

President's Report to the Board



February 12- 2014

From the President

From the time I was hired to serve as President, I have always understood my #1 assignment to be growing the university's enrolment. It has also been clear to me from the outset that this is an extremely challenging task given our location, our lack of brand recognition, and our lack of some of the "extras" that students often seek in a university experience.

This year's data from the Ontario University Application Centre confirms just how daunting our task will be. For the first time in memory, the number of students applying to Ontario universities is down considerably: -3.5%. Demographic data confirms that this is not a blip on the chart, but the beginning of a significant five-year downturn.

It is gratifying that Algoma University has bucked the trend. We lead the province with a healthy 8.2% increase in first-choice applicants from high school. That kind of success is the product of a team effort across the University, but I would like to single out the excellent work done by Brent Krmpotich (Director of Domestic Recruitment) and the staff in our Recruitment Department: Laura Isaacs, Jenn Reid, Brad Lloyd, Krystal Szatanski, Richard Belton, Donny McGrath and Joanne Robertson.

That said, excellent work by the Recruitment staff will not suffice to move us forward -- or even to keep us where we are. The fact that fifteen of the other universities have experienced a decline in applications guarantees that competition for applicants will become extremely intense. Our aspirations to grow will depend not only on further good work by Brent and his team, but on a concerted effort across the institution. In my judgement, the most urgent priorities will be the following:

- We will need to develop attractive new programs that have the capacity to bring us new students (and not simply divert students from existing programs).
- We will soon reach a point where only 60% of our students are coming to us direct from high school. Our exceptional reliance on college transfers/mature students/university transfers suggests that we should be redoubling our efforts to work with the colleges and to ensure that it is easy to transfer to Algoma and easy to transfer into its programs.
- We also need to pay more attention to assisting our non-traditional students with transition programming and strong academic support services. Retention rates at Algoma are low precisely because of the extraordinary proportion of our students who are non-traditional. Since it is easier to keep a student than to recruit one, improved retention has to become a high institutional priority.
- We have made good progress in Southern Ontario by focusing on the smaller communities where our *Small University/Big Education* message resonates well. That said, geographic distance from this key market remains a major barrier. Students will move here if they believe we have something to offer that they can't find closer to home. We therefore need to do everything possible to enhance the "big" education we offer and ensure that students see it as "bigger" than the distance from their hometown to Sault Ste. Marie.

Vice President Academic and Research

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since November 2013

Dr. David Schantz

1. Research

Algoma University has become eligible to apply for a Tier Two Canada Research Chair. The Research Advisory Committee has met to discuss options. A variety of sources (e.g., Canada Research Chairs Program, Ministry of Natural Resources, faculty members, etc.) have been consulted in an effort to determine the potential most successful strategy. The CRC award status for Algoma University and attached funds will enhance the University's reputation as a high quality environment for learning and research.

2. Funding / Grant Opportunities

The VPAR is supervising the two projects (\$499,050.00) resulting successful grant applications to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities' Productivity and Improvement Fund (PIF). The first project addresses the University Foundations Program that has been in development over the last year. The grant funds a thorough examination of current practices at Algoma University in terms of academic programming and student services offered to international and domestic students enrolled in Foundations courses. The second grant funds the expansion of Algoma University's ability to effectively generate effective and timely data analysis necessary for academic and administrative decisions making. Both projects are due to be reported to be reported by the Ministry's fiscal year end (March 2014).

3. New Program Development through Partnerships

The VPAR is supporting several program development initiatives, all of which are in various stages of development. These include Criminology, Global Trade, Health Care Management, Anishinaabe Studies and Environmental Science. Several of these initiatives have formed Program Advisory Committees which is an essential step in the process.

4. International Student Enrollment

The VPAR and Registrar visited the Saudi Arabia embassy in Ottawa in December to reinforce Algoma's efforts in ongoing program development that meets of international and domestic students. Discussions are leading to increased levels of communication and mutual problem solving between institutions on behalf of students with the goal of generating higher levels of student success and retention.

5. Off-sites

The VPAR visited Northern College in Timmins in late November to discuss sharing of resources and program delivery model adjustments. Work continues with all of our off-site locations including Timmins to ensure AU is being competitive with course offerings and to increase enrollment levels and improve community access to AU programming.

