

VOLUME TEN: March, 2006



Michael Johnson, Dr. Jay Rajnovich and Spencer Conadon

AUC Students Make us Proud!

Northern Michigan University held a computer-programming contest in Marquette on Saturday, March 18 and Algoma U's students were keen participants.

With 52 participants total in 19 teams, Algoma U's top team, the "Wicked Sweet Team" (Spencer Congdon and Michael Johnson) took fourth place, solving two tough problems. None of the competitors solved more than two, and the other three teams from Algoma U each

(Cont'd on Pg. 2)

ALERT! AUC Recruiting Teams for High-Profile Game Design Competition

AUC is recruiting teams for "Dare to be Digital", an internationally renowned computer games design competition for students, hosted at the University of Abertay Dundee. Teams of five students compete over 10 weeks to produce a fully functioning game prototype. This competition is very highly regarded in the Computer

Sault College Awards Top Students in Computer Science

Working several jobs, going to Sault College full-time and taking additional courses at Lake Superior State University (LSSU) did not get in the way of Lindsay Pritchard achieving top marks in her Computer Program Analyst program at Sault College and receiving a Computer Studies Excellence award.

The Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre (SSMIC) was pleased to accommodate Lindsay for the job placement portion of her Computer Program Analyst program. "She is very bright and completes projects easily," said Paul Beach, Manager, Community Geomatics Centre, SSMIC.

Lindsay said that her placement at the SSMIC has helped her to gain insight into the world of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). "Since working for the SSMIC, I think that I might like to learn a little more about GIS," said Lindsay. By 2007, Lindsay will have her degree in Computer Science



Lindsay Pritchard, Computer Studies Excellence award.

from LSSU. She said that she has a fairly good idea of what Sault Ste. Marie has to offer in the way of employment opportunities and hopes that she will be able to find a high-income job locally. Lindsay has a job lined up at the Algoma District School board after her program at Sault College is finished.

Hard work and a positive attitude earned Steve Veldt, a Computer Program Analyst student at Sault College the Jason R Wright Memorial Award, worth \$250.

Steve said that he hopes to (Cont'd on Pg. 2)

Games Industry.

Teams receive daily support and weekly training sessions from industry specialists.

At the end of the competition, the prototypes are judged by a panel of experts and prizes are awarded to the teams at a special awards ceremony and talent showcase.

Brought to you by the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre

Visit: www.ssmic.com

This monthly newsletter will bring you up to date on all the activities of the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

30

- **April 7th - TAG Lunch**
SAH – GWL Amphitheatre, Algoma U
- **April 28th - TAG Lunch**
Micheal Zvaigzne CISCO Security Systems - GWL Amphitheatre, Algoma U
- **April 30th – Dare to be Digital Application Deadline!**

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interviews), exposure to the luminaries of the Games Industry, team-work experience, industry contacts, and free admittance and exhibition at the Edinburgh Interactive Entertainment Festival. Interested? Visit www.daretobedigital.com or email: swatson@ssmic.com, but hurry, the deadline to submit your application is April 30, 2006.

Innovation Centre Welcomes Two New Board Members

It is as a result of her personal experience in following her heart back to Sault Ste. Marie and successfully launching her legal practice that Victoria Chiappetta wanted to be a part of the SSMIC. "I have two great passions - giving back to my Community through volunteer work and creating opportunities for others to return home and successfully engage in the employment of their choice," she said. "I believe that the work and dedication of the SSMIC creates job opportunities for individuals who until now were forced to remain in Southern Ontario to pursue their vocational passions."

Victoria lived in Montreal and practiced law in Toronto but her heart always remained in the Soo. In 1999 Victoria returned home and, with the support of the local business community, opened and continues to operate the Sault Ste Marie office of Mathews, Dinsdale and Clark, LLP, a law firm whose lawyers restrict their practice to labour and



Victoria Chiappetta

employment law on behalf of employers.

Victoria said, "I am very fortunate to have the opportunity to live in the City I choose to live in and successfully engage in the employment of my choice. I would not have had this opportunity without the overwhelming support of our Northern Ontario business community. I remain incredibly humbled and thankful."

