

focus

FORMERLY THE TRENT REPORT

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Canada's Outstanding Small University

in the news



A CBC film crew from Montreal came to Trent in November to interview Professor Carlyle Smith. Airing sometime in January, 2003, the show will feature Dr. Carlyle's research about sleep and his work at the Trent sleep lab.



The *Globe and Mail* featured a review of *Remembering Peter Gzowski: A Book of Tributes* (2002, McClelland & Stewart) on November 16. Trent University is cited twice in the review. It is also noted in the article that sales of this book will go to Frontier College and Trent University's Peter Gzowski Northern Scholarship.



On December 1, the *Toronto Star* ran an article profiling the visit of American Bert Sacks to the University in late November. He talked to Trent students about the plight of children in Iraq.



Alistair MacLeod spoke, and sang, to a packed house at the Peterborough Public Library on November 21. Delivering a Rooke lecture as

Trent's 2002/03 Ashley Fellow, Mr. MacLeod's reading was featured in an *Examiner* article on November 22.



the sound of music

On Sunday, November 24, the Wenjack Theatre resounded with beautiful music. Selections from Vincenzo Bellini, G.F. Handel, Alexander Borodin, Bela Bartok and Edvard Grieg came to life under the musical direction of Michael Newnham.

Mr. Newnham is best known, locally, for his role as conductor and music director with the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra (PSO), but it was not the PSO that filled the Wenjack with melodious strains of the overture to "Norma," Water Music, Rumanian Folk Dances, and more.

It was the newly-formed Kawartha Youth Orchestra – presenting its debut concert – that played at Trent, which is the orchestra's official home.

Twenty-nine musicians are involved in the independent youth orchestra, ranging in age from 10 to 24. They meet weekly

at Wenjack Theatre to practice and will perform three concerts there this year. As well, the strings section meets at Traill College on Monday nights to practice in the senior common room.

"Trent has given us rehearsal and concert space, and we have agreed Trent students can be involved in the orchestra," explains Mr. Newnham. "This type of relationship sets a precedent for co-operation between the two organizations."

Mr. Newnham began conducting the Peterborough Symphony Orchestra over one year ago and has delivered a series of fantastic concerts to local classical music fans. Given the strong arts community in the Peterborough area, he is excited to see a youth orchestra develop.

"A youth orchestra is an important educational ballast for music that is crucial in a commu-

nity like this. It makes such a big difference for young people to be able to play together," says Mr. Newnham.

Orchestra auditions were held in the summer and there was substantial interest from local youth. "The response was much larger than we had anticipated," comments Mr. Newnham, who is assisted by two music coaches. Ben Bell coaches the brass and wind sections and Witold Swoboda coaches the strings.

Lakefield-area resident Karen Lander is a founding director of the new group and has taken on many administrative duties. She brings valuable experience from working with the La Jeunesse orchestra, in Cobourg, to this endeavour.

The Wenjack Theatre was packed for the Kawartha Youth Orchestra's concert on November 24. Many children were in attendance, and Mr. Newnham gave

an instructive introduction to each piece, helping everyone in the audience understand the background to each selection of music. The Kawartha Youth Orchestra received a well-deserved standing ovation for their excellent performance.

The relationship between Trent University and the Kawartha Youth Orchestra is unique and speaks volumes about the University's support of the arts and of the value of experiential education in all forms. ©

The Kawartha Youth Orchestra will perform two more concerts this season, on February 16 at 3 p.m. and May 10 at 7 p.m. Tickets for each concert are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students (with a student card), and are available on campus at the Conference Centre office.

Aristotle, who is quoted as saying "what we have to learn to do, we learn by doing," would assuredly have been proud if he had witnessed a recent field trip involving four students from ERS 467.

The Aristotelian hands-on philosophy of education came to life on Thursday, November 7, as professor emeritus Roger Jones led a field trip through Trent's Wildlife Sanctuary Nature Area, located on a large tract of land south of Mackenzie House. The purpose of the excursion was to examine the property and look for revealing clues about the history of the land.

The four students involved – Sarah Wannaker, Jennifer Jago, Meredith Carter and Amanda Pruner – are enrolled in an environmental history reading course supervised by ERS Professor Stephen Bocking. The course examines change in environmental use and in ideas of the environment, over time. The Wildlife Sanctuary property provided the

hands-on. learning

opportunity to visibly and tangibly assess land use history.

