

# President's Report to the Board



June 14th, 2012

## **From the President**

I am pleased to present the Board with a report on the work carried out by the University Administration since our April meeting.

It is common for people from outside the University community to ask how the holidays are going now that classes are over. I believe you'll see from the attached reports just how substantial a misconception that is. We continue to be in high gear as we work through a variety of significant new initiatives, as well as managing the ongoing business of operating a complex institution.

Our chief focus over the past week has been the organization of Convocation and its related festivities. Thank you to those members of the Board who were able to attend one or another of the events. I believe the Convocation Gala Dinner was an excellent event in every respect, but I am particularly pleased that so many members of the broader community expressed their delight at being included. It is clear that the Gala has become a great way to enhance our connections with the Sault Ste. Marie community. My thanks to Nadine Landon and Rachel Johnson for organizing a wonderful evening.

Convocation itself was also an enormous success. In our first year at the Bondar Pavilion, we had the worst weather imaginable. On Saturday, the weather could not have been better. The facility looked spectacular, due to the excellent work of our staff (notably Albert Lucarelli). We also made a small number of improvements to the proceedings (for instance, featuring a student speaker for the first time). We graduated 169 students in total, of whom 140 received Algoma diplomas and 29 received Laurentian diplomas. Thanks to our Registrar, Dave Marasco, for pulling the together.

The appended reports from our administrative team will provide you with updates on a wide variety of files. I will be briefing you orally on a few others in our closed session. Apart from that, let me comment briefly on a few other matters.

### **1. Enrolment Data**

We remain confident that we'll hit our enrolment targets for September. Gains in international student enrolment this spring have already put us well over our target for the year and there will certainly be more to come in September.

As of the end of May, domestic applications to the SSM campus are up 14% (although many of these are 4<sup>th</sup> choice or lower). Confirmations are running 9% ahead of last year's pace. Registration for residence is somewhat slower than last year, but our admissions people classify 82 of the confirmed students as out-of-region, and thus potential candidates for residence. We will be following up with these students to encourage them to consider taking a place in residence.

### **2. Essential Elements Campaign**

The EEC did not meet its overall \$6m target by May 1<sup>st</sup>, but has picked up considerable momentum lately. We are now within sight of the target and expect to exceed it by a healthy margin. Details will be shared in closed session.

3. St. Thomas

Our new operation in St. Thomas is going very well. Our target enrolment for this first year of operation has been 15 students. We now have 15 students confirmed and are likely to pick up a good number more over the summer. The renovations to the Wellington St. School are on schedule and they look terrific. We anticipate holding a grand opening at the site on September 14 or 17<sup>th</sup>.

4. Ontario University Athletics

Along with the Director of Athletics and the Director of Student Services, I attended the OUA AGM May 10 and 11 to present our application in person to the OUA Board of Directors. Response was very positive in support of our application. The OUA will officially vote on our application on June 21<sup>st</sup> at the CIS AGM in Ottawa

5. BTCC Grand Opening

We have not yet held an official opening for the BTCC. Our intent was to link the opening to an announcement about the naming of the building. It is likely that an opening will held in late August, depending on the schedule of a key guest.

6. Faculty Tenure and Promotion

I am pleased to report that, on the recommendation of the Peer Review Committee, the University has granted tenure to *Dr. Nairne Cameron* of the Geography Department. The following members of faculty have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor: *Dr. Laurie Bloomfield* (Psychology), *Cathy Denomme* (Business), *Dr. Michael DiSanto* (English), *Dr. Julian Hermida* (Law and Justice), *Dr. Istvan Imre* (Biology) and *Dr. Warren Johnston* (History). Congratulations to all seven!

Dr. Richard Myers  
June 11, 2012

## Vice President Academic and Research

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012

Dr. David Schantz

#### 1. Expansion Initiatives

The VPAR has visited the Brampton campus to assess the facility and its location, as well as meet with the staff and rent property holder. It is apparent that there is community support for the AU program. Assessing the breadth of this support is also part of the agenda.

**Lake Superior State University** – Met with Morrie Walworth (Provost and President for Academic Affairs) on May 7 to continue the discussions regarding joint initiatives with both institutions. **Lambton College – Sarnia and Toronto** – VPAR is involved in preliminary discussions with Lambton College regarding partnering that will potentially include Sarnia, **Sault Ste. Marie**, and the Toronto campus for ESL programming. Future meetings are being scheduled.

#### 2. Peer Review Committee, HR Director Search Committee, and Collective Agreement Negotiations.

Since the last report, the Peer Review Committee conducted 3 formal reviews and one application for tenure. As per the Faculty Association Collective Agreement, a written report regarding all promotion, tenure and probationary reviews has been forwarded to the President. The Committee also reviewed Algoma University Research Fund applications and six faculty members were awarded grants from this fund.