6. Research Matters

This fiscal year, the Research Matters campaign highlights the research efforts of two Algoma University researchers (Dr. Gayle Broad and Dr. Isabel Molina) through website publication/marketing campaign and presentations in Hamilton and Toronto (Queen's Park). The VPARs office is supporting AU participation in these efforts.

Vice President Finance and Administration

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since November 2013

Sean Dwyer

1. Part-Time Faculty Collective Bargaining Negotiations

The University Administration began negotiations with the Algoma University Faculty Association regarding the PT Collective Agreement in July 2013 as per the contract expiring as of June 30th 2013. The Administration Bargaining Team was prepared with all articles to be opened and discussed in advance of the first session and are continuing to work through the agreement at the bargaining table. The articles that relate to monetary items are currently being negotiated.

2. The President's Budget Advisory Panel (PBAP)

Planning for the 2014-15 budget has commenced. All budget holders on the Administration Team have submitted their draft budget requests to the Office of the VPFA and the PBAP meetings began in early January. The PBAP will review each individual budget with the budget holder and make recommendations to the President on the final draft budget that will go forward to the Board for approval. The Panel will meet weekly until the draft is finalized in March.

3. RYTAC

A draft partnership agreement is being worked prior to being sent to Sault College for consideration. The draft is being produced in consultation with outside legal counsel. In parallel, there have been several meetings with both the University's auditor and insurance provider. Once Sault College accepts the agreement, it will be presented to the University Finance Committee for review.

4. GLC Expansion

Further to the details provided in the Physical Plant Director's report, work on the related financing plan has been moving forward in parallel. An update on the RFP process will be provided when available, and if deemed an appropriate project based on the upcoming due diligence, a related business case will also be presented at that time.

5. Entrance/Renewal Scholarship Accessibility

A recent study initiated at the Scholarship Committee level has led to two motions recommended to Senate that will improve the accessibility of both entrance and renewal scholarships for students with documented disabilities. The changes proposed will put the University very much in line with normative practice among our comparator Universities.

6. HST Audit

The University was selected by the CRA for an HST audit. The audit is now complete and outside of the University being in a net payment position, it was a positive experience in that all operations are now treating HST accurately and refunds are being completed correctly. The net payment will be netted off future quarterly refunds.

7. Credit Card Processing

The University is currently in negotiations regarding switching credit card processors with the aim of saving significant fees on a go-forward basis.

8. Productivity and Innovation Fund

As reported previously, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) launched a one-time, Productivity and Innovation Fund to enhance innovation, find efficiencies and improve productivity. The budgets related to AU's successful applications are being monitored closely to ensure they are utilized in full prior to the provincial government fiscal year-end.

9. Dissolution of the Foundation / Transfer of Assets

Dissolving the AU Foundation is a practical step for the University to take as it promotes better financial controls, allows for more efficient and improved reporting and cuts down on unnecessary professional fees. The intention is to perform the transfer of assets and dissolution of the Foundation on the last day of our fiscal year, April 30th, 2014. The Foundation will still exist exactly as it does in its current form, however it will simply become a department of the University as opposed to a stand-alone entity. The follow up motions will be brought to the University Board of Governors at the April Board meeting.

Office of the Registrar

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since November 2013

David Marasco, University Registrar

1. Enrolment

Current enrolment data for the 2014 winter term suggests a 5% increase as compared to winter 2013. We are on track to achieve our projected growth of 7 percent for the reporting academic year ending April 2014.

2. Office of the Registrar/Reports

The Accessibility Compliance report has been submitted to MTCU and we are now awaiting approval. As part of the ACR, the ministry is requesting that all institutions submit a multi-year accessibility plan which outlines the organization's strategy to prevent and remove barriers for persons with disabilities. A committee of administrators will be advancing a long-term approach to the plan.

On the academic side, academic advising for returning students begins on February 3. All returning students have been assigned an academic advisor from the ranks of the full-time faculty. The course schedules for the next academic year (spring, fall, winter) have been finalized in preparation for the beginning of the registration process.