Prompted by Prof. Jones, the students looked at patterns of plant growth and used plant/tree identification to determine the legacy of the land. Clues such as the prolific presence of goldenrod, asters, European Buckthorn, White Cedars and Black Locust trees were evidence of old field succession, which indicates farm use. Prof. Jones confirmed that, indeed, much of the property had been cleared in the early- and mid-1800s, and that farm activity came to an end in the late 1960s after Trent acquired the property. Certain trees that were left along fencelines influenced new growth and propagated their own species. Some inva-

sive species, such as European Buckthorn, have proliferated in the area because of the availability of open land.

Throughout the walk, Prof. Jones pointed out many interesting plants and geographic features. He shared information about identifying trees and provided some background about the development of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Prof. Stephen Bocking, the supervisor of ERS 467, was pleased with the field trip and says it demonstrates an enriched method of learning. "The students really enjoyed it and felt it was worthwhile," says Prof. Bocking. "I think Roger did an excellent job of showing the students the kinds of evidence avail-



able in nature, related to history. In this course we've been looking at primary texts and historical documents, so to go out in the field and study the traces of bygone gardens and other things was essential. It reminds us that the history is all around us, even in a nature area that seems to be just abandoned fields."

▲ Professor emeritus Roger Jones points out European Buckthorn growth to fourth-year students Jennifer Jago and Sarah Wannamaker during a recent field trip to the Wildlife Sanctuary.

Signage was improved in the Wildlife Sanctuary this past summer, making it easier to identify specific trails.



going digital

The Ontario Trillium Foundation has announced a grant of \$78,000 to Trent Radio. Over the next two years, funding will support Trent Radio's efforts to digitise the facility's collection of recordings, as well as create a third studio and teaching space.

"We are very excited about the possibilities that the Trillium Foundation grant offers us," says Trent Radio President and Chair, Emily Addison. "Trent Radio has

◀ John Muir, general manager of Trent Radio, and programme director Barb Woolner are thrilled with the recent Trillium Foundation grant awarded to Trent Radio.

proven itself to be a leader in radio through a variety of initiatives. The grant does not change the way we fundamentally function as an organization but it does allow us to build on our strengths and aim towards ever more innovative, varied, and exciting radio and audio projects. Our goal is for the local community volunteers and the listening community at large to experience the ripple effect of this grant over the next decade through both listening and participating directly in the production and broadcast process. We're calling it the STUDIO C project to denote its community focus."

John K Muir, general manager, has been with Trent Radio in varying capacities since 1975. "The Trillium Foundation grant is a major step for this organization. With over 25,000 hours of material to digitise and a new studio to commission and operate, it looks like we have a great deal to keep us busy for the next while," he says.

Trent Radio is a non-profit cultural and educational organization sponsored and operated by the students of Trent University and members of the Peterborough-area community, and is governed by an independent board of directors. You can find Trent Radio on your radio dial at 92.7 FM, on cable at 93.5, on the internet at www.trentradio.ca, or at the corner of George and Parkhill in Peterborough, Ontario. ©

friends of bata library

For almost 25 years an organization at Trent has been hard at work securing the purchase of books and resources for the Bata Library.

The Friends of the Bata Library, with approximately 70 members, is responsible for purchasing many valuable resources for Trent collections. Examples include an 1823 map of Upper Canada, one of the province's most important early maps, and complete volumes of the *Literary Garland*, the major Canadian literary magazine of the early 19th century.

The Trent group's mandate is to cultivate interest in all aspects

of the Bata Library and its resources. Founded in 1978, the Friends raise funds for special library purchases and library needs. Some of those funds are raised through membership fees, and other monies are raised through the group's fundraising dinner in May. Guest speakers at the annual dinner have included the late Peter Gzowski, author and biographer Charlotte Gray and poet George Elliot Clark (runner-up in last year's CBC Canada Reads competition for his book *Whydah Falls*).

As well, the Friends holds a variety of talks throughout the year, featuring a range of knowl-

edgeable scholars and authors.

"The quality of our speakers is very high, and I think anything that brings the town and the University together is positive," says Prof. Michael Peterman, chair of the Friends of the Bata Library.

"The Friends have been of inestimable help over the years in acquiring historical library and archival materials. They have located and purchased – and personally donated from their own libraries – materials ranging from 19th-century Traill and Moodie editions to a very fine run of the *Canadian Agriculturist and Beekeeper*, a periodical published locally," says University Archivist Bernadine Dodge, adding that community involvement in the group has been a key element in its success over the years.