#### 3. Anishinaabe Cultural and Program Development Interests

As a member of the SKG, the VPAR is a member of the Joint Working Group of Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gaming (SKG) and Algoma. This working group continues to work toward a 5 year plan for the implementation and improvement of Anishinaabe programming. Currently the group is reviewing materials developed for the WINHEC accreditation review and programing curriculum outlines that are in place for current and proposed academic programming.

#### 4. Research

The VPAR regularly attends the Ontario Council on University Research (OCUR) meetings for updates regarding government funding programs / updates. We continue to remain positive about the impending provincial government announcement (Ministry of Economic Development and Innovation) about funding that is to match the earlier awarded Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grants (2 grants that equal approx. \$160,000 in matching funds).

AU is one of the publicly funded provincial universities to take part in the Research Matters campaign (through the Ontario Council on University Research); it is a joint effort among 21 universities to relay

stories about research happening across the province. VPAR submitted research initiatives by a number of faculty members to be considered for inclusion, Dr. Linda Savory-Gordon has been selected to be a part of the campaign (<http://yourontarioresearch.ca/stories/what-were-doing/>). Once on this site, click the home page and play the video that is the lead for the campaign.

The VPAR is also working with the Directors of the Research Institutes for outlines of proposals to be supported by potential grant monies.

Algoma University Research Funds (via the Peer Review Committee) have also been recently awarded (see above).

The VPAR received and communicated news to faculty regarding NSERC grants; Also 2013 marks the last competition for the NSERC “Research Tools and Instruments” grants and the funds awarded will be at a reduced level compared to previous grants.

#### 5. Enrolment Management Committee (EMC)

As Chair of the EMC, the VPAR is focussing with the committee on developing strategic long and short terms goals for increasing enrolment and retention. At the most recent EMC meeting, applications and enrolment numbers (to date) for all the campuses (AU, Brampton, St. Thomas and Timmins) were discussed. Meetings have also taken place with members of the EMC to discuss student services and supports for international students; it was recently determined that there are 64 ‘new’ international students on campus starting in the Spring term. Upcoming EMC meetings will focus improving/enhancing international and minority student supports.

## **Vice President Finance and Administration**

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012

Sean Dwyer

#### 1. Employee Group Savings Plan

The RFP for Group Savings Plan services was posted for three weeks closing May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There were 18 responses. The evaluation team is currently reviewing the submissions with the intention of shortlisting, reviewing presentations and making a selection.

#### 2. Hiring of Director of Human Resources

Darla Pirillo has been hired. Darla comes to AU with over 20 years of experience in various areas of HR including employee relations, employment legislation, pension administration, and training and development. She has expertise in recruitment, job evaluation, and collective bargaining. Darla has held several posts in the HR department at the Group Health Centre, including Human Resources Coordinator and, most recently, Human Resources Manager.

#### 3. Algoma University 2012-13 Operating Budget

The budget was approved on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Final budgets have been communicated to the respective budget holders and monthly variance analysis has commenced.

#### 4. Hiring for Director of University Services

The position was posted in the Sault Star, Globe and Mail, the APPA (Association Physical Plant Administrators) website and the University Affairs website. The position closes June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 at which point the selection process will begin.

#### 5. Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Both the Full-time Faculty and the Staff Union agreements expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012. I will be lead negotiator on both agreements. Negotiations began with faculty in May and will begin with the Staff association later in June.

# Academic Dean

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012

### Dr. Arthur Perlini

#### 1. Faculty Hiring

All faculty searches for September are complete. We will have five new tenure-track faculty joining us at that point. We are engaged in a search for a sixth position (music) to commence in January.

#### 2. Curriculum

The Curriculum Committee has approved and recommended :

- a. an institutional mechanism for consultation on indigenous course curriculum (i.e., language, culture, history) for new course/program proposals. The mechanism recommends a collaborative process of curriculum development that meets our special mission to cultivate cross-cultural learning amongst our communities and respects the University's institutional commitment to our special partner, Shingwauk Kinooomaage Gamig
- b. Interdisciplinary minors in *Social Justice and Globalization* and *Environmental Sustainability*;
- c. Revised Program – offsite offerings for St. Thomas & Centennial, as per the IQAP requirement.
- d. Revised Program – PSYC & CESD.
- e. Approval of 12F course roster for AU BBA-offerings at Centennial College

#### 3. Quality Assurance

The University hosted two external consultants during a recent site visit for our ANIS program, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and May 24<sup>th</sup>; namely, Profs. David Newhouse (Trent University) and Richard Rhodes (UCal - Berkeley). The two-day site visit involved meetings with students, faculty, administrators, partners, etc) with the objective of soliciting valuable feedback to inform the External Reviewer Report. Heartfelt thanks to the many participants for their shared insights in the self-study and external site-visit.

