

President's Report to the Board



April 29 - 2013

From the President

As one year closes and another begins, Ontario's universities enter a particularly difficult period. Government operating grants have been subject to a 1% efficiency cut for 2013-2014, which will be followed by another 1% the year after. We are also being asked to remit \$750 to the Province for each new international student we take in. At the same time, the universities' capacity to find needed revenues elsewhere has been reduced since the new provincial tuition framework now caps tuition increases at 3% rather than 5%.

In this context, Algoma University is doing remarkably well. We will finish the current year in the black and the Board will be presented with another balanced budget for the coming year. Much of this is due to our success in attracting international students to our campus.

That said, the external environment will likely become increasingly challenging. A recent report from the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario has recommended that government consider decoupling funding increases and enrolment growth, a move that would be highly problematic for our long-term institutional strategy. A white paper circulated by the Official Opposition is suggesting that students seeking degrees should be encouraged to do their first two years in the college system and then transfer to university to complete their degrees. This is another idea that would pose grave challenges for universities in general, and for Algoma in particular. These are, of course, merely ideas, but they are indicative of the new environment in which we must operate.

In such an environment, it will be important for Algoma University to rely on its time-tested tactics of thinking creatively and working with partners. I am particularly looking forward to the May 9th session at which we'll host our friends from Sault College. I hope Board members will make every possible effort to attend.

Dr. Richard Myers
President

Vice President Academic and Research

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013 Dr. David Schantz

1. Enrolment Management (Focus on International Students)

The VPAR hosted representatives from Saudi Arabia Cultural Bureau (Ottawa) the first week of April. The VPAR has been communicating with these representatives for the last several months detailing AU's plan for transitional and foundation courses to better ensure the success of students. The Bureau provides both funding and advising to the Saudi students. As per their request, arrangements were made to meet with Saudi students as well as representatives from ESL department. The Saudi Cultural Bureau representatives also met with representatives from student services as well as some faculty members that teach foundation and transitional courses. Arrangements were also made at their request to meet with representatives from Sault College. All involved found the meetings to be informative and successful.

The timing of this meeting fits well with the VPAR's attendance of the International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education taking place in Saudi Arabia the third week of April. The VPAR will: highlight AU's strategy for academic student success through foundation and transitional programming; work on potential exchanges of researchers; build pathways for Algoma Saudi students to enter graduate programs in their home country as well as short term scholar exchange opportunities.

2. Research

Due to the increase in research grant funding from the three granting agencies (CIHR, NSERC and SSHRC) awarded to faculty members, the Canada Research Chairs program has announced that Algoma University has been allocated a Special Tier 2 Canada Research Chair. This will be one of the main items on the first agenda of the newly formed Research Advisory Committee when they meet in late April.

Our review and update of the AU Institutional Research Plan which is an important component of accommodating and planning for the Research Chair is underway.

The VPAR is also working with various agencies (e.g., OPIC, MEDI, MoE) to ensure continued and timely funding for various positions and projects (e.g., Tech Transfer Officer, research grants, Remedial Action Plan Coordination for the St. Mary's River Area of Concern, etc.).

Vice President Finance and Administration

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013

Sean Dwyer

1. President's Budget Advisory Panel (PBAP)

The President's Budget Advisory Panel has met weekly since early January and twice weekly for the past two months. All department budgets were presented by the supervising administrator and significant reductions were made to align the expenses with forecasted revenues. The Budget will be going to the Finance Committee for review on April 24, 2013.

2. Updated Policies

The new Capital Debt and Expense Policy has been created (the old Capital Debt policy will be retired). The Capital Debt Policy became outdated when the new Purchasing Policy was created in February 2012. The Capital Debt and Expenditure Policy is now in line with the Purchasing Policy and includes information on reporting requirements and how debt is approved.

3. Fee Refund schedule

It has been determined that the current tuition and fee refund schedule is cumbersome and difficult to follow. It is being revised such that the schedule has fewer dates and that descriptions of the schedule and refund rules are more clearly articulated in the academic calendar.

4. OSAP eligibility

In the past twelve months, an increasing number of AU students have been experiencing difficulty with qualifying for OSAP (ON student loans) as full-time students while taking courses delivered in a non-standard 12 week format. It is possible that this issue has been perpetuated by a lack of understanding of OSAP guidelines by the overall University community. As a result, I have met with the Administration and a subcommittee of the University Senate and presented an information note on the intricacies of qualifying for full time OSAP.

