



DECEMBER 2017

**FUTURE.
FOCUSED.**

Algonquin
UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

HIGHLIGHTS OF CAMPUS & COMMUNITY EVENTS



“Celebrating the North” Lung Association’s Festival of Trees - For the third year in a row, the Algoma University tree was the top pick for the *People’s Choice Award*.

“Our Sweet Ride,” the Algoma University float, had over 60 volunteers involved including students in our ESL program who enjoyed the experience of decorating and participating. The float won the overall Nomran Candelori award for *Best in Parade!* This was a wonderful community event to be a part of. Check out the video link at the 1:20.00 to view the float on Soo Today.

<https://www.sootoday.com/2017SantaParade>



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23rd Annual Elders and Youth Gathering

(Nov 17-18, 2017) was supported by Anishinaabe Initiatives (AU) and the Mamawweswen North Shore Tribal Council. The gathering started with a hand drum contest that was memorable to all those who attended and set the tone for a successful weekend of events. The gathering was very well attended and provided an opportunity for participants to share and build understanding of Indigenous knowledge through a series of workshops, presentations and ceremonial practices.

[Hand drum contest AU - Annual Elders and Youth Gathering](#)

Music at the Rapids - Celebrating Music in Sault Ste. Marie

On Sunday, Nov 19th, 2017, our community was welcomed into the Shingwauk Auditorium for this exceptional evening, we had a wonderful turnout of musicians, families and community.





Guidance Counsellor Dinner - As part of our awareness work, AU hosted an evening with local guidance counsellors. The highlight of the evening was the student panel who shared their experiences at Algoma University. It truly had an impact and helped to build an understanding of some of the unique experiences students have when they choose AU: strong relationships with faculty; opportunities for undergraduate research and work study (not typical in larger organizations); strong programming; and the opportunity to stay home and receive an exceptional education while saving significant dollars.

NORDIK Anniversary Celebration - AU's community-based research institute, NORDIK Institute celebrated its 10th anniversary of incorporation under the theme of "10 years of building Northern Ontario's resilience." The public celebration included a display of posters showcasing various NORDIK research projects. Joan Kuyek, a renowned community organizer who has authored a number of texts used in Community Economic Social Development courses, gave the keynote address "The Fight for Hope".

ALGOMA U VARSITY ATHLETICS

algomathunderbirds.ca

Basketball – In men's and women's action for the month of November, our Thunderbirds faced off against York, Queens, Lakehead, Laurentian and Nipissing. At the break, the men are sitting at a 4W-6L record putting them in third place in the OUA West Division. The teams are looking forward to the start of the new year with road games where they will face Waterloo and Wilfred Laurier. Teams will be on home turf against Brock on January 12th-13th and Western on the 26th-27th.

Wrestling – AU had a strong showing at the York Open (November 17-19, 2017) with Natasha D. going 4-1, bringing home the bronze medal and a number of other athletes finishing in the top 6.

Curling - AU will be hosting the OUA Provincial Curling Championships February 15-18, 2018 at the Community First Curling Association. This event will draw close to 200 athletes and coaches to our community and will provide an excellent opportunity to display the curling talent from across the province! Watch for more details to follow.



Natasha D.

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Soccer - We were proud of the volunteer work and Soccer action that occurred between the Thunderbirds and Syrian refugee youths this fall.

Talk Today Training - Algoma University was the first University in Canada to deliver Talk Today training for our athletes. AU's goal is to have every athlete trained by the end of December. *Talk Today* is one of the most comprehensive mental health programs for amateur sports in Canada.

Junior Thunderbirds – Athletic programs designed for elementary and high school aged players are organized and run by our varsity program throughout the academic year. **Junior Thunderbirds Soccer Academy** focuses on basic skills development and technical ability, tactical understanding and program building. **705 Basketball League** is a program for youth in Sault Ste. Marie who want to develop and perfect their basketball skills. Both programs are underway and have strong enrolment.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Computer Science students show off their work – Fourth year COSC students presented their thesis proposals in public forum on November 14, 2017. Six students showcased their learning.

Algoma Reads - A new initiative out of the AU English department and modelled after CBC's series "Canada Reads" aims to bring the community together to celebrate literacy and support civic engagement. Community participants have been encouraged to sign up for the continuing adult education package that will include five public lecture events and five book club meetings. Students are encouraged to think critically and review a number of carefully selected books. Student defense reviews can be found on the Algoma Reads Youtube page: <http://www.youtube.com/algomareads>



www.algomau.ca/algoma-reads

A public lecture was held on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 a featured a discussion of André Alexis' *Fifteen Dogs* featuring animal cognition researcher Caroline Strang.