Friends of the Bata Library memberships start at \$10. For



more information about the group, or to become a member, contact Professor Michael Peterman at mpeterman@trentu.ca or Janice Millard at jmillard@trentu.ca.

▲ Trent University Archivist Bernadine Dodge has been a member of the Friends of the Bata Library for many years. In this photo she holds a copy of a hand-bound book called *Twelve Bindings*, by local bookbinder Michael Wilcox. This limited edition book was purchased for the library's special collections by the Friends.

winning strokes

The Trent University swim team is having an outstanding season and, on November 23, came home with several excellent rankings from the OUA (Ontario University Athletics) division championship at the University of Guelph.

Alex Babaris, a third-year history student, broke the divisional record for the 50 m. butterfly and came home with a first-place ranking. He also qualified for the CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) competition and met the Canadian National time standards. This means he is eligible to compete at the Canadian Nationals and at World Cup races.

Trent swim team member Scott Adams placed second in the 50 m. breast stroke, and also qualified for the CIS competition in February.

Two additional members of the men's swim team are within half a second of making the CIS qualifications. This is quite exciting for coach Sean Dwyer, who hopes to see all four men com-

pete at the national university level, both in individual races and in a relay event.

"This has been an excellent year," says Mr. Dwyer, who has coached the Trent swim teams for four years. As well, he coaches with the Trent swim club and has coached the masters' swim team at the Peterborough YMCA.

"We have completed three meets so far and have others coming up at Guelph, Queen's, the OUA championships and the CIS meet, for those who qualify," explains Mr. Dwyer, who works as a local kinesiologist. "The swim season runs from the beginning of the school year, as soon as the pool is open, until mid-February."

The 2002/03 men's swim team comprises nine men, and the women's team involves 18 members. At the November 23rd meet in Guelph, women's team member Kate Armitage was the top performer. She has been part of the women's team for four years.



Photos:

1. Alex Babaris, a member of the Trent men's swim team, broke a divisional record for the 50 m. butterfly on November 23rd at an OUA divisional championship at the University of Guelph. His time also qualified him to participate in the CIS championship race in February, and at the Canadian Nationals and World Cup. He is currently ranked first in Canada for

his division.

2. Members of the Trent men's swim team, left to right: Brad Toms, Scott Farrow, Alex DeLorey, Jeff Kerswil, Alex Babaris and Stu Ross.

3. Members of the Trent women's swim team. Back row, left to right: Sabrina Romani, Meghan Leadbeater, Callandrea Tibbs, Allison Browning, Kate Armitage, Jenn Kingsley. Front row, left to right: Gina Droppo, Rachel Sohn, Sheena McKay, Ezza Clarke, Jen Bosnell and Heather Cramm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 18: Winter vacation and reading period begins. College residences close.

December 20: Last day worked by staff and faculty. Christmas break begins.

December 30: Winter Adventures Program begins, for children 5 – 12. Offered also on Dec. 31, Jan. 2 and 3. Call the Athletics and Recreation Department at 748-1670 for more information.

January 2: First day back for staff and faculty.

January 6: Classes resume.

January 16: K.E. Kidd Lecture Series and Colloquium, 4 – 6 p.m., OC109. Guest speaker is Professor John Topic, of Trent University. Talk is entitled "Communicating Heritage in a Context of Institutional Conflict."

January 29: Continuing education classes begin. Offerings range from "More Shorts with a Twist: Irish Short Stories (female voices)" to "Historians go to the Movies." Call Lisa Clark at 748-1011 x 1304, for more information or to obtain a brochure.

let US know

The Communications Office has implemented many changes in its delivery of news at Trent this year. We'd love to hear from you, our readers, about what you think. Please take a minute to fill out this simple survey, which can be dropped off at the Communications office in the basement of Bata Library, faxed to 748-1029 or mailed through University mail. An online survey is also available at www.trentu.ca/news. Your name will automatically be entered into a draw for a fabulous Trent sweatshirt when we receive your survey!

