

## 2008–2009 Academic Innovation Fund Disbursements

The 2008–2009 disbursements of the Academic Innovation Fund provided \$22,253.19 for six projects that support teaching at Trent University. This internal fund is designed to support projects that strengthen Trent University's undergraduate programs and to support professional development and pedagogical research. To date, this fund has committed \$542, 808.57 for 124 projects.

The following projects received funding in the 2008–2009 allocation:

- **Miriam Davidson and Mary Ladky (School of Education and Professional Learning):** \$3,120.42 to support the pilot phase of a new community-based partnership that will provide teacher candidates from both the intermediate/senior and primary/junior divisions of the Bachelor of Education program with an innovative, intergenerational approach to teaching and learning. This initiative will provide Trent students with opportunities to develop their arts, creative writing and historical research skills through the implementation of a visual (photographic) and oral history project with residents and staff at Fairhaven Municipal Long-Term Care Facility. The project will facilitate the start up of a long term partnership between Fairhaven's residents and staff, local teachers and schools and faculty in the School of Education.
- **Lydia Dotto (Environmental and Resource Science/Studies):** \$1,466.25 to complete a survey of public science literacy and the public awareness of science. The findings will be presented to Trent faculty, graduate students and staff via the Instructional Development Centre's Teaching Effectiveness program. Specific presentations will be made to Trent faculty, as requested. The results of the survey have also been incorporated into ERSC 350, a third year environmental communications course and are currently being used in the development of a new online course for Trent University's Distance Education program.
- **Joanne Findon (Department of English Literature):** \$1,050.27 to provide an enhanced opportunity for Trent students in ENGL 3123H: *Studies in medieval drama* and ENGL 3850: *Introduction to creative writing* by providing workshops with a professional actor, playwright, and teacher of drama. The project will provide rare opportunities for these students to benefit from Paula Wing's extensive experience in theatre. The goal of the workshops will be to enhance the theatrical experience and critical responses of Trent students participating in these courses.
- **Fiona Harris-Stoertz (Department of History)\*:** \$1,500 to create an online history skills workbook for HIST1500Y: *Ten days that shook the world*. The goal for the workbook, which will be available on myLearningSystem, is to introduce students to the Department of History's standards of essay preparation, writing, and other skills that are expected in upper year courses. By focusing on one skill/topic at a time, and by using a variety of interactive approaches to engage different learning styles, the approach will provide students with an effective structure to build their academic

\* Note: Additional funding was provided by the Learning Innovation Grant.

skills. The second goal for the project is to produce accompanying instructional notes for seminar leaders in the course.

- **Anne Meneley (Department of Anthropology):** \$464.25 to purchase TA training workbooks to be used for a day long seminar to introduce graduate TAs to the basic principles of cultural anthropology, particularly the need to be sensitive to and non-judgemental about cultural differences, in order to avoid ethnocentrism. Techniques of facilitating discussion and grading will be highlighted. This seminar will provide a general benefit to the Department of Anthropology's curriculum in general, as first year students will receive training on writing anthropological papers, ideally improving their performance in upper year cultural anthropology.
- **Brenda Smith-Chant (Department of Psychology):** \$14,652 to enable webcasting of lectures in PSYC 1010Y: *Introduction to psychology*. By providing a webcast of the lectures, the Department of Psychology hopes to reduce one of the repeated lecture sections of the course. The webcast format also provides the opportunity for all students to gain access to the full lecture for review purposes.