3. College Transfers

Algoma University continues to work with the colleges to enhance/promote college pathways. The Department of Computer Science & Mathematics has approved an exceptional agreement with SCAAT's Video Game Art diploma program – since the transfer is outside of the current transfer credit framework, the agreement will require senate approval. Also, the Department of Biology is aggressively working with the college and has approved another transfer agreement Sault College's Fitness/Health Promotion program. Work on a course equivalency database continues with the province. The project is intended to help institutions to develop and maintain course equivalencies for credit transfers. For students, the database will provide a searchable tool for course equivalency for both colleges and universities.

4. International Recruitment, ESL@algoma

Algoma University will be host to a short-term study group from Kyoto Sangyo University (Japan). The group will be here for three weeks studying English as a second language as well as participating in various community and cultural events.

Anishinaabe Initiatives Division

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since November 2013 Judy Syrette, Director

1. The Anishinaabe Speaker Series – Winter Semester 2014

Dr. Karl Hele, a member of Garden River First Nation, will be visiting Algoma University on Thursday, January 30th at 7:00 pm in the Doc Brown Lounge. His presentation is called “An American Treaty in Canada: 1850 and its connections to the U.S. treaty making”. In addition to his presentation at AU, Dr. Hele will also be speaking to the Aboriginal Education Committee, a joint advisory committee to ADSB and HSCDSB, from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm on Thursday, January 30th. This presentation is in support of the Anishinaabe members on the AEC’s initiative for the development of a Treaty Curriculum at the secondary level.

2. Anishinaabe Iendamowin (Thought) Research Symposium

The Anishinaabe Initiatives Division (AID) is hosting a research symposium for Anishinaabe students at Algoma University. The intent of this event is to promote and encourage Anishinaabe students to pursue four year degree programs in order to learn and develop their research skills and continue their education to graduate school.

The first Anishinaabe Iendamowin (Thought) Research Symposium will be held on Friday, January 31, 2014 from 1:00 – 5:30 pm in the Doc Brown Lounge with a Feast to follow in the Speak Easy. Dr. Karl Hele is the keynote speaker and two Algoma University faculty members - Dr. Rose Cameron (Social Work) and Dr. Dwayne Keough (Psychology) speaking on Qualitative and Quantitative research respectively. There will also be three Anishinaabe students presenting their research: Hillary Trudeau, Shelly Fletcher and Natalie Waboose.

3. Anishinaabe Initiatives Division Projects

BSW Student Research Assistant – an upper year student has been hired by AID/Social Work Department for the winter semester to complete a literature review, compile a reading list and assist in the preparation of an outline for a course on the Métis in the Social Work program. This project was undertaken to promote and add more Anishinaabe content across the curriculum not only in the BSW program but as an elective in other programs as well. A priority in AID is capacity building and development for Anishinaabe students. This project will develop, expand, and re-inforce the skills required for research projects.

Extension Programming

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

1. Algoma @ St. Thomas

As of December 31, 2013 revenues and expenses are in line with budget.

Students in second year are beginning to make arrangements to transition to the main campus in Sault Ste. Marie. Staff and faculty are working closely with these students to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. Currently we anticipate 5-7 students will transfer to the main campus from St. Thomas for Fall 2014.

Enrollment projections for the new intake of students in Fall 2014 at St. Thomas is presently looking weak. Although awareness of the program offerings is high amongst high school students in the area, demand for the program amongst this group seems very limited. Efforts are being undertaken to re-examine the program offering and to determine what adjustments might be made to improve application rates.

2. Brampton Programming

Carrie Andrews, our Support Services Coordinator in Brampton is now no longer with AU. Carrie's replacement, Jo-Anne Watson started on with us on January 20th 2014, and so far has hit the ground running.

Enrollment at Brampton for 2013-14 has surpassed budget by a small margin, (118FTE versus 115FTE) budgeted. We expect to see modest enrollment increases for fiscal 2014-15, however we feel enrollment growth at Brampton is beginning to plateau, and any significant growth in the future will only be had via program expansion.

3. Timmins Programming

Enrollment at Timmins for 2013-14 has surpassed budget significantly, we are at ~33 FTE versus 21FTE budgeted.

The increase in enrollment has allowed us to justify converting several courses planned to be offered via video conference from the main campus, to traditional face to face delivery, which has improved the student experience given the limitations of our current distance course delivery platform.

We are forecasting a slightly smaller incoming class in 2014 versus 2013, but expect overall enrollment to continue to grow given the trend towards students in the program taking full-time loads versus part-time, which has been more common in the past.