Academic Dean

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013

Dr. Arthur Perlini

1. Celebration of Academic Achievement

The Dean's Report to the Board of Governors is mainly dedicated to recognizing Algoma U's faculty and students for whom Spring marks celebrations of academic achievement. Governors are invited to share in this celebration.

The months of March and April featured capstone presentations, exhibits and performances (ADMN, BIOL, ENGL, FINA, HIST, MUSC, PSYC) by our senior-level students. This work represents the culmination of four years' study for our graduating students.

- FINE ART YEAR END EXHIBITION The Annual Exhibition of Works, "All the Things" created by students in the Fine Arts Program. "All the Things" featured works in a wide range of media – drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and digital practices – by artists currently enrolled in courses at all levels of study at Algoma University
- HONOURS BIOLOGY THESIS COLLOQUIUM The topics of the talks ranged from invasive species to plant communities, from animal behaviour to community ecology.
- HONOURS PSYCHOLOGY THESIS CONFERENCE Students presented their empirical research findings in diverse areas including the effects of exercise on academic performance, effects of music on cognitive performance, and identifying the characteristics that result in homosexual bullying.
- HONOURS HISTORY THESIS CONFERENCE Students presented their fourth-year senior seminar term papers around themes that included medicine, gender, and the body; mapping place and assessing the past through oral tradition; and the lessons and outcomes of specific military strategies.
- HONOURS ENGLISH THESIS PRESENTATION
- MUSICAL PERFORMANCE: JAZZ The Algoma U Jazz Ensemble performed their year-end show at Loplops Gallery Lounge.
- MUSICAL PERFORMANCE Algoma U Music students performed their spring recital, featuring (a) solo performances in voice, guitar, piano, and winds, (b) the AU Choir, and (c) AU Jazz Ensemble.
- BUSINESS CASE COMPETITION The competition is designed to assess business policy and strategic planning within the context of organizational objectives/goals and strategic opportunities. Important elements of the competition include an assessment of strategy implementation and appraisal. Members of the local business community serve as adjudicators to evaluate the student-team presentations

2. Faculty Hires

Full-Time faculty searches for the 2013/14 academic year are currently underway for a number of our academic programs (ADMN, ECON, ENGL, HIST, JURI, PSYC, SOCI). The Office of the Dean will be working with departments in the next few months on the organization and coordination of processes/procedures for advancing these hires.

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013

Judy Syrette, Director

1. Anishinaabe Initiatives Division Funding 2013-2016

The Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities announced the new guidelines for the *Postsecondary Education Fund for Aboriginal Learners (PEFAL)* which is a three year funding cycle from 2013-2014 to 2015-2016. Under the new funding envelope there are three grants available:

a) **Student Success Fund** for student services and other activities that were funded through previous multi-year Action Plans, b) **Targeted Initiative Fund (TIF)** which is a competitive process for time-limited, innovative or pilot projects, and c) the ongoing **Aboriginal Student Bursary**. The new guidelines were developed to be in alignment with the student outcomes from the *Aboriginal Postsecondary Education and Training Policy Framework* that was introduced in 2011.

2. 8th Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow – March 2 & 3, 2013

The Annual Pow Wow at Algoma University was well attended with visitors from the U.S. as well as communities outside of the region. There were 200 dancers and 7 drum groups registered with 20 arts/crafts and food vendors. This is one of the biggest events held by AID at Algoma University with approximately 2,500 to 3,000 visitors attending over the two days.

3. CDC Funding Initiative

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division received a *Local Initiatives Fund* grant from the Community Development Corporation of Sault Ste. Marie in the amount of \$4,020 for marketing the Annual Gathering at the Rapids Pow Wow. Marketing this annual event spread the word throughout the Sault Ste. Marie and region on both sides of the border with approximately 200 people from out of town in attendance.

