marc Capancioni

Students now have another tool to help them reach their educational, career and life goals.

Algoma U recently signed 2+2 pathways agreements with five Ontario colleges. Under the pacts, graduates from certain two-year diploma programs can seamlessly transfer to the university – with all of their credits directly acknowledged and accepted – and earn a related degree in as little as two years.

The 2+2 option is available to Sault College graduates from the following programs: Business, Business Accounting, Natural Environment Technician, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Technician, Adventure Recreation and Parks Technician, Forestry Technician, Police Foundations, General Arts and Science, and Computer Programmer.

The 2+2 pathways is also open to individuals with diplomas in Business or Business Accounting from Northern College in Timmins, along with graduates from Computer Programming and the Aboriginal Community Advocacy programs at Confederation College in Thunder Bay.

For the University, the goal is to provide a streamlined experience for students. *“Our objective is to make the transition as seamless as possible,”* said Dr. Donna Rogers, Algoma U’s VP, Academic and Research *“In smaller communities like Sault Ste. Marie, it’s more natural to see collaboration instead of competition between post-secondary institutes. We see the 2+2 agreements as a great opportunity*

to work with our college partners while providing more opportunities for students.”

These comments were echoed by Colin Kirkwood, Vice-President of Academic & Research at Sault College. *“We entered into the 2+2 agreements to provide students with accelerated degree completion options after finishing the requirements of a college diploma,”* he said. *“The pathways agreements provide students with an opportunity to obtain both a college and university credential in the time normally required to complete only a university degree.”*

Establishing these agreements first required Algoma U and its partner colleges to sync their programs and curriculums as much as possible. *“The 2+2 pathways are the result of a lot of work on both sides,”* said Dr. Rogers.

Meanwhile, from a college pathway or direct from high school, to mature students and international scholars, there are *“many points of access to a university education,”* she added. *“We’re not ‘one size fits all.’ We want everyone who wants to learn to have that opportunity.”*

Algoma U has regular pathways agreements with most colleges in Ontario. However, unlike the 2+2 pacts, not all credits are transferrable to the university. Dr. Rogers and her academic team are currently working to expand its list of pathways programs and partner institutions.

“We’re very open to collaborating with college partners,” she said. *“Our goal is to*



PHOTO ABOVE: PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NORTHERN COLLEGE, FRED GIBBONS AND ASIMA VEZINA, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR OF ALGOMA UNIVERSITY, SIGN JOINT ADMISSION AGREEMENT.

PHOTO BELOW: ASIMA VEZINA, PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR, ALGOMA UNIVERSITY SIGNS JOINT ADMISSION AGREEMENT WITH DR. RON COMMON, SAULT COLLEGE PRESIDENT.



be creative and flexible with our program offerings and pathways agreements. Removing barriers for students is what guides and motivates us.”

To learn more about recent pathway agreements including newly established partnerships with Cambrian College in Sudbury and Centennial College in Scarborough, please visit, www.algomau.ca/admissions.

Questions can also be directed to: collegeoutreach@algomau.ca or 705-949-2301 ext. 4264.





SHOWN ABOVE, JOANNE AZEVEDO, LEFT, AND EMILENE DUMOULIN, RIGHT.

PARTNERING TO MAKE SOCIAL WORK ACCESSIBLE IN REMOTE NORTHERN COMMUNITIES

Written by Marc Capancioni

JOANNE AZEVEDO

It was a very welcomed change of scenery – one that also happened to have familiar surroundings.

Growing up in the Greater Toronto Area, Joanne Azevedo has been working in the child protection sector for well over 20 years. More recently, she began taking on university teaching roles and sharing her knowledge with others.

In April 2019, Azevedo became a Lecturer in the Social Work Department at Algoma U's Timmins Campus. She was thrilled to head north and pursue this opportunity.

Azevedo is no stranger to the community. Her father grew up just outside Timmins, and the family would take regular visits there when she was a child.