#### 4. Teaching and Learning

The Senate's *Academic Standards and Teaching & Learning Committee* is committed to opportunities for faculty to present and disseminate their scholarly works on teaching, such as through the organization of conferences, workshops, and newsletters. To this end, faculty are invited to the *Fourth Annual Inter-Institutional Teaching Conference* to be held on June 7, 2012, from 9am-4pm in the Gallery Foyer of Sault College. The theme of this year's conference is: "*Planning, Teaching, Reviewing, and Learning: Our Journeys as Teachers.*"

On Wednesday May 2<sup>nd</sup> the Committee hosted a forum on *Preparing for Tenure and Promotion*. The forum provided an interactive opportunity to discuss the various stages of faculty development (the probationary, tenure, and promotion review processes) and the evaluative considerations of teaching, research, and service. The session also explored mentorship opportunities to enhance faculty development.

## 5. Course Management System

Every Algoma University course is accompanied by an online tool and framework for providing our students with online course content, as well as opportunities for faculty/student interaction. This system assists with administrative (e.g., class lists, grades) and core aspects of a course (learning objects, assignments, quizzes, tests, etc). Faculty have recently received an *AU Handbook for CMS* to assist with familiarizing oneself with the CMS. Faculty also have available to them CMS Training provided by our Academic Support Specialist (M. Biocchi).



# Office of the Registrar

## Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since April 12, 2012

Dave Marasco, Registrar

### 1. Enrolment

Spring registration for the 2012 session has increased approximately 30% as compared to this date in 2011. The enrolment reporting date to MTCU is August 1, 2012 and registration continues for the 2012SS term which begins mid-June. The increase can be attributed to an increase in international students studying on campus during the spring/summer terms.

### 2. Online Registration

Effective June 11, 2012, new students to Algoma University will be able to select their courses online – every effort will be made to assist students during the online registration process including the provision of one-on-one advising sessions, information on degree requirements, career and educational plans, and payment. Students who take advantage of the online registration will have their registrations verified for accuracy by an academic advisor and the Office of the Registrar. Students will also be encouraged to visit the campus for tours and an opportunity to further discuss curricular choices and career planning.

### 3. College Transfer

A phased approach to recruitment has been initiated with success conducting on site college transcript evaluation sessions that also allowed for advising students with their needs and planning. Colleges would like to see this continue in the next fiscal as a service provided on their campuses. To grow support services and become more user-friendly, four on-line support service workshops were created and made accessible to students to access on their own time as needed. The creation of a new college mentorship program has started and will be in place by September 2012 for college graduates to have the opportunity to interview, job shadow and/or interact with a professional mentors in their field of study to continue to address retention. Three high affinity programs have been identified and we are proceeding to continue to market multilaterally with all corresponding colleges and continue to build on exceptional agreements and joint admissions with our Sault College partners. Other projects include the capacity for low affinity programs at the college such as the General Arts and Science program (GAS) and how they can be articulated to our current programs of study.

### 4. Convocation

Spring Convocation 2012 is scheduled for Saturday, June 9, 2012 beginning at 2:00pm at the Roberta Bondar Tent Pavilion. There will be 169 graduates who will be presented and conferred degrees during the ceremony (140 Algoma graduates). Of the total graduating class, 50 students will receive their degree with distinction (cum laude). During the ceremony, the University will acknowledge Dr. Gayle Broad with the Distinguished Faculty Award. Also, Mr. Brian Curran will be honoured with the Senate Award (Honorary Member of Algoma University). Finally, Algoma University will confer an honorary doctorate to Mr. Guy Traficante (Doctor of Letters, honoris causa).

## 5. International Recruitment and ESL@algoma

In an effort to enhance academic competence for international students, there are a number of institutional initiatives planned to foster student success/growth. We have added an additional Writing Lab sessional contract for both the fall 2012 and winter 2013 terms. Also, foundation courses for Computer Science, Mathematics will have mandatory tutorials assigned to each course. All international students new to Algoma University beginning fall 2012 will be required to complete ENGL 1101 Fundamentals of Academic Writing for International Students - this course is limited to students who have not completed their secondary education in a North American context and may be required as a condition of admission as approved by the University Registrar. Furthermore, international students who are enrolled in business, computer science and mathematics programs will be required to complete finite mathematics and elementary calculus as a condition of academic progression. As international student recruitment increases, it will be necessary to identify at-risk students so that resources can be allocated appropriately.

## **Anishinaabe Initiatives Division**

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012.