4. Anishinaabe Grad Luncheon 2013

On April 9th, 2013, the 2nd Annual Grad Luncheon was held to celebrate and honour the Anishinaabe graduates of 2013. This luncheon is an opportunity for the Anishinaabe community to gather together along with members of the Algoma University community to acknowledge the achievements of our Anishinaabe students. The number of successful Anishinaabe students graduating increases each year. In 2012, there were 17 identified Anishinaabe graduates and in 2013 there are 20 Anishinaabe students identified. There are also a number of the 2013 graduates continuing their studies in the fall 2013.

5. Aboriginal Reference Group/COU Meeting at Algoma University

On May 6 & 7, 2013, the Anishinaabe Initiatives Division of Algoma University will be hosting the Annual General meeting of the Aboriginal Reference Group, an advisory council to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) and the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). There will be approximately 22 university representatives from across Ontario as well as 3 representatives from COU.

Extension Programming

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013
Brock Olive, Operations Director

1. Algoma @ St. Thomas

Recent events in St. Thomas including a Chamber of Commerce event hosted at our site have confirmed community support is significant. The Chamber of Commerce event welcomed over 250 people from the local business community, a superb turnout indeed.

2. Brampton Programming

New facilities have been added in Brampton to accommodate enrollment growth and student need for common space. We will welcome students into their new lounge space starting April 29th 2013.

Applications to the BBA in Brampton are on track to meet budget projections for fiscal 2013-14, and we expect to see enrollment of approximately 115 FTE in Brampton for that period.

3. Timmins Programming

Applications to AU @ Timmins are up significantly over last year, and we are expecting operations in Timmins to produce a positive net position from operations for fiscal 2013-12.

Discussions are underway with Northern College officials around joint admissions for incoming college students which will improve awareness and recruiting efforts on our part. Also, we are reviewing possibilities for joint recruiting and marketing initiatives with the college to enhance our presence

An initiative to begin delivering courses via Contact North's distance delivery network is also on track. This plan will allow us to remove the need to support video conferenced courses to Timmins via our internal support system and IT department, resulting in cost savings. Further to the benefit of cost savings, moving to Contact North's network provides a vast array of other benefits including: Ability to scale and offer programming beyond SSM or Timmins and enhanced quality control.

Marketing and Communications

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2013

Kevin Hemsworth, Director Marketing and Communications

1. New Writer

Since the last report, I am excited to announce that Meaghan Smith has been hired to the position of Writer. Meaghan is a former Algoma University student and spent last fall working in our recruitment department. She began work at the end of February. Preliminary data suggests that she has been very effective, having tripled the number of monthly media releases that the department normally issues. Those releases have been picked up regularly by online media outlets (SooToday and Local2). Meaghan has also written a number of stories on our students and faculty that have been featured on our website and in our alumni magazine, and has elevated our social media presence. Finally, Meaghan has worked with our media specialists at the Council of Ontario Universities on developing pitches to media outlets, which has led to the development of two future SunMedia articles (on the benefits of attending a small university and our STAR transition program), and a Globe and Mail article on innovative teaching and learning.

2. 2013-2014 Marketing/Recruitment Campaign

We have begun work on our 2013-2014 recruitment campaign. Initial meetings have been held with our agency, and we are implementing slight changes to materials and strategy in response to learnings from last year's campaign. We are continuing with the Small University, Big Education theme for another year, as it has produced significant increases in first-choice 101 applicants and has support from the internal community.

3. Budgeting

The Director of Marketing and Communications sat on the President's Budget Advisory Panel for a second year. We are in the final stages of developing and delivering budget recommendations to the President.

4. Athletics Website

We are beginning rollout and development of the new Athletics website. We will be launching a new Athletics logo as part of the website launch. The logo was developed internally, and student-athletes voted in favour of adopting it at the 2013 Athletics Banquet earlier this month.

5. Recruitment Video

The Director, along with the Director of Domestic Student Recruitment, is in the early stages of planning a new video for use by student recruiters. We are looking to leverage partnerships to produce an effective and affordable multi-purpose video.

6. Athletics Promotion

We have initiated discussions with Shaw cable regarding the broadcast of Varsity athletic events, specifically basketball. We are exploring the possibility of broadcasting the OUA All-Star game later this month as an initial test. Exploration of this idea has led to discussions about accommodations to the GLC to make it “TV Ready” that might be part of the bigger GLC expansion project.