"I have a strong attachment to the city," said Azevedo. *"It's been an interesting journey to now be living and working in my late-father's hometown. I get to visit places that I know my dad used to spend time in, like the curling rink. We have strong family roots in Timmins."*

As an added benefit of living in the Northern Ontario community, Azevedo especially enjoys the smaller town feel. *"There's a*

connectivity in Timmins that you don't get in the G.T.A.," she said. *"When I moved here, I was overwhelmed by how welcoming everyone was – from my work colleagues and students, to my neighbours and landlord. It was quite lovely."*

While teaching classes at Algoma U's Timmins Campus, Azevedo holds another job as a casual after-hours Child Protection Social Worker for the Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society. She's also studying for a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Social Work from York University. With her dissertation focused on the working conditions of child welfare employees, she expects to complete the advanced degree in 2021.

Meanwhile, to further advance the child welfare field, Azevedo recently started an initiative, in partnership with a colleague from Northern College, to offer Bachelor of Social Work courses to individuals working in remote communities in Ontario. *"Our goal is to make social work credentials, such as the BSW, more accessible for people who live and work in remote northern communities,"* she said.

EMILENE DUMOULIN

When it comes to helping people, Emilene Dumoulin has made a career out of it. And she couldn't be happier working in this type of role.

Dumoulin spent 13 years as Executive Director of Timmins and District Victim Services. In 2018, she changed gears – but continued her occupational path of helping others – and took on the role of Support Services Coordinator for Algoma U's Timmins Campus, which offers degrees in Social Work and Community Development.

In her current position, Dumoulin's job is to help ensure student satisfaction and success. Duties include everything from booking classrooms and planning events, to hosting stress-busting activities, particularly during exam season.

"It's all about student satisfaction," she said. *"I love everything about my job, especially interacting with students. I come from a helping field, and I constantly remind the students to take care of themselves first. Self-help is very important."*

For stress-busters, Dumoulin facilitates various activities for students,

including beading workshops, colouring events and even gingerbread house-making. Not only do these forums help relieve pressure and anxiety, they also have a secondary benefit.

"These activities bring students together and helps them to get to know each other," she said. *"It's immensely important to bring the different groups together."*

Being able to connect students of varying ages and classes together is an additional advantage of Algoma U, added Dumoulin. *"We're a smaller university, which allows us to provide more engagement with students,"* she said.

For Dumoulin, delivering this type of support and assistance is extremely rewarding. *"There's nothing better than learning that a graduating student recommended to a friend or family member to enroll in Algoma University,"* she said. *"That always puts a smile on my face."*



A MEMBER OF THE ALGOMA U FAMILY RETIRES AFTER DECADES OF SERVICE

Written by Jessica Ferlaino

If you have worked at or attended Algoma University over the past several decades, Maria Murtha was likely to be a familiar face. As an alumna, and later as an employee, she had been around to watch the institution evolve over the decades and now in retirement, she has embarked on changes of her own.

Murtha was a student at Algoma University College between 1982 and 1986. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and a certificate in Business Data Processing. Her career with the school began in 1985, when she was hired as a summer student and she had been with the Finance Department ever since.

When Murtha joined the employee ranks as a student, her job was “to help them computerize the accounting system,” which she recalled was done manually at the time. She later held the roles of Bookkeeper, Accounting Manager, Financial and Accounting Systems Officer, Manager of Financial Services and most recently, Director of Financial Services.

Of all the changes that she has

experienced at Algoma University, it is the physical changes to the campus and the student demographic that are most remarkable to Murtha. When she was a student, it was primarily mature students who attended Algoma University, and as a high school graduate she felt like the minority. This is no longer the case.

Today the campus is more diverse, vibrant and youthful and the energy on campus, which has grown immensely, is very different. Algoma University has strengthened its capacity to ensure that it has the resources to support student and employee success.

Murtha noted, “As a student, I remember the computer science classes taking place at Sault College as we had no computer labs. The Wishart Library, the GLC, the residence building, the Convergence Centre were all built during my time here,” which have greatly improved the institution’s ability to deliver exceptional programming and the quality of campus life.

The campus, which was previously one stand-alone building in Shingwauk Hall, is more expansive and reflects the growth

that has taken place. For Murtha, “It’s still small enough to know everyone. Mind you, in recent years with the expansion, it’s become harder to know everyone.”

OF THE many memorable experiences Murtha had at Algoma University, it was the day it achieved independence, June 28, 2008, that she holds as one of the most significant. Just as she did that day, Murtha hopes Algoma continues to grow in terms of size, capacity and programming.