Marketing and Communications

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since November 2013

Kevin Hemsworth, Director Marketing and Communications

1. 2013-2014 Marketing/Recruitment Campaign

The recruitment marketing campaign wrapped up on January 15th. Over the course of the campaign we served over 50 million ads, generating over 60,000 clicks. Mobile and Video Pre-Roll advertising had the highest click-through rates. All of this has helped to generate a 7.5% increase in 101 applications to Algoma U for fall 2014.

2. Visual Identity Study

Creative concepts were presented to the President and the Director prior to the holiday break. Refinements are required before the concepts can be presented to a wider audience for discussion. We are still on track to have a new visual identity in place by April 2014.

3. Website

Several revisions to the website are planned for 2014. First, an international section is planned that will help to recruit International students by giving them better and more accessible information on which to base their decisions. Second, we are working on revising the content in the Academic Programs and Departments sections, in order to more clearly define those sections and add better content for the purposes of recruitment. Third, we are working with the Financial Aid office in order to improve the quality and depth of the content in that section so as to streamline student inquiries in that office. Lastly, we are reworking the Administration section to bring more visibility and transparency to the Board of Governors and Senior Administration. Work is ongoing and we hope to have these improvements in place before the beginning of the 2014-2015 academic year.

4. Academic Calendar

The Director recently met with the Registrar to discuss the possibility of moving the Academic Calendar online. The current plan is to continue to produce the academic calendar in its printable format for another year, and to begin moving that content to an online system beginning in the summer of 2014.

5. AODA

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act requires that all new websites and web content in Ontario conform to WCAG 2.0 Level A as of January 1, 2014. The launch of the new website in December 2013 ensured that technically our web presence would meet that standard, and we are pleased to report that in multiple third party audits our site and content exceed the standard required, and outperform most other sites in the category with regards to accessibility. Even so, we are looking into acquiring software that will monitor our site on a go-forward basis to ensure that all new content meets and exceeds the demands of the AODA.

6. Racial Harmony Committee

The Director continues to represent the University on the Racial Harmony Committee, which was formed under the Local Immigration Partnership after an incident involving one of our students in December 2012. The Racial Harmony Committee developed a mandate that would outline specific action items to take a stand against racial discrimination in our community, launched the Racial Harmony Campaign throughout the community and brought resolutions forward to City Council around the promotion of diversity. The committee will be requesting at the March 2014 Council Meeting that Sault Ste. Marie become a member of the Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CCMARD). Following approval from City Council for membership into CCMARD, a signatory event will be held in Sault Ste. Marie, publicly announcing our City's stand against all acts of racial discrimination. As part of its new mandate, the Racial Harmony Committee will continue to work with the community to create this action plan and have it acknowledged as a public working document.

7. COU Strategic Aboriginal Communications Campaign Working Group

The Director has become a member of a new working group at COU, with the aim to increase aboriginal student participation in Ontario universities. The Strategic Aboriginal Communications Campaign Working Group had their first meeting in January at the COU offices in Toronto. It is hoped that in addition to helping the group to develop a communications plan that it will be helpful to our own Anishinaabe marketing and recruitment efforts here at AU to network with others around this common goal.

Human Resources

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since November 2013

Darla Pirillo, Director of Human Resources

1. Recruitment

Support Services Coordinator (Brampton) – filled with external applicant

Project Management Assistant (limited term to March 31/2014) - filled with an external applicant

Custodian (PT five-month position) - filled with an internal applicant

Business Intelligence Analyst (limited term to March 31/2014) – filled with internal applicant

Systems Administrator (limited term to March 31/2014) – filled with internal applicant

Co-op Career Services Assistant (limited term) – filled with external applicant

ESL Internship Coordinator – recruitment in progress, internal competition closes January 29/14

Since the University is a public entity, we strive to ensure that the hiring and selection process is fair and defensible. To assist in the hiring decisions, each candidate that has been short-listed for an interview may also be required to participate in a testing component or a presentation relevant to the position.