7. Visual Identity Study

The Director is currently working with our agency in order to identify the scope of work and best timeline for the development and introduction of our new visual identity. Factors being considered are the use of the Thunderbird, the use of the Algoma University crest, and the development of a 50th Anniversary logo.

8. Digital Asset Management (DAM)

The Director has been working with our Library and IT staff to source a DAM solution that will enable Marketing and Communications staff to better manage the large digital library of marketing and promotional images we currently house. We are looking to leverage the archiving expertise we have in our library, and are currently comparing their open source software to other software available in the DAM market.

Human Resources

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2013

Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

1. Recruitment

New appointments since the last meeting of the Board:

Writer position (staff union) - filled with an internal applicant

Researcher/Curator position (staff union) - filled with an internal applicant

Archives Technician position (staff union) – job offer made to external applicant

Director of Institutional Research position (Administration) - First interviews held; Second interview scheduled for April 24th with one of the external applicants.

3. Labour Relations

Since the last report, two formal grievances were submitted by the staff association and were eventually withdrawn by the staff association. One formal grievance and one Notice of Collective Agreement Violation have been submitted by the Faculty Association and are in the process of being addressed through the grievance process. Two formal disciplinary meetings were held and dealt with through the progressive discipline process.

4. Payroll Audit

We are working to change our current payroll system from a single-user to a multi-user system. This will enable us to have the functionality to complete the bi-monthly payroll audit. In the next three months, we will also be changing to online reporting and online pay stubs for employees.

5. OSSTF - Position Evaluation

Three meetings of the Joint Job Classification Committee (JJCC) were held since the last report. The committee has developed a process document to ensure a consistent process is being followed for each position. Committee members were also able to use the knowledge gained through training in evaluating four positions. Two members of the Administration team were added to the committee complement and will be completing their training by Friday, April 26th. A presentation on job evaluation was delivered to the Administration team on March 5th.

6. Health and Safety

The Public Services Health and Safety Conference held locally was attended by four University representatives all members of the Joint Health and Safety Committee. Applicable to the University is the launch of the new mandatory health and safety training for all staff. The online documentation will be

available soon which the University will be using as a basis for the orientation program for all staff. Supervisory training will also be made available soon that will be geared more to what our requirements are at the University.

7. Human Resources Information System

The SAGE test environment has now been placed on the desktops giving us the opportunity to review the system prior to the delivery of training. The demographics information has been sent to BAASS, as well as attendance plan, benefit and salary grade information. BAASS will be setting up our live environment with the information provided and then dates will be arranged for training. The “Go Live” date is planned for July 1, 2013.

Information Technology

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2013

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

1. Human Resources Management System (HRMS)

In collaboration with Human Resources department, ITS is currently implementing the new Sage HRMS. The “go live” date is July 2nd. This product will provide the Human Resources department with several tools to keep better track of employee information, vacation, sick days, and overtime.

2. Online Registration

The ability for students to choose their courses online and make payments is currently in development by our internal development staff, and is expected to be available for general use by July, prior to the “rush”. We expect this service will drastically cut down on our traditionally long lines in late August and September.

3. Xerox refresh

Our plan to replace all Xerox machines on campus is on schedule, with units being replaced in May/June 2013. Our goal is to deploy one consistent model across campus and off-sites, and allow users to print to a wide range of units for better fault tolerance.

4. Enterprise Firewalls

4 new FortiNet enterprise firewalls have been installed to protect our main campus and remote locations. These devices have several features including anti-virus, anti-spam, site-to-site VPN, and network traffic shapers that now prioritize network traffic during peak times (typically during business hours).

5. Access Control Upgrade

We are planning on replacing our aging access control systems (card system) with a newer and more flexible product. This will allow tighter integration with our Student Information System (for example, the ability to automate parking card rules, and the ability to allow automated access to certain rooms depending on which program/courses are enrolled in).

Physical Plant

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since February 2013

Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

1. Renovations/Space/Office locations for fall 2012

Conversion of Townhouse 3 from a student residence to an office space for Social Work is on-going. The remaining accessibility renovations are waiting on a response from the Enabling Accessibility Grant application through Human Resources and Skills Develop Canada that we have applied for.

2. Windsor Park

The re-roofing project will be put out to tender this spring. The plans and specifications are complete.