Moments of reflection like these are meaningful because after her many years of study and service with Algoma University, Maria has retired. The institution lost a long-standing employee, an always friendly face, and one of the many great people who helped the institution to grow.

Murtha looks forward to retirement including checking items off her bucket list. Although the current pandemic has delayed her plans, one of the items Murtha and her husband John, including daughters Joanna and Angela are looking forward to, is planning trips to Italy and Ireland. When asked if she had any concluding thoughts, she responded, “I will miss the staff, faculty and the students that make up the wonderful Algoma family,” but she certainly looks forward to being on vacation for the rest of her life!



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY APPOINTS MARIO TURCO AS SECOND CHANCELLOR IN SCHOOL HISTORY

Written by Brian Leahy

Algoma University is pleased to announce that community leader Mario Turco has been appointed to a four-year term as Chancellor beginning September 1, 2020. *“Mario is a community champion who truly understands the importance of education both to the individual and community,”* shared Dr. David Nanang, former Chair of the University’s Board of Governors and the Chancellor Search Committee. *“He will be an excellent Chancellor for Algoma University; particularly in this period of program and enrolment growth where we will welcome increasing numbers of students and employees locally, provincially, nationally and from across the world.”*

Born in Italy, and immigrating to Canada as a young child, Turco witnessed firsthand the importance of public education as he, his siblings, and parents rebuilt their life in a new country. Through these experiences and an impressive 42-year career, including 9 years as Director of Education for the Algoma District School Board, Turco has become a passionate advocate for student success, equity and public education. Mario is highly regarded and respected for his experience, his interpersonal skills, his knowledge, and strategic thinking. He has worked extensively with government, school boards, and organizations across the province and country.

Since retirement, Turco has been very active serving in the Sault Ste. Marie community. He continues to provide leadership, mentorship and coaching to a range of individuals and currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Sault Area Hospital as First Vice-Chair as well as Chair of the Education Committee and Chair of the Recruitment and Selection Committee.

“I am honoured and pleased to be chosen as Chancellor of Algoma University,” stated Mr. Turco. *“Working in education has been my life calling. I have been fortunate to be associated with students, educators, and other stakeholders from the elementary,*

to the university level advocating the importance of education to the individual and to society in general. Algoma University has exemplary leadership, faculty, and staff. I am impressed with their great work, their many accomplishments and ambitious direction for the future. I look forward to working with all members of the university and its partners to advance its vision and mission to provide first-class education while at the same time cultivating cross-cultural learning through partnerships with Indigenous communities, organizations and groups. I thank the Algoma University Board of Governors, the selection committee, and my nominators for their confidence and support in my appointment.”

“I have been fortunate to be associated with students, educators, and other stakeholders from the elementary, to the university level advocating the importance of education to the individual and to society in general.”