2. Health and Safety

In collaboration with the President of the Staff Association and Faculty Association, the Workplace Violence Policy and Prevention Program is now complete. This information has been forwarded to both Union groups for a final review with a goal to have this communicated to all employees in February 2014. The HR Director attended three half day sessions of the WSIB Safety Community and Incentive Program. By participating in the program and completing the required tasks, the University will now receive a percentage reduction in WSIB premiums. The required tasks were: Health and Safety Self-Evaluation Checklist, Health and Safety Action Plan, Workplace Inspection Procedure and Return to Work Procedure.

3. Human Resources Information System

HR has now entered the next phase of the implementation of the HRIS and that is to ensure the system in place is being used to its full capability. This phase includes a review and documentation of all processes be used in the system, including the attendance management process. Also, the reporting is being reviewed, including the standard reporting being provided by the system and to identify additional reporting that will benefit the HR Department and other Administrative departments of the University.

4. Communication

Work is now completed on changes and additions to the Human Resources portion of the external Algoma University website. A follow-up meeting has been scheduled with the Communications Department to communicate these required changes in order to ensure that current employees and prospective employees are able to access the required information related to their employment or possible future employment at the University. The Payroll section of the website will be added, as well as an update to the Health and Safety and Health and Wellness sections.

5. Improving Service

The President, through a staff survey, has identified a need for an improvement in the way we are providing service at the University, both internally and externally. A committee has been formed with the goal to

develop an initiative to address the internal and external “customer” service we are providing at the University. The HR Director will Chair this committee, with representatives from the Staff Association and Faculty and students. The first meeting will be taking place in early February 2014.

6. Training and Development

Human Resources is in the process of customizing for Algoma University computer based training (CBT) modules for staff and faculty that will address the mandatory training requirements, such as WHMIS, Workplace Violence and AODA. This method will also be used for other training requirements. The system will create a database of training information including all employees and what has been completed to date giving us the required documentation if there is an inspection by the Ministry of Labour.

Information Technology

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since November 2013

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

1. Online Registration

Online registration for continuing students will soon enter its second academic year of operation. Our focus this year will be to improve the experience for new students by integrating the academic advising process more closely with the registration process.

2. Document Management System

The IT department has begun the process of researching Document Management platforms. Many units across campus will benefit from using a formal document management approach. Two key areas which we will focus on as part of the initial implementation phase will be the purchasing/invoicing process, and the electronic storage of student records and documents in the Office of the Registrar.

3. Productivity and Innovation Fund

As part of the recently awarded PIF grant, the IT department has researched and purchased a Microsoft Business Intelligence platform with a Tableau (<http://www.tableausoftware.com/>) reporting front-end. Base installation of the system will be complete by March 31st, after which we'll begin the ongoing development of building a centralized institutional reporting platform.

4. Infrastructure Upgrades

As mentioned in the last update, a new Storage Area Network device was purchased this past fall that will quadruple the storage capacity of our systems. Cutover to the new system will happen over the next few weeks.

5. Business Continuity

We are currently analyzing options for creating a disaster recovery site in the event of major hardware failure or disaster in our data center (fire or flood). Data from our systems has always been backed up to a remote site, but a redundant set of servers will be purchased and installed so our services can come back online within minimal time.

Physical Plant

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since November 2013

Jeremy Wilhelm, Director Physical Plant

1. Windsor Park

The re-roofing and alterations project is complete. This project included the demolition of the kitchen interior to allow for future renovations and reroofing of the ballroom and old kitchen.

2. Arthur A. Wishart Library Reroofing

As previously noted the roofing repairs are been put on hold until spring. We have hired a consultant and the library roofing design will be complete and put out for tender by mid-March. We currently have Maverick and Son Exteriors monitoring and repairing the roofing as required.

3. Essar Convergence Centre

The former AGFH space is currently being redesigned to accommodate a large classroom with configurable furniture to allow various teaching methods. This renovation will occur over the summer and be ready for the fall term