The electrical upgrade project, which includes removal of the two old elevator cars and cabling, as well as creating new electrical rooms to accommodate the new electrical panels, is now complete. Final inspections are happening the week of April 15 and once that is complete, microwaves will be returned to the student rooms.

3. George Leach Center Ontario Universities Athletics Expansion

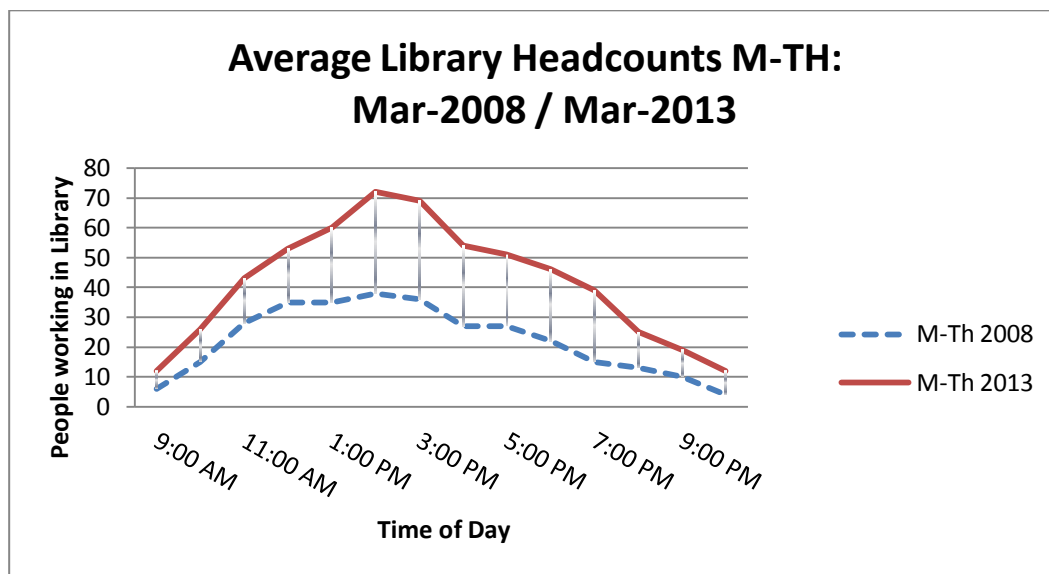
The required expansion to meet the commitment Algoma University has made in becoming part of members of OUA is currently in design stages. We have hired Caughill Consulting, who was part of the team that originally designed the GLC. The OUA specified expansion requirements include; two Varsity Change rooms, two Visitor Change rooms, one Therapist/Training Room, and 2 officials change rooms (male & female). Construction is anticipated to begin this summer and to be ready for the start of Algoma University's OUA basketball season.

Arthur A. Wishart Library

Summary of Major Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013.
Ken Hernden, University Librarian

1. Planning/Space

1. Budget and operational plan for Library submitted.
2. Hires in process for summer students to assist us to clear space in the Library and weed the collections.
3. Discussed creating group study spaces for students in Library with Director of Physical Plant. The recent Student Satisfaction Survey once again demonstrates the need for these spaces in the Library and on campus.
4. Noise and crowding are becoming challenges in the Library, so we are seeking to get ahead of the challenge as cost-effectively as possible.



2. Collections

1. We have completed another cycle of CRKN scholarly database licensing for the university. The CRKN's Negotiation Resource Team (NRT) spent approximately 60 hours on this license renewal, bringing the total to 155 hours or 2.3 hours per participating member. The NRT is regionally representative, its members put forward by their regional consortia because of their specific expertise. If participants undertook renewal individually, it is estimated to require a minimum of 15 hours per participant.
2. In addition, use of consortial buying through CRKN renders the following estimated financial benefits to Algoma University:

CRKN Fiscal Year (APR-MAR) *	CRKN Totals		Algoma University				
	Total \$ CAD across CRKN institutions	Total licenses billed #	\$ CAD for your institution	Your Licenses #	CRKN Membership Fees	CRKN Fees as %-age of License Spend	Estimated Financial Benefits**
FY2011-12	\$92,409,543	66	\$111,262	20	\$3,588	3.220%	\$278,155
FY2010-11	\$90,406,777	55	\$72,770	15	\$3,500	4.810%	\$181,925
FY2009-10	\$87,592,517	42	\$46,575	8	\$3,500	7.515%	\$116,439

* License year is CRKN's fiscal year.