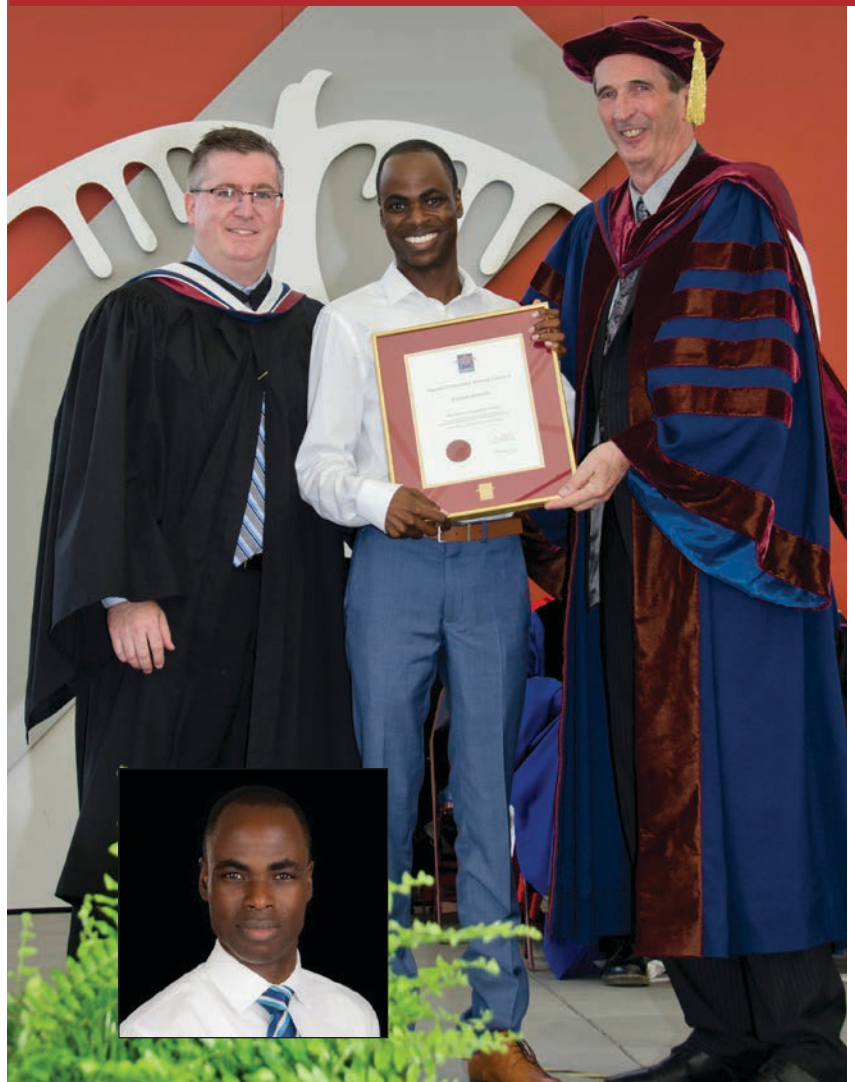
Algoma University’s Chancellor serves as the titular/ceremonial head of the institution and confers all degrees. An advisor and supporter to the President, the Chancellor is a public proponent of the goals and objectives of the University and is an active participant in University activities and the University community. By acting as an ambassador of Algoma University, the Chancellor also helps to raise the profile of the University as well as assist in both relationship-building and fundraising initiatives. The Chancellor provides support to the University President, as requested, and promotes the University’s Special Mission in regards to cross-cultural learning and Anishinaabe education. This is a voluntary, unpaid position.

Turco succeeds Shirley Horn who served in the role since 2015. *“Our University community is excited to have Mario Turco appointed to the role of Chancellor,”* said Asima Vezina, President and Vice-Chancellor. *“His skill set will be an important asset as we move forward with our Special Mission, new programming, an aggressive capital plan and targeted enrolment growth on all three campuses. He is a wonderful choice to help the University continue the tremendous work done by Chancellor Horn to raise the profile of Algoma University within the communities we serve.”*

ALUMNUS CREATES NEW BURSARY TO HELP BLACK STUDENTS

Written by Rick McGee

PICTURED LEFT: KAREEM ROBERTS (CENTER) ACCEPTS ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT 2016 CONVOCATION CEREMONY FROM THEN DIRECTOR OF EXTENSION PROGRAMMING & DISTRIBUTED LEARNING, BRIAN LEAHY (LEFT) AND 2016 ALGOMA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, CRAIG CHAMBERLIN (RIGHT).
INSET PHOTO: KAREEM ROBERTS



Moved by George Floyd's tragic death and racially charged developments that ensued, Kareem Roberts, Algoma University's 2016 Alumni Achievement Award winner, felt compelled to respond in some way.

Now a Business professor at Algoma's Brampton Campus, he was guided by the wisdom of a remarkable humanitarian and historic leader.

"I established a new award to help Black students finance their post-secondary education," said Roberts, a 2008 Algoma Bachelor of Business Administration (Honours) — Marketing graduate.

"I am a firm believer in education. The more we educate people, the more our world is made a better place. Nelson Mandela once said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' I believe that."

Roberts' new \$500 Black Opportunities Bursary will be presented annually beginning this fall.

Recipients will be Black Canadian or International students of African or Caribbean descent who are attending Algoma full-time and are contributing to society through the power of education.

"My experience as a university student has shown me the

importance of education and how I can make wise decisions in my life," Roberts continued. "Being part of the Business program at Algoma has set me up for many successes throughout my career. Now as a faculty member, I want to give back the knowledge and experience I have gained and help students so that they can have success in their careers and lives.