4. George Leach Center Ontario Universities Athletics Expansion

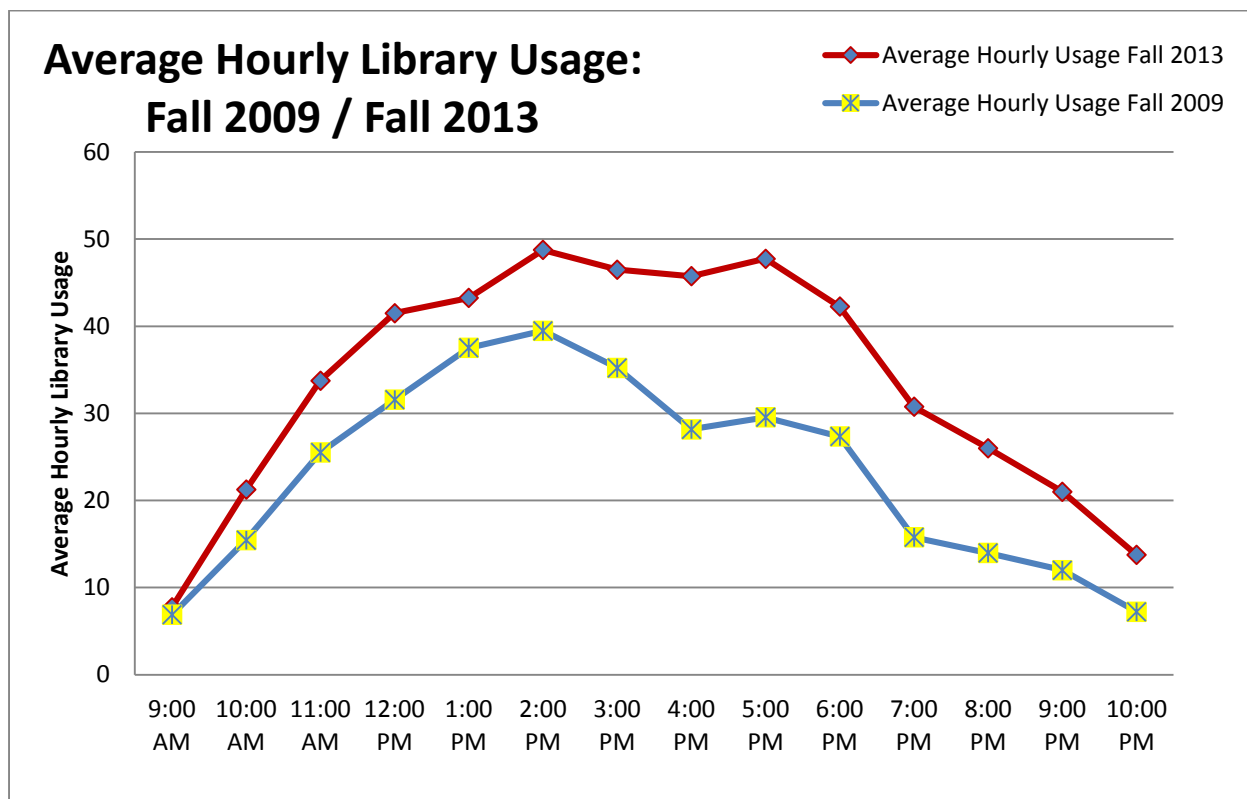
The GLC Expansion Committee working with Caughill Consulting has developed a design to address the commitment made when joining the OUA and also address other facility needs. The desired floor plan and expansion design will be presented to the CDC at the February meeting. Following their review the tender documents will be put out to tender for pricing. The tendering period should be complete by March.

Arthur A. Wishart Library

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

1. Planning/Space

1. Signage, furniture and audio-visual equipment for the new Student Group Study Room are being installed. The Library will review usage statistics to determine the needs for additional similar spaces.
2. Library staff members have de-selected print periodicals from the collections and have created substantial new, open space on the third floor of the Library. The excess shelving was donated to the university's long-time institutional partner, the Great Lakes Forestry Lab. The GLFL hired movers to remove the shelving at no cost to the university. I would like to express my thanks to Helen Pereira for coordinating this effort successfully.
3. The Library management team completed the Library's annual plan and 2014-2015 budget priorities. Both have been submitted to the Vice-President, Finance & Administration for consideration by the President's Budget Advisory Committee. The plan may be viewed at <http://library.algomau.ca/main/?q=node/1236>.
4. Online and in-person use of the Library and its services continues to grow. Below is a comparison between Fall 2009 and Fall 2013 of average hourly usage. There are peak times midweek and on weekends where the library is seeing over 75 students working at a time.