**Macro pricing comparisons at different points in time indicate that CRKN negotiates prices at 35-40% of list price. Since prices for content license vary from one institution to another outside the consortia, the calculation is an estimate.

3. Information Technology Infrastructure

1. Completed upgrade digital archive platform, CHRONICLE, to next version and implemented new functionality based on user requests. Split CHRONICLE into Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre portal and University Archives portal, under the name, *The Engracia De Jesus Matias Archives and Special Collections* per terms of donation from Mr. David Mazzuca.
2. Discussed with ITS and Communications the possibility of creating a Digital Image Archive for Communications to manage its image assets, now currently stored offline on CDs. This would re-use Library expertise and infrastructure already in place.

4. Work with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

1. The Library has been working with the History Group, Inc., which is conducting research into records sought by Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. As the archival repository for the Anglican Diocese of Algoma and the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, the Library will facilitate access to the records in conjunction with the church entities. However, the Library has made clear to all parties that the university is not a signatory to the *Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement*, nor is its employees responsible for providing the documents. The church entities are responsible to do the work and produce required documents.

Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre & Special Advisor to the President for the Residential Schools Legacy

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013

Jonathan Dewar, Director

1. Archive

Development of the Centre's archive, both physical and digital, is ongoing. The database of Aboriginal Healing Foundation (AHF) project reporting records is in the final stages of negotiation for transfer. This material will be a very significant addition to the current holdings and will be the centrepiece of a specialized program of research.

2. Research

Under the 2-year 500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* awarded by the AHF in 2012, a formal program of research and related programming is being developed, along with a specialized "sharing, healing and learning" publishing platform for the Centre, which includes a specialized imprint (or press), a scholarly and creative journal, and various online presences. The Centre is also hosting its first Visiting Scholar, Dr. Glen Lowry from Emily Carr University of Art + Design.

3. Budget and Staffing

The SRSC Director has been joined by an Archives Technician through the 2-year, \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* from the AHF. This grant will further allow for the addition of necessary full-time staff in administration, communications, and research capacities (or a combination thereof) for 18-24 months. An internal posting for a Researcher/Curator has just concluded with a hire anticipated in February 2013.

4. Project of Heart Commemoration

The SRSC and its Director were chosen by Project of Heart to be the Ontario representative for the "Project of Heart- Commemorating the Children for Future Generations" project for the Ontario region, with a budget of \$35,330. A Regional Advisory Committee has been convened with artist(s) to be commissioned in February 2013.

Student Recruitment: Domestic

Summary of Issues, Initiatives, Operations since February 2013
Brent Krmpotich, Director of Student Recruitment – Domestic

1. Accelerated Computer Science Recruitment Campaign

The Recruitment Department carried out a targeted recruitment campaign for the Accelerated Computer Science program during the first week of February. Computer Science open houses were held in three locations, Sault Ste. Marie, Sudbury and Brampton. The Sault Ste. Marie open house was very successful generating three new applications that evening. Unfortunately the Sudbury and Brampton open houses failed to generate much interest. To date uptake on this new program has been slow but showing signs of improvement of late.

2. Domestic Applicant Follow-up

A major part of our domestic recruitment campaign involves providing the best individual follow-up possible. In February our 3 Admissions Advisors travelled the province meeting with applicants and their parents in their hometowns. This is a key part of our annual campaign. It allows applicants who don't have the opportunity to visit campus to get a feel for what Algoma is all about. This year we met with more applicants than ever before, hopefully the visits will continue to pay off.

3. March Break Open House

Approximately 175 applicants and parents visited Algoma University over the March break. This was our largest and most diverse group of visitors yet. Close to 100 of the guests made the trip on two busses chartered from Toronto. This is the first year we have been able to fill two busses. More college transfer applicants took advantage of this opportunity than in previous years. Feedback from the week was good. We have begun to see these students "accepting their offers" to study at Algoma U next year.

4. Enrolment

Acceptances to the Sault Ste. Marie campus are ahead of last year's pace for both the direct from high school and non-direct domestic student groups. As of April 15th we have a total of 88 "accepted offers" to the Sault Ste. Marie campus compared to 68 on April 15th 2012. Enrolment at the extension sites appears to be slightly ahead of last year's pace as well.

