

# Algonquin, Carleton help students transition

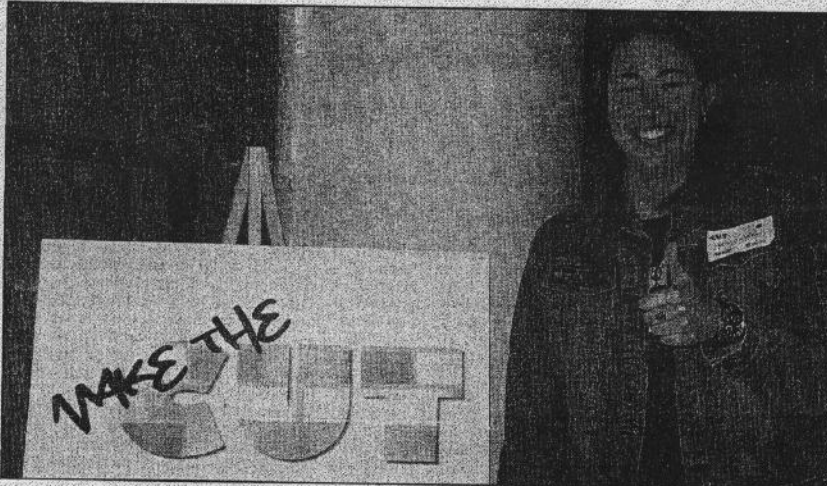
## Local institutions are helping those with learning disabilities make the leap to higher learning

DEVON BABIN  
NTW Staff

Students with learning disabilities got a helping hand Wednesday, May 8, when "Make the Cut - Part Two" was held at Algonquin College.

The annual event is a joint effort between Algonquin College's Centre for Students with Disabilities (CSD) and Carleton University's Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. The goal of the day was to show students living with learning disabilities that are planning to go to college or university, what they can do to help make their transition to higher learning easier.

"I came to one of these Make the Cut days and it changed my whole view on everything," said Melissa Cunningham. The 20-year-old recently finished the Early Childhood Education program at Algonquin and plans to go back next year



DEVON BABIN PHOTO

Melissa Cunningham "Made the Cut" in previous years and now is volunteering to help others with learning disabilities make the transition from high school to college and university.

for Health Sciences. She Cunningham takes always gave her problems also happens to live with a longer to process informa- in school. learning disability. tion than most, which "I had trouble in high

school being assertive," she said.

After taking in one of the Make The Cut events, and visiting the CSD, she learned how to manage her disability by speaking with her professors ahead of time and informing them of her condition. In turn she was given more time for exams, and special atten-

tion was given to her by professors and teachers.

"The pros really care about your success," she said.

The event was an outstanding success with more than 80 students attending.

"I'm really pleased with the level of participation," said Louise Legault, Manager of the CSD.

Legault wanted students to leave the Make the Cut event with a plan to make an easy transition into the next level of education.

She hoped students met others with similar learning disabilities, so they can support each other in setting their goals, feel confident in what they can achieve and seek help when they need it.

Every person is different, and how well each person does depends on the individuals situation.

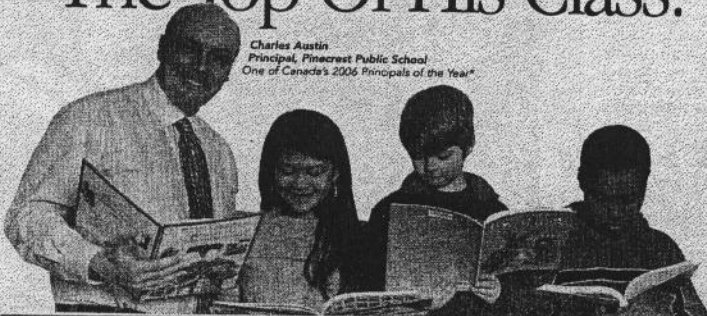
"For some it might be easier than others," said Legault.

But no matter how long they take at their particular goal, nor what school they go to, Legault wanted the students to leave with one thing.

"That's what we want, we want them to feel comfortable," she said.

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\*Charles Austin, principal of Pinecrest Public School, was named an Outstanding Principal for 2005 by the Canadian Association of Principals in association with the Ontario Principals' Council and The Learning Partnership.

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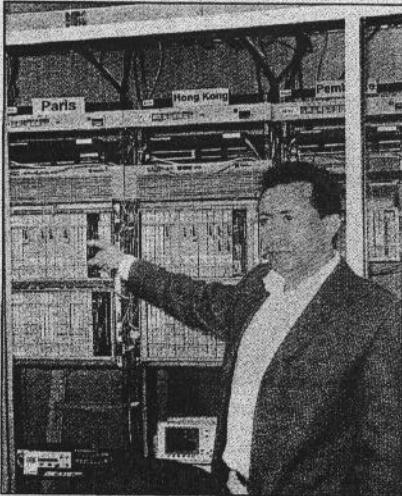
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## Lots goin' on at Algonquin

No Lazy days of summer here!  
 (Above) Professor Brahim Chebbi shows off the \$500 million project in his Optophotonics class. The display was part of a tour of the Communications Technologies Research Centre during the Applied Research Day at Algonquin on May 11.  
 (Top Right) Robert Gillett, President of Algonquin College, and Barbara Farber, Chair of the Algonquin College Foundation accept a \$150,000 cheque from John Junker-Anderson, Director of parts, service and Q&A of Nissan Canada Inc. on May 11.  
 (Right) Staff are all smiles as they stand in the Simulation Centre for Health Studies - Phase II. Algonquin was recently named a Hub of Excellence for Operating Room Nursing Education. With the title comes \$500,000 to go towards the program.



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