Judy Syrette, Director

#### 1. Annual Report on the Multi-Year Aboriginal Action Plan for Postsecondary Education (MYAAPPE)

The Annual MYAAPPE Report to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities was completed and sent on May 31, 2012. The Anishinaabe student numbers included in the report reflect an approximate calculation based on information from the Registrar's Office, the Accounting Department and the self-identification of students to the Anishinaabe Student Advisor. Anishinaabe student count is currently based on the number of Anishinaabe students enrolled *on-campus* (Sault Ste. Marie and Timmins) and the *Community-based delivery* of the CESD program/certificate. In past years, these numbers were aggregated and did not provide a true picture of the Anishinaabe student population, retention rates, and recruitment. In 2011-12, the Anishinaabe students *on-campus* represented 10.7% of the total AU student population and in the 2012 convocation this year, the graduation rates for Anishinaabe students *on-campus* is 8.8%. The total Anishinaabe student population, both *on-campus* and *community-based delivery*, for 2011-12 is 213 students.

It is estimated that there are many more Anishinaabe (First Nation, Métis and perhaps Inuit) that are attending Algoma University that have not self-identified. The Self-Identification project which began in the winter 2012 semester will be meeting before the end of June to prepare a "Self-Identification campaign" to encourage Anishinaabe students to self-identify.

#### 2. Anishinaabe "Binesi" (Thunderbird) Summer Day Camps

The six weeks of the Anishinaabe Binesi Summer Day Camps are going to be offered on-campus at Algoma University from July 3 to August 17, 2012. These camps are offered to Anishinaabe students in grades 4-8 and it is on a first come, first served basis with students able to register for one week and put on a waiting list for a possible second week. There is no charge for students participating in the Anishinaabe Binesi Summer Day Camps. The MYAAPPE funding providing the financial support for this community outreach program is specifically aimed at providing learning opportunities for Anishinaabe youth to engage with post-secondary institutions and to encourage these students to pursue post-secondary education. There will be 24 students per camp each of the six weeks offered and registration will begin on June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

There has been an increase in AID staffing for the summer months due to the Anishinaabe Binesi Summer Day Camps and there will be an additional four students employed to assist with the summer camps.

### 3. Reference Group on Aboriginal Education – Council of Ontario Universities

The Director of Anishinaabe Student Success, Anishinaabe Initiatives Division, was nominated as In-Coming Chair of the Reference Group on Aboriginal Education (RGAE) – Council of Ontario Universities at the annual meeting at Laurentian University on May 7 & 8, 2012. The purpose in working together as the Reference Group on Aboriginal Education is to ensure the success of Aboriginal students in Ontario universities.

Some of the topics for discussion were:

- a) *Aboriginal Education Councils*: There will be a meeting of all university Aboriginal Education Councils (Anishinaabe People's Council) in the fall of 2012 in Niagara Falls to discuss the primary role of these community members, the challenges and barriers for the education councils.
- b) *New Funding Criteria*: There new funding guidelines will be updated by the end of June 2012. The current fiscal year 2012-2013 is an interim year and Algoma University is receiving the same funding allocation as in the past three years. The call for proposals will come out in early December with a proposed restructuring of funding allocations with more emphasis on initiatives more responsive to community needs, innovative initiatives with concrete deliverables and more links with K-12 and Post-secondary frameworks. It is unclear if it will be multi-year funding of 3 years again or for longer periods.
- c) *National Aboriginal Group on Education*: There has been discussions and movement towards the creation of a national Aboriginal Group on Education. A representative from the University of Manitoba made a presentation on behalf of some universities from the western provinces in working towards a national group. There will be a meeting on August 27, 2012 at the "*Teaching and Learning Together: Indigenizing the Academy*" conference to be held at the University of the Fraser Valley in Chilliwack, B.C.

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

Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012  
Jonathan Dewar, Director

## 1. New Director

Jonathan Dewar began a two-year term as Director, Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre & Special Advisor to the President for the Residential Schools Legacy on April 23, 2012. Dewar will focus on strategic planning and development for much of 2012-13, as well as maintaining existing services related to the various elements of the SRSC mandate: visitor's centre; archive; and research centre. Professor Don Jackson, Founding Director, has stayed on as a special advisor to the SRSC.

## 2. Shingwauk 2012 Commemoration Gathering & Conference: Healing and Reconciliation through Education

This major summer initiative builds on the tradition of Residential School Survivor reunions and gatherings held here since 1981. The SRSC is in the process of implementing the plan developed with the Children of Shingwauk Alumni Association, who successfully secured \$200,000 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Commemoration Fund. The event will be held on the Algoma University campus August 3-6, 2012.

## 3. Archive

The archive within the SRSC continues to grow. Since April, SRSC archive technicians have continued the negotiated accession process for the materials donated to the SRSC from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. In the coming months, this new element of the archive will be available to interested parties for research and education.

## 4. Research

A formal program of research and related programming is also being developed, along with proposals for a specialized "sharing, healing and learning" publishing platform.