Student Recruitment: International

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013

Joanne Elvy, Director, International Student Outreach

1. Recruitment Initiative – Brazil, China & Taiwan (March 2013)

Algoma University attended a 6-day recruitment fair in Taiwan during March 2013, with promise for student intake for summer and/or fall 2013, particularly in ESL@Algoma. We provided for an agent to represent Algoma U at an education fair in Sao Paulo, with similar expectations; this is encouraging as a means of extending our Brazilian numbers outside the Science without Borders program. A substantial agreement was signed with Sichuan International Studies University, Chongqing, notably with Law & Justice 2+2 arrangements. We also participated in 2 other educational fairs in China during the month (the cities of Kunming and Jinan); conducted training sessions with agents in 2 cities; provided 5 AU presentations in local universities for potential students; extended an existing agreement with North University of China (computer science based); joined in a 5-day educational tour of Yunnan Province with the Consulate General of Chongqing; and arranged for 2 short-term groups to come to Algoma University from University of Jinan this summer.

2. Meaningful Use of Existing Resources

One of our language ‘pathway’ partners in Toronto, who has active contacts in Korea, is coming to fruition. This is gratifying, because Korea is an agent-driven market, difficult to penetrate for any kind of sustainability. Western Town College has come forward with several fee-paying applicants from Korea. This is helpful, particularly to diversify the degree program classes.

3. ESL@Algoma Summer Initiatives

We are anticipating that there will be a number of ESL@Algoma short-term groups this summer, to include groups of students from Korea, Mexico and China.

4. “Emerging Leaders in the Americas” Program

Algoma University submitted applications for 6 scholarship applications for federally-funded “Emerging Leaders in the Americas” program, which could result in these 6 students from Latin America (4 from Mexico and 2 from Colombia) being fully funded to attend Algoma University for 1 – 2 semesters in 2013-2014. Not only would this kick-start existing institutional agreements, but these students would be headed towards programs that do not typically host international students on exchange, that is, Computer Science, Psychology and Community, Economic & Social Development (CESD).

Student Services

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since February 2013.

Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

1. Student Services

- The Annual Student Services Satisfaction Survey is currently online. To date we have received close to 200 responses with the Survey coming offline at the end of the exam period. Results will be circulated to the various service related departments to assist in future planning.
- Student Services and Residence Life staff completed Mental Health First Aid Training offered by the Canadian Mental Health Association. This certification assists staff in recognizing basic symptoms of common conditions and what support services are available in the community.
- The Student Services team has had some initial discussion regarding planning for the expanded Orientation schedule for fall of 2013. With classes officially starting on September 9, there is now a full week of Orientation to coordinate. This additional time will allow the opportunity to introduce many new academic support elements to the program and include Faculty in many of the activities, workshops and events.
- Staff is preparing for spring intake and orientation as well as reviewing advising practices for first year student course selections.

2. Residence

- Algoma University hosted its Annual Residence Banquet on April 5th. Approximately 70 students attended with several students recognized for their contributions to Residence Life.
- A number of conferences will be hosted on campus this spring utilizing. Groups from the ADSB, Culture of the Canada-US Border, Canadian Catholic Organization for Peace and Development and other small groups will visit Algoma.

3. George Leach Centre

- Annual Membership sales are down as a result of changing demographics in the area, facility shortfalls and local competition. Some initiatives are underway to address the decline.
- The GLC recently installed a new dividing curtain around the first court of the field house. This will assist in additional facility rental and improve safety for those members who use the track.
- Algoma University hosted the Girls U-15 Ontario Basketball Championships April 26-28. Approximately 35 teams from all over Ontario attended the event and competed at various venues in the city. As part of this same event, Algoma University hosted the OUA Women's basketball All-star game on April 27th.

4. Varsity

- Algoma University celebrated its annual Athletic Awards Banquet on April 6th where dozens of student athletes were recognized for their academic and athletic achievements. Corina Bruni and Daniel Scarpino were deemed Female Student-Athlete of the Year and Male Student-Athlete of the Year, respectively. Pat Murray was inducted into the Thunderbirds Hall of Fame after an illustrious 5 year career as a member of our men's basketball team.
- The new Thunderbird web site is scheduled to launch in early spring