Law & Justice - Can-Am Debate (November 10, 2017) The Political Science program in the Department of Law and Politics of Algoma University, in conjunction with the Political Science Department at Lake Superior State University, presented the first of two annual international student debates. The Can-Am debate has a rich tradition spanning over 30 years, and offers Canadian, American, and international students from both universities a chance to discuss legal and political issues whose implications transcend state borders.

The fall 2017 debate held on the LSSU campus centered on two questions, the first concerning North Korea and options for de-escalating the threat of nuclear war, and the second concerning Quebec's Bill 62 and the appropriate balance between religious freedom and security in the public realm. Algoma U will host the winter debate in March 2018. This event is open to all interested students.



Brampton's AUSA rep welcomes President Vezina.

Algoma U @ Brampton

On November 16th, President Vezina had her first opportunity to tour Algoma's Brampton facilities while meeting with city officials and a range of stakeholders, including students, faculty, and alumni. The visit reinforced the enrolment growth potential of both current and targeted new programming. The President will continue to consult with and explore opportunities at our extension site.

Algoma U @ Timmins

On November 15th, 2017 the Northern Policy Institute released a report commissioned by the Timmins Economic Development Corporation entitled, [A University for Timmins? Possibilities and Realities](#). The intent of the report was to provide a preliminary analysis of evidence to ascertain the viability of an English language university in the community as a means to minimize youth outmigration, expand access to education, grow the knowledge economy, stimulate economic development, and attract new industry to the region. Although the report did not support the establishment of a freestanding university, a number of recommendations pointed to opportunities that leverage Algoma University's strengths, including our well-developed relationships with First Nations communities, and builds upon the well established partnership that the institution has developed with Northern College over the past ten years.

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On November 23rd, the President along with members of the administrative team visited Timmins to meet with Senior Administrators from Northern College, the CEO and Director of Community Development from the Timmins Economic Development Corporation and the Mayor. These discussions led to an agreement of some common principles, including:

- the importance of increased access to post-secondary program options and attainment;
- the need to keep youth and talent in the community;
- the value of supporting the development of the talent pool required to sustain and grow the region.

The discussions made it clear that Algoma's presence and impact in the community could be enhanced through modest expansion in three to four targeted programming areas that build upon the current "diploma-to-degree" pathway programming in Social Work and Community Development that Algoma has delivered in the community since 2010.



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PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES

Algoma U – “Telling Our Story”

Based on feedback received from President Vezina's first weeks on campus, a common theme has emerged, namely, that Algoma University needs to tell our story. As a result, an AU community-based task force has been established that will be responsible for advising on a campaign focused on “Sharing our Stories, Sharing our Success”. “Our Story” will be told through short vignettes that will highlight the unique opportunities, experiences and success of alumni and current students from our main campus and extension sites.

The task force will also develop strategies and identify platforms that will enable the entire AU community to participate in by providing the stories to the campaign and/or providing ways for sharing them back out through various networks (i.e. word of mouth, social media, & blogs).

More information coming soon.



COMMUNITY, CULTURE AND CARING

Algoma U

As part of being a diverse community, Algoma University is committed to taking an active and collaborative approach to ensuring our campus is welcoming, safe and inclusive for all students, employees and visitors. In response to student and employee suggestions, the university is currently in the process of outfitting a number of existing washrooms around campus with inclusive signage. Further planning and discussions of ensuring a safe, caring, welcoming and inclusive community will continue through the University's Equity and Diversity committee.

President Vezina appreciates and thanks the many individuals that have helped to build our understanding of this need within our community. Working together, we will continue to make a difference.



UPCOMING EVENTS ON CAMPUS

- Algoma Student Ambassador Program, International Holiday Celebration & Dinner December 1, 2017- wear a crazy holiday hat!
- International Recruitment - Annual Holiday Dinner for incoming exchange students
- Shingwauk Aboriginal Student Association (SASA) Holiday Party and Dinner - for all Anishinaabe students and their families
- Parent Information night for prospective students and parents - November 29, 2017
- Small Treasures Open House event by the Fine Arts department on December 1, 2017
- Holiday Dinner for residence students on December 23, 2017
- Holiday Celebration for the AU employees on December 14, 2017 (communication coming)
- Bell Let's Talk event in partnership with OUA, January 27, 2018
- Cancer Awareness Night home Basketball games on January 13, 2018

HOT off the PRESS!!



ALGOMA UNIVERSITY WILL HOST THE 2018 U SPORTS Wrestling Championships! The Best of the Best will compete for the Men's and Women's championship scheduled for February 23 & 24, 2018.

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