Victoria sits as a Director on six Boards, is engaged in fundraising for our New Hospital, acts as a Deputy Judge for the Small Claims Court and will be teaching at Algoma University in the spring. But "Most importantly," Victoria said, "I am planning my wedding to a

wonderful man this summer."

Lynn Watkins also followed her heart to Sault Ste. Marie, not to return home to her roots but to start a new life with her beau. Lynn moved to Sault Ste. Marie from Scarborough last year when she accepted the Acting Director, Human Resources & Training position with the



Lynn Watkins

Northern Credit Union. Lynn has spent the last fifteen years of her career in human resources and adult education. A great believer in the value of life-long learning, Lynn has her Certified Human Resources Professional (CHRP) designation; and is currently completing a Master's degree in Adult Education. Her degree is focused on Leadership Development and Workplace Learning. Lynn has held a

variety of positions in the not-for-profit, post-secondary, and financial services sectors.

As an avid skier and cyclist, Lynn has enjoyed getting to know her new city, and her new district – the Credit Union's 25 branches, located in communities across northern Ontario – from Thunder Bay, to the Ottawa Valley. Having moved to the Sault just over a year ago from southern Ontario; her goal was to really get to know the Sault and to make a positive contribution to her new community – joining the Board of the Innovation Centre presented the perfect opportunity.

Lynn said, "For our city to continue to grow, it must continue to diversify its economic base, create opportunities to attract newcomers; as well as offer attractive career paths that allow our youth to remain in the Sault. The Innovation Centre is an excellent contributor to that goal, and I'm very excited to be a part of such a forward-thinking organization."

Webcast Recognizes CGC and Childcare Algoma

On March 30, the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre's Community GeoMatics Centre (CGC) and Child Care Algoma's Judy Tucci were the feature presenters in ESRI Canada's webcast dealing with the use of GIS to support Children's Services. The webcast featured how to use GIS, new GIS data that is available and the types of analysis that can be done using GIS.

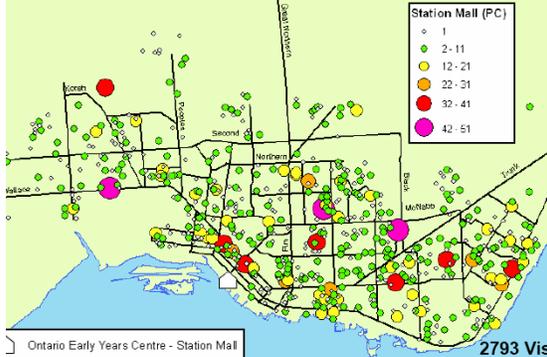
The CGC promotes partnerships amongst community organizations to establish the technological means to share geospatial data, tools and knowledge to create a safer, healthier and more prosperous community. Currently, the CGC has partnered with Child Care Algoma, Algoma Health Unit,

the Children's Aid Society, the City Police Department, Community Quality Improvement and Sault Ste. Marie District Social Services to address

health and social issues in Sault Ste. Marie, particularly those affecting early childhood development.

Sault Ste. Marie is well ahead of the rest of the province in utilizing GIS for health and social related issues. The Sault Ste. Marie GIS solution for the City and PUC is already well known in Canada, having received

Examples and Results of Current Public Health Related GIS Work



several awards and being touted by ESRI Canada as the most comprehensive municipal and utilities GIS dataset in Canada.

The Community GeoMatics Centre partnership is interested in partnering with other organizations that work with human data. The goal is further data sharing and shared solutions.

AUC Cont'd ...

solved one problem: Runtime Error (Mike Bionchi, Dan Gowans, Nathan Inch), G-Unit (Glen Hamilton-Brown, John Kwok) and Algoma Too (Sarah Leed, Farjam Khairi).

"It was my pleasure to escort these people to the contest venue," said Dr. J. Rajnovich, Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. "They have done us proud!"

Awards Cont'd ...

find work in Sault Ste. Marie after graduation so he can stay close to home, and his horse. He is actively researching the Information Technology (IT) sector in Sault Ste. Marie and is attending various networking events including the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre IT Breakfasts.