## 5. Budget and Staffing

The SRSC Director is presently the only staff position funded full-time for all of 2012-13. Other positions are presently funded through sources that will expire throughout the year. Ongoing staffing for both archive technical expertise and support are dependent on the receipt of new grants. There is currently no update on submitted applications.

## External Relations

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since April 2012

Kevin Hemsworth, Divisional Director

1. New Website Project

As part of the Discovery phase of the website project, Zone 5 visited campus to receive more input from key constituents from April 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Since their visit we have continued to work through the planning process, approving a sitemap, content tables, and finally wireframe diagrams for the new site. Next steps include a design concept presentation to senior administration and the Web Advisory Panel on June 11.

2. 2012-2013 Marketing/Recruitment Campaign

We have identified some of the changes that we will be making to the materials for the coming year. The focus of the campaign is still direct from high school students from outside of Sault Ste. Marie. We are working closely with the Recruitment office to analyze the effectiveness of marketing and recruitment initiatives in order to improve upon them.

3. University Signage

External Relations has begun to replace many of the door/room signs in the University, in order to achieve consistency, as well as to ensure compliance with AODA requirements.

4. Community Projects

The Divisional Director participated in two separate working sessions with external groups: the first was a discussion with Destiny SSM around the development of a strategy and promotional materials for the city and region that could be shared by different organizations that have an interest in attracting people to this area. The second was a brainstorming session with marketing people from several area organizations around the development of a strategy to market Sault Ste. Marie as a leader in the alternative energy space.

5. Magazine

The AlgomaUToday magazine has gone to print and has been mailed out to alumni and friends of Algoma University. We will begin working on the fall issue shortly.

6. Earned Media

One of the areas of focus for the coming year will be on earned media. We have engaged MyMediaInfo, a company owned by Thomson Reuters, to enhance the broadcast range and focus of our media releases, and will be doing more to highlight faculty and student success in the media, both around teaching and learning as well as research. We will also be using the stories we generate on our website, and in alumni publications.

7. Social Media

We are currently working on a strategy to increase our presence and engagement of prospective students on social media platforms. The goal is to develop more consistent messaging regarding University life, event promotion, etc.

## **Human Resources**

### **Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since April 2012**

Karen Doyle, Director of Human Resources

#### 1. Hiring/Selection

1. Darla Pirillo has been hired to fill the role of full-time Human Resources Director.
2. Casual custodians – interviews were held and two job offers were made and accepted.
3. Posting for the positions in the Thunderbird camps has closed. Interview selection process has commenced and will be finalized shortly.

#### 2. Job Descriptions

1. Review and analysis for Executive Assistant job descriptions will be finalized shortly. Changes in position descriptions will reflect current duties and responsibilities.

#### 3. Collective Bargaining

1. Bargaining has commenced with Faculty Association to negotiate a new Collective Agreement for full-time faculty.
2. The University has received notice of intent to bargain from OSSTF. We are currently trying to arrange an initial meeting date with their negotiating team.

## Information Technology

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations Since April 2012

Danny Reid, Director of Information Technology

#### 1. Residence Phase 4

Most IT equipment (network switches, surveillance cameras, wireless, proximity control, etc) are on-site ready to be installed towards the end of August.

#### 2. St. Thomas/Brampton Sites

Two IT staff and two physical plant staff will be on-site in St. Thomas in early August to complete the IT portion of the renovations. Most equipment is ordered or already in stock.

We will be making a site-visit to Brampton during the same week to upgrade their IT systems for the new academic year.

#### 3. Campus Wireless

Our wireless RFP has been completed with OCR/Aerohive ([www.aerohive.com](http://www.aerohive.com)) winning the contract. We'll be installing the equipment and antennas over the next month with the help of the Physical Plant department, and looking forward to student reactions in September to the new product.

#### 4. Department re-organization

A re-organization of duties will happen over the summer months involving several positions in the department. This will position us better for growth and development in our Information System areas, including our student information system (OASIS), and financial systems.

#### 5. Summer Projects

A variety of other summer projects are happening, including the upgrade of older CCTV surveillance cameras, the installation of new UPS units to protect and provide power to network equipment during power outages or power spikes, installing document cameras in all classrooms, and installing additional fiber optic cabling for more Internet redundancy.



## Library

### Summary of Major Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012

Ken Hernden, University Librarian

#### 1. Participation in COU Consortial Initiatives

- Ken Hernden participated in the spring board meeting of the Ontario Council of University Libraries (OCUL) at the University of Waterloo. Each University Librarian has equal say on this COU board, which gives Algoma, as the smallest institution, tremendous opportunities to shape the \$3.5 million/year provincial research and scholarly infrastructure (i.e. Scholars Portal). Ken Hernden was voted onto the OCUL Executive as Secretary for 2012-2014; the Executive meets monthly.