"I wanted to alleviate the stresses of the costs so that Black students can concentrate on their studies and excelling in their chosen programs. I have noticed too many Black students within my community dropping out of post-secondary education and their primary reason is cost and I want to help. By providing these types of bursaries this allows more Black students to finish university and excel in their chosen future careers."

Going forward, Roberts hopes to expand the Black Opportunities Bursary so more students will benefit from it. Easing learners' financial

challenges is certain to help them achieve their goals in and beyond the classroom.

Besides receiving monetary assistance, the award will strengthen each recipient's résumé.

"I wanted to alleviate the stresses of the costs so that Black students can concentrate on their studies and excelling in their chosen programs. I have noticed too many Black students within my community dropping out of post-secondary education and their primary reason is cost and I want to help."



**Education is an investment for a lifetime.
Your gift changes lives. Invest in an Algoma U student today!**



You can change the life of a student. Your donation today will help a student who one day may change our community or change the world! Your donation will provide an Algoma U student with a learning experience that will be cherished for a lifetime. You can give a deserving Algoma U student the chance to reach their goals and dreams; to become the very best that they can be.

Our students are future teachers, business leaders, scientists, doctors, programmers and creators of new knowledge. The possibilities and opportunities are endless!

For more information on how you can invest in the life of an Algoma University student, please contact:

Bev Teller, CFRE,
Alumni & Development Officer
Algoma University, 1520 Queen Street East, Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4
Phone: 705-949-2301, ext. 4125 E-mail: bev.teller@algomau.ca



Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Yes, I would like to invest in an Algoma U student! I wish to contribute by:

_____ MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

- Preauthorized bank deduction
(Please attach a VOID cheque) deducted on the 15th of each month.
- I would like to become a monthly donor by debiting my credit card.
(Please complete credit card information.)

Please indicate the amount that you wish to donate monthly:

- \$20 per month
- \$10 per month
- \$5 per month
- \$_____ per month

- From time to time, Algoma U may publish the names of donors to the Annual Campaign. If you do not wish to have your name publicly listed as a donor, please check here.

_____ I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION

- Cheque enclosed for \$_____
(Please make cheque payable to Algoma University.)
- Credit card payment in the amount of \$_____ .
 VISA MasterCard

Name on card: _____

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Cardholder's Signature: _____

Donations can also be made online at www.algomau.ca/giving/

Please direct my donation to:

- Algoma U Fund (unrestricted gift) Arthur A. Wishart Library
- Scholarship & Bursaries program Varsity Sports
- Student Emergency Fund

Charitable Registration #:
8266 30865 RR0001



TREMENDOUS RESPONSE TO ALGOMA UNIVERSITY STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Written by Megan Parlowe

Algoma University wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all those who have generously supported the Student Emergency Fund (SEF). This past April, the University created the SEF to help students struggling with financial issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Advancement Department reached out to the Algoma University family of employees, alumni, campus unions, Board of Governors, and external communities in Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton, and Timmins.

Over 470 students applied for assistance through this fund and, thanks to the generous response from donors, the SEF Committee has been able to directly assist 295 students with financial support while helping another 180 students access additional forms of assistance available to them through other sources.

“During these times of uncertainty, these funds not

only helped with the essentials but they brought back a sense of security I was lacking, thank you,” shared SEF recipient David Humes.

Numerous donations were received from individuals, organized labour, community organizations, and corporate donors. As well, Algoma University’s Student

Emergency Fund was one of the recipients supported

Our students are the future, we can’t abandon them when their needs are the greatest.

through the “Come Together” Sault Ste. Marie virtual fundraising initiative. Brampton-based Inzola Construction Inc. made a generous contribution with Chairman John Cutruzzola noting, “our students are the future, we can’t abandon them when their needs are the greatest.”

All surplus funds generated through the initial campaign will continue to support students. New funds will be flowed through the established Emergency Bursary to continue to support students who, along with a variety of other needs, continue to be impacted by COVID-19.

Algoma University would like to extend sincere gratitude for the overwhelming kindness and generosity during these unprecedented times. Thank you – Miigwech.



ALGOMA U THUNDERBIRDS WRESTLERS RANK IN U SPORTS TOP TEN

PICTURED ABOVE; FROM LEFT, KYLE PRICE, STEPHEN KREYENBUHL, EMILY DUCHESNE, BRODY COLLISON AND BRYCE DAVIS.