Student Recruitment: Domestic

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

1. Ontario University Application Deadline

January 15th 2014 was the application deadline for Ontario high school students to apply to university. Algoma University had the highest percentage increase in both total applications (7.5%) and first choice applications (8.2%) of all Ontario universities. The province as a whole experienced a 3.5% decline in the number of high school applicants. Algoma's top programs in order of first choice applications are: Business, Psychology, Biology, Social Work and Computer Science.

2. Enrolment Information Session

On January 17th Dr. Myer's and myself hosted an Enrolment Information Session open to faculty, administration, staff and students. Approximately 100 people attended the information session. The session was designed to break down the enrolment growth of the past 5 years and forecast growth for the next 5. Although the university has experienced enrolment growth over the past 5 years it has not been uniform across programs. Enrolment has been declining in many humanities and social science programs. Looking forward, provincial demographics and application trends lead us to believe that declining enrolment in the humanities and social sciences will continue.

3. Recruitment/Communications Retreat

The Recruitment and Communications teams met off campus for their annual retreat on January 22. The teams discussed the activities of the past year and developed a plan for making improvements in the upcoming year. Major topics discussed included: campus visit program, Ontario University Fair, engaging current students in recruitment, improving our social media presence. Both teams have a list of action items to work on that should lead to a higher applicant conversion rate.

4. Applicant Follow Up

The Recruitment team's focus from January until June is converting applicants. Applicants and their parents will be invited to visit campus over the March Break. For those that can't make it, an effort is being made to have our Admissions Advisors meet them in their hometown. We hope to have touch points with as many high quality applicants as possible. In an effort to improve our follow-up we have developed a personal interest form that is being circulated to applicants. The form gathers information about the applicants (hobbies, goals, etc.) that isn't collected by the OUAC application. This information will help us provide more relevant follow up and improve our conversion rate.

Student Recruitment: International

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since October 2013

Joanne Elvy, Director, International Recruitment

1. Education fairs & school visits – Bangladesh, India, China, Japan, Nigeria, Ghana and Kazakhstan

Algoma University participated in a series of educational fairs with favorable response from senior level high school students and university transfer students, with follow-up meetings at agent offices. In Japan, Algoma University visited 7 of our partner institutions to provide presentations; this is a solid market for us. The fairs in Nigeria and Ghana were the first for Algoma, and showed a lot of promise. Kazakhstan was a test market. In India, we reestablishing market areas. A short turnaround in China, with visits to private high schools and established partner institutions. Return visits to Dhaka and China in March 2014 will spearhead institutional partnerships with several private universities, as well as further those already in progress.

2. “Emerging Leaders in the Americas” – scholarship programs

Algoma University received six successful scholarship recipients for the federally-funded “Emerging Leaders in the Americas” program, meaning that students from Latin America (4 from Mexico and 2 from Colombia) were fully funded to attend up to two semesters in 2013-2014. Four of the six are enrolled in programs that do not typically host international students on exchange, that is, Computer Science and Psychology.

3. ICEF Agent Recruitment Fair – Miami 2013

Attended a three-day networking event in December in Miami to secure new agents in markets that Algoma is looking to develop. The broader expectation is that Algoma will first participate in their in-country fairs to show support and allegiance before we will see students on our campus, but the broader rationale for securing agents is for the new agent to follow up on student inquiries forwarded to them via our international@algonau.ca alias.

4. Algoma’s first ‘international’ viewbook

After many months of consultation, we are indeed proud to showcase our first 16-page international student viewbook, an important marketing tool for prospective students and their parents. Until now we have had this printed in China, Bangladesh, India and Canada, and then shipped abroad, rather than the more costly act of shipping viewbooks from Canada outbound.

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

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since November 2013

Jonathan Dewar, Director

1. Exhibitions at the Centre

The Centre is set to host and co-host the following solo but thematically connected exhibitions beginning February 27: Cheryl L'Hirondelle's "Here I Am" (from the critically acclaimed "Ghost Dance: Activism. Resistance. Art." exhibit) in the Education Gallery of the Art Gallery of Algoma (the Centre's first partnership with AGA); Ayumi Goto's written, visual, and performance-based response to the "Journey of Nishyuu" in the Shingwauk RS Centre; and a performance by Peter Morin at 180 Projects. Each of these works grow out of symposia and artist residencies hosted or co-sponsored by the Centre over the past 18 months, most notably this past summer's "Reconsidering Reconciliation" residency held at Thompson Rivers University. These events continue to be made possible by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation's 2-year \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant*.