- Dr. Michelle Atkin (Public Services Librarian) participated in the spring meeting of the OCUL-Information Resources Group at the University of Toronto. Collections and Public Services Librarians from each COU institution convene to discuss possible collaborations and negotiate consortially based resource licenses, the costs of which are a challenge for all universities. Generally Algoma purchases as many of its scholarly resources through the OCUL or CRKN (national) consortia to ensure the best pricing.

#### 2. Participation in CONIFER Consortium and other Library Technologies

- In 2008, the library decided to go with a Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) solution (CONIFER/ Evergreen ILS) to overcome the prohibitive costs of a free-standing Integrated Library System (ILS), as we could no longer “borrow” Laurentian University’s ILS. This would have cost the university hundreds of thousands of dollars; the Wishart Library delivers this service in collaboration with the University of Windsor, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and Laurentian University to forty (40) separate libraries or resource centres across Ontario at a tenth of the cost. Recently, Systems Librarian Robin Isard and Library Technologies Specialist Richard Scott attended the Evergreen ILS Conference, Code4Lib North Conference, and PGCon 2012 (PostGreSQL Conference 2012) as part of the Wishart Library’s ongoing investment in training to support FOSS resources and tools. These conferences provided information that will be of great benefit to Algoma University, particularly as almost all of the Library’s information resources run on well-known FOSS technologies. The most important of these services are:

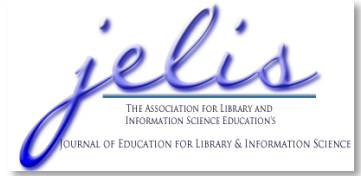


- the library catalogue (CONIFER/ Evergreen ILS) | <http://algoma.concat.ca>
- the Shingwauk Residential Schools Centre web site | <http://archives.algomau.ca>
- the forthcoming university archives website
- the forthcoming, new library website

### 3. Staff Accomplishments

Algoma's faculty librarians and staff are very creative and active individuals. Some notable recent accomplishments include:

- Dr. Michelle Atkin's submission, "Examining the Limits of Free Expression through Canadian Case Law: Reflections on the Canadian Library Association's Code of Ethics and its supporting Statement on Intellectual Freedom," has been selected as one of the 2012 ALISE Best Conference Paper Award winners, and will be included in issue #4 of the *Journal of Education for Library & Information Science*, to be published in October 2012.



- Systems Librarian Robin Isard was invited by UNESCO and EIFL to Tanzania to present on using FOSS in libraries in the developing world. EIFL works with libraries worldwide to enable access to digital information in developing and transition countries. We are an international not-for-profit organization based in Europe with a global network of partners. Robin gave five presentations over several days to librarians from around the world



using examples from Algoma University.

- Public Services & Collections Technician, Tracy Spurway, was awarded Ontario Arts Council Northern Writers' Work in Progress 2012 grant of \$12,000 towards her novel *The Kinship*. The Kinship is a fictional account of an intentional community located 'down the



line' in Algoma.

- Library Technologies Specialist Richard Scott continues to contribute a series of original articles on philosophy and the art of software testing at StickyMinds.com.



## **Student Recruitment: Domestic**

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives, Operations since April 2012

Brent Krmpotich, Director of Student Recruitment – Domestic

1. Guidance Brunch

The Recruitment Department hosted Algoma University's Annual Guidance counselor brunch on April 19<sup>th</sup>. All local high schools were represented by guidance counselors at the event. This was the first year that Sault College was invited to send a representative. A large proportion of Algoma's student body comes via the college system so we feel that it is important to keep staff at Sault College up to date on all program changes at Algoma. At the brunch counselors were updated on the progress of a pending engineering program, expansion of the varsity program as well as introduced to a group of graduating students attending graduate programs next year.

2. Northern High Schools Open House

Algoma University hosted grade 11 students and teachers from Hornepayne, Wawa, Elliot Lake and Blind River on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. The group of 40 students met Dr. Myers, toured campus, and attended sessions focused on the Algoma experience: student life, Biology at Algoma, the Shingwauk archives and careers after graduation.

3. Regional Dialogues

Algoma University hosted the Regional Dialogue professional development series on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Algoma hosts the Northern Ontario Regional Dialogue every third year. Representatives from all of Ontario's Universities were in attendance to provide updates to guidance counselors from across Northern Ontario. Over 25 guidance counselors from across Northeastern Ontario attended the dialogue.

4. Grade 11 Days

Algoma hosted Grade 11 students from all of the local high schools on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. In total over 190 students visited Algoma's campus and took part in a mix of academic and student life themed sessions designed to familiarize them with the Algoma University experience.

5. Applicant Follow-up

May is very much dedicated to applicant follow-up, June 1<sup>st</sup> is the unofficial deadline for Ontario high school students to declare where they will attend university in the fall. Over the month of May all applicants received phone calls, emails and postcards from the recruitment department. We will have a good idea of first year enrollment levels the first week of June.