At the halfway point in the Algoma Thunderbird wrestling team's competitive season, they were recognized by U Sports for their hard work and athletic achievements. Five Thunderbird wrestlers had made the U Sports Top Ten and the men's team was ranked 7th, the highest placing Algoma has attained since 2013/14.

In February, five members of the Algoma University Thunderbird wrestling team took to the mat against Canada's top university wrestlers at the 2020 USports National Wrestling Championships hosted by Brock University in St. Catharines. The Thunderbirds came out hard, and Brody Collison (54 KG) took home the Bronze medal. All five Algoma wrestlers competed against the best in the country, all finishing in the top eight within their respective weight classes. Bryce Davis (68 KG) and

EXCITING VARSITY NEWS

Stephen Kreyenbuhl (120 KG) both placed 6th, Emily Duchesne (51 KG) placed 7th and David Serra placed 8th.

Finishing the season, U Sports individual Mens rankings had Algoma wrestler, Brody Collison ranked 3rd (54 kg), Bryce Davis ranked 4th (68 kg), Stephen Kreyenbuhl ranked 7th (120 kg) and Emily Duchesne ranked 7th in the Womens 51 kg category.

"The U Sports rankings help us to reaffirm with our athletes that what we are doing is working. They have made a lot of progress technically but the most improvement has been seen with their own mat intelligence", says Head Coach, Trevor Manchester. *"The team has also been working extremely hard to increase physical fitness, with the focus on maintaining explosiveness in the later minutes of a match."*



COMMUNITY COLLABORATION CO-HOSTS 2020 OUA NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS

Algoma University and the Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Club co-hosted the 2020 Ontario University Athletics (OUA) Nordic Ski Championships at Hiawatha Highlands in February. Rebekah Gwynn was Algoma U's only student-athlete able to participate, but she came out hard and found herself on the podium for an exhibition relay. *"Before this year, I had never raced,"* Gwynn shared. *"I came out for a couple of practices and I just fell in love with skiing. This weekend was a blast."* For both the Women's & Men's Team Championships, the Carleton Ravens brought home the gold, the Lakehead Thunderwolves took silver and the Nipissing Lakers finished with bronze.

In November, Algoma University's new and improved mascot was unveiled. The original mascot, a large Thunderbolt named Boomer, was introduced in 2008. Although embraced by the University, the large and long head piece proved a bit cumbersome for the wearer. To soften the mascot's appearance and to make the Boomer outfit more user friendly and current with new team colours, new modifications were considered. The old costume will be cleaned, a new fan installed and some repairs completed for his new home on the Brampton campus.

NEW LOOK FOR UNIVERSITY MASCOT "BOOMER"



LOOKING BACK AT OUR EVENTS



1. 7TH ANNUAL TRICK OR TRICK NIGHT EVENT ON THE SAULT CAMPUS 2. NORTHERN COLLEGE AND ALGOMA U CO-HOST A HAUNTED TRAIL IN TIMMINS 3. HALLOWEEN DRESS UP ON BRAMPTON CAMPUS 4. ALGOMA U WINS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD AT LUNG ASSOCIATION'S FESTIVAL OF TREES 5. & 6. SSM SANTA CLAUS PARADE 7. TIMMINS CAMPUS CAROLING CRUIZER 8. ALGOMA U SUPPORTS BELL LET'S TALK 9. SKI, S'MORES & MORE AT SAULT SKI HILL 10. SHINGWAUK ANISHINAABE STUDENTS' LOUNGE GRAND OPENING 11. 10TH ANNUAL SHOOT FOR THE CURE RAISES FUNDS TO HELP LOCAL YOUNGSTER BEAT LEUKEMIA 12. 15TH ANNUAL GATHERING AT THE RAPIDS POW WOW 13. ACCANO CANADA'S 2020 ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION 14. 4TH BI-ENNIAL ANISHINAABE INENDAMOWIN RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM 15. BRAMPTON STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE HOLI FESTIVAL 16. ALGOMA U AND THE SOO FINNISH NORDIC SKI CLUB CO-HOSTED THE 2020 ONTARIO UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS (OUA) NORDIC SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS AT HIAWATHA HIGHLANDS.



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

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Alumni & Development Officer
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Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2G4
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