2. "Children to Children"

On December 7, 2013, in partnership with 180 Projects, the Centre presented a local unveiling of "Children to Children." This piece by elder and Shingwauk Indian Residential School and Algoma University alumna Shirley Horn, BFA, with fellow BFA graduates Shelly Fletcher and Zenith Lillie-Eakett, was commissioned by the Centre and made possible by a \$33,500 grant from Project of Heart. This large installation piece will be permanently installed at AU (date TBD).

3. Budget and Staffing

The Centre is staffed by an Archives Technician and a Researcher/Curator, a position made possible through the 2-year, \$500,000 *Residential Schools Research Grant* from the AHF that funds both positions to summer 2014. This grant has also provided opportunities to contract student and professional research assistants, researchers, and consultants.

Student Services

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since November 2013 Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

Student Services

- Algoma U has developed a committee who will research the possibility of implementing a Co-Curricular Program at Algoma U where students can track their curricular activities while attending Algoma and then receive an official document which can accompany any resume or graduate school application.
- Members of the Student Services staff met with MATH and COSC faculty and Admin who oversee the Transition and Foundations programs and we were able to exchange information that would better serve students.
- Our Career Services Advisor was able to access YEP (Youth Employment Program) funding to help subsidize a four-month position aimed to enhance Employment and Coop services for students.
- First Generation Program conducted its annual Holiday Door Decorating contest where FG students volunteered to decorate office doors in exchange for 10 food items to be donated to the Food Bank.
- The Food Bank received a large donation of food items for the Marconi Society just prior to the holiday to help replenish a depleted inventory.
- The Annual First Generation Leadership Retreat was held Jan 17/18 at Stokely Creek. Thirty-two students, including two from the Timmins campus, attended the weekend of leadership training and outdoor activities.

Residence

- Algoma University is in the process of registering our facility on Unique Venues, a web site in which Conference or Trade Show organizers search for suitable location to host their events.
- The annual Christmas Day Parade turned into a “Holiday Hype” weekend of festivities thanks to the planning efforts of a number of Residence students who added a number of social activities. The following weekend, 85 students attended the annual Residence Christmas Party held at Wacky Wings.
- Online registration for students who want to live in Residence for Spring/Summer and Fall terms is now activated on the EZRes Life residence software management tool. This will allow intake directly through our Algoma U website but tracked in the software.

George Leach Centre

- GLC staff continue to support the work of the GLC Expansion Committee.
- The GLC have secured the services of Deandra Franzisi and Natalie Real as personal fitness trainers. This will address a current shortfall we have in member services and allow more direction and supervision from staff.
- The GLC, for the 11th consecutive year, hosted annual Tenaris Holiday Gala on Dec 14th. Close to four hundred people attended the event.
- Recreational use is on the rise as student/staff pickup volleyball has grown to three times a week and staff pickup basketball is growing in participation.
- The GLC has supported local groups/events such as the Guy Vetrie Memorial Tournament, Bon Soo, Team Jacobs, and Easter Seal Telethon in various ways.

Varsity

- The Varsity Thunderbirds held its annual Parent's Appreciation night on November 16th. The athlete's parents in attendance were recognized for their support of our program and for their contributions to their child's development.
- Members of our Basketball and Cross Country Running coaching staff received additional certification in their respective sports to further their education and commitment to athletes.
- The coaches and the Athletic department staff had a meeting and holiday social on December 11 to discuss concerns, achievements and plans going forward.
- Wrestling continues its success with another top 5 finish as Natasha Doroodian and Lauren Towell finished 4th and 5th in their respective weight class at the Ontario Junior Championships held at Queens University.

Ancillaries

- Text book rentals are on the rise as an affordable way for students to access text. To date there has been an increase of 110% from last year equaling \$17,500 variance. This would equate to students saving approximately \$66,000.00 by renting their textbooks.
- Clothing is still climbing with an increase in sales by 34.5% from last year, matching a similar rise in 12/13
- Bookstore had a Polar Express reading on December 23rd for the staff and children of the University community, 20 people attended.
- Bookstore scored 94% on a recent internal "secret shopper" assessment.