## **Student Recruitment: International**

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012

Joanne Elvy, Director, International Student Outreach

#### 1. Steps to ensure student success

Plans are underway this summer to set in place mechanisms for student support (curricular and co-curricular) for incoming international students, including strengthening pre-arrival guidance and on-campus academic orientation and student advising; initiating peer support and tutorial sessions (implicit and explicit to existing courses); and discussing whether or not additional sheltered courses can be made available to bridge second language users into their first year in the degree program at Algoma. Increased enrolment of international students in spring/summer courses has brought various interest groups together to review areas of student need to ensure their academic success.

#### 2. ESL@Algoma – short-term programming

Keimyung University (Daegu, Korea) has confirmed that 20 students will arrive on June 26 for a 5-week short-term ESL program in July 2012 for 5 weeks, primarily for language training. Students will live with homestay families for the duration of the program, as well as partake in various social and cultural events in the Algoma region. To date, four Algoma University students have been hired through various on-campus initiatives (part-time and full time) for various lengths during the spring/summer sessions to assist with the administrative work and cultural activities.

#### 3. Summer Study 2012

August 20, 2012 marks the start for Algoma University's annual "Summer Study", a two-week orientation program offered to all international students before Frosh Week and the fall start date in early September. To date, 12 students have signed up to attend, including those attending Summer Study as a one-month ESL option.

#### 4. 2012/2013 international recruitment plans

Discussions are underway in the planning of international recruitment initiatives for 2012/2013 to encapsulate both emerging and existing markets, in ensuring proper measures will have been put in place prior to September 2012, i.e., preliminary market research, appropriate marketing materials and structured follow-up initiatives.

#### 5. International Student Outreach Assistant

The posting and subsequent hiring for the position of an International Student Outreach Assistant will be an integral part of the international student recruitment process for the upcoming 2012/2013 year, in providing the much-needed support in the area of market projection, applicant follow-up and retention of students arriving on our campus.

## **Extension Programming**

### **Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April 2012**

**Brock Olive, Operations Director**

#### 1. St. Thomas Initiative

Several instructors teaching in Sault Ste. Marie have expressed interest in teaching in the block format courses offered in St. Thomas. It will certainly help to solidify connections between St. Thomas and Sault Ste. Marie if this type of involvement continues.

Brent Krmpotich, Director of Student Recruitment, and I visited St. Thomas in late in May. We met with several city officials including those directly responsible for managing the construction project. We also met with several prospective students, who are all very eager to begin their studies with Algoma U. Overall the visit was fantastic, nearly everyone we spoke to around town was aware of our new location there, and they expressed nothing but warmth and enthusiasm toward us.

#### 2. Brampton Programming

Our operations in Brampton are running smoothly, Carrie Andrews who was hired as the on-site Support Services Coordinator has adapted to her role extremely well.

Applications for the fall 2012 intake to the BBA are down slightly versus this time last year; however a large intake of new students was admitted this spring, 28 in total. Overall new enrolment is expected to be higher than the 2011-12 year mainly due to this spring intake.

#### 3. Timmins Programming

Recently the area around Timmins has experienced extreme threat from forest fires brought on by the unusually hot and dry spring season. Fortunately any major threat to the city has passed do to a shift in weather patterns and efforts of fire fighting forces. As AU maintains a close partnership with Northern College in Timmins we were quick to respond when we heard our friends were in peril. Our quick acting external relations department and our president ensured a message of support was communicated to the community and students and staff of the College.

Recruitment activity continues in Timmins, newly approved marketing funds are expected to have a positive impact. The university also plans to hire a part-time coordinator in Timmins to support recruitment and promotional activity.

## Student Services

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives and Operations since April.

Tom Mauro, Director of Ancillary and Student Services

#### 1. Student Services

Several departments who have campus life responsibilities gathered for a full day Campus Life Planning Session on May 15<sup>th</sup> and reviewed feedback received from various student stakeholders and research. The results indicated that although there are many factors prohibiting some students from getting more involved on campus generally they were satisfied with campus life. The staff is currently reviewing additional programming opportunities to better engage the students for the upcoming fall. Staff is also currently busy with a full calendar of Spring/Summer events as well as preparing for first year advising and registration which opens June 11. Orientation planning for the fall is underway. First Generation Assistant is presently working on Commuter Student Programming and “Bounce Back” Program to assist students with academic success concerns.

#### 2. Residence

The Downtown Residence will see several room furniture upgrades over the summer as we begin to cycle out older furniture with items recently picked up at the Days Inn renovation sale. Townhouses will see flooring, TV and minor bathroom upgrades over the summer months.

We currently have 108 paid applications for 2012/13 - (35 new students - 73 returning) and an additional 20 students who have applied but not yet paid deposits.

#### 3. Health and Safety

A training session was held for Summer Student hires on May 23<sup>rd</sup> where 31 students were informed of Algoma University policy, and provided office safety, workplace violence and WHMIS training. Over the summer the Lab Coordinator will assist the Health and Safety Officer in enhancing and increasing safety initiatives in the BSTCC.

#### 4. Campus Centre

AUSU and the University are looking at opportunities to improve programming and infrastructure in the Speak Easy in an effort to help revitalize and increase patronage. The focus will be on ensuring a welcoming environment that is suitable for all ages and student demographics.

#### 5. MTCU Compulsory Ancillaries Fee Agreement

Over the summer, the University and student government will work towards developing an Ancillaries Fee Agreement that will identify a process in which these fees are reviewed and agreed upon. It is a mandatory requirement from the MTCU to have such an agreement. Algoma University has not developed its own agreement since our independence from Laurentian.

#### 6. George Leach Centre

With the assistance of the President’s Office we are currently working with local tennis enthusiasts to find a suitable solution for lack of outdoor tennis facilities in the Sault this summer. Both the Outdoor

courts at RYTAC and at the GLC are unavailable for various reasons. Summer programs are currently advertised and initial response has been positive.

#### 7. Varsity

Five new head coaches were introduced to the media in early spring as part of Varsity Sports Strategic plan. Coaches are currently very active in student athlete recruitment for Fall of 2012.

#### **Wrestling: Trevor Manchester**

- Two-time OUA Champion of Wrestling (Lakehead University) (2003, 2005)
- Coached high caliber student-athletes at the OFSAA championships, Ontario Provincial Championships, Cadet/Juvenile/National Championships, as well as other competitive tournaments
- Currently has his level 2 NCCP Theory Certification, as well as a level 3 Technical and Practical NCCP Certification for the sport of wrestling

#### **CROSS-Country: Cameron Wilson**

- Five years of experience running track in the OUA and CIS conference for the University of Windsor
- Member of 2003, 2004 and 2006 National Championship Teams
- Two-time All Ontario University Athletics Conference Athlete
- Head Coach of Cross Country and Track & Field at a number of High Schools in the Algoma District School Board and is currently a NCCP Certified

#### **Women's Soccer: Bill Howe**

- Played on the Conestoga College Varsity Soccer Team 1972 -1975 (Team Captain, MVP 73/74 & 74/75)
- Level Five Coach (Coaching Association of Canada), CSA – B-License/ National Level Coach (CSA), Coaching Instructor (Levels 1, 2 & 3), Coaching Instructor (Pre-B-License), & Qualified Referee (Level 3)
- Thirty-seven years coaching experience in recreational, competitive, city and regional representative teams

#### **MEN'S Soccer: Neil Ovey**

- Has played for 18 years (1984 to 2002) in England playing in the following leagues (Great Mills Western League, Championship League and Conference)
- Sports Science Diploma
- Pre-B-Level Coaching Certificate
- Sault Ste. Marie Civics Team, Head Coach of the Men's U17 team (with same team past 6 years)

#### **Nordic Skiing: Helen Lindfors**

- Competed on the Laurentian University Cross Country Ski team as a student for four years
- Head Coach of the Soo Finnish Nordic Ski Team for fourteen years
- Level 3 NCCP Certified Coach, with a start on Level 4 as well as a Learning Facilitator for the first 2 levels of the new NCCP program (ICC and CC components)
- Part of the Cross Country Ontario High Performance Committee as the Northern Ontario High Performance Chair
  
- Coached at eleven National Championships and four World Junior

## University Services

### Summary of Issues, Initiatives, and Operations Since April 2012

#### Sean Dwyer (in the absence of the Director)

1. New Residence (R4) Update

The new residence is progressing as planned. Site meetings have continued bi-weekly to discuss updates and monitor the progress, along with very regular interaction with our project consultant. The project is both on-budget and on-schedule. The building is now sealed and drywall work has begun.

2. R4 Furniture RFP

The R4 Furniture RFP has been completed and will be posted early the week of June 11<sup>th</sup>.

3. RFP for Landscaping Services

An RFP for Landscape Design Services for the area between the new residence and the GLC is being prepared. Landscape work cannot begin on this area until the R4 construction team clears the site as per Ministry of Labour guidelines. This area will become an outdoor space for students, staff and faculty to use for various purposes, including for meetings and leisure time.

4. Windsor Park

Over the past six months, the ballroom/kitchen roof has leaked in different places approximately six times requiring repair and related expense. Regardless of the eventual use of this area of Windsor Park, this roof will need to be replaced as part of that renovation project. While this entire project will be the subject of a larger report brought to the Board via the subcommittees, in the meantime AU is committing to the replacement of this roof at this time. Note that the estimated cost of replacement is within existing internal approval levels.