1. Do you like the new format of Focus Trent? Y N
2. Do you like the new emphasis on feature articles and people-based stories? Y N
3. Are there any types of articles you would like to see more of in Focus Trent? _____
4. Can you easily find copies of Focus Trent around campus? Y N
5. Do you have any additional comments to make about Focus Trent? _____
6. Do you read Trent's online daily news at www.trentu.ca? Y N
7. How often do you check the Trent Web site? circle one) daily / weekly / monthly / infrequently
8. Do you think providing a Web daily news service is an effective way of connecting people at Trent? Y N
9. Are there any types of articles you would like to see more of at www.trentu.ca/news? _____
10. Do you have any additional comments to make about Trent's online daily news service? _____
11. Are you a: (circle one) student / staff / faculty / other (please specify) _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Please return completed surveys by January 20, 2003. The draw will take place on January 21, 2003.

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Survey says:

Results from the *Maclean's* 2002 rankings of Canadian universities have placed Trent University second among primarily undergraduate universities in central Canada. The results confirmed Trent University ranks first out of 21 primarily undergraduate universities nationwide in a number of key performance areas including: number of research awards per full time faculty, number of awards received from medical and science funding agencies, and scholarships and bursaries as a percentage of the budget.

Other areas of strong performance included: classes taught by tenured faculty (ranked 2), class sizes in 3rd and 4th years (ranked 3), recruitment of international first-year students (ranked 3), student awards (ranked 4), and proportion of students who graduate (ranked 5).

President Bonnie Patterson commends faculty for their all their contributions in these areas, especially in research and teaching. "Our faculty's research record contributes greatly to our reputation and awareness of Trent University as a centre of excellence," she says.

Award-winning athletes

On November 21 the Athletics and Recreation Department honoured Trent varsity athletes who perform well academically. Fifty Trent athletes received recognition for their academic prowess, including recipients of CIS Academic All-Canadians awards and OUA Academic Achievement Awards.



Award winner and fencer Sheena "The Pirate" McKay enjoys a laugh with (l to r) Director of Student Affairs Meri Kim Oliver, Fencing Coach David French, and Athletics Director Bill Byrick.

Outstanding alumnus

Trent alumnus and honorary degree recipient Dr. James Orbinski ('80) was among 17 Health Heroes named by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) during an international celebration on October 29, 2002, at the ninth Canadian Conference on International Health. Dr. Orbinski began his studies at Trent University in 1980 and went on to be a founder of Médecins sans Frontières Canada. He was president of MSF International from 1998 to 2001



Dr. James Orbinski

and delivered the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize speech on behalf of MSF. He has worked with MSF in various war zones and refugee centres around the world and received the Meritorious Service Cross, Canada's highest civilian medal, for his work during the genocide in Rwanda in the mid-1990s. Trent presented Dr. Orbinski with an honorary degree in 2001.

Provincial Minister visits campus

The provincial Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, The Honourable Dianne Cunningham, came to Trent in November to celebrate the University's new School of Education and Professional Learning. The event, held in the Native Studies Lounge, included remarks by the School of Education's Director, Dr. Deborah Berrill; MPP Gary Stewart; President Bonnie Patterson; and Ms. Cunningham. Everyone involved expressed support and enthusiasm for the new School and its mandate to support principles that lead to excellence in education for all students.

► President Bonnie Patterson and Dianne Cunningham, Ontario's Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities, had a chance to view the Build2000 site from the Cat's Ass pub in Otonabee prior to a November event that celebrated the new School of Education.



Computer connections

Seneca College and Trent University have created an outstanding partnership for students studying computer science and 24 students have come to Trent, from Seneca, this year.

After completing a three-year diploma program at the Seneca School of Computer Studies, these students will attend classes at Trent for two years. At the end of that two-year period they will graduate with an Honours B.Sc. in computer science. Seneca Professor George Tripp visited Trent in November and was pleased to hear from his students that their Trent studies are going well. Seneca College is actively promoting the partnership with Trent to its computer studies students, and a dozen graduating students are already signed up to come to Trent for the 2003/04 academic year.

Governor General's award

David R. Cameron – a former Trent political studies professor, Political Studies Department chair and Dean of Arts and Science – has been awarded a Governor General's International Award for Canadian Studies. Dr. Cameron is now a professor at the University of Toronto and is a widely respected scholar and teacher. He has also had a significant career in public service, both at the federal and provincial levels, and has been committed to fostering an understanding of Canadian culture wherever possible.

▲ Back row, left to right: Richard Hurley, chair of Trent's Computer Science Department; Murray Genoe, associate dean of arts and science (continuing education and part-time studies); and students Talha Qureshi, Adam Kahtava and Henok Ghebregzghi. Front row, left to right: George Tripp, professor at Seneca and student co-ordinator of the School of Computer Studies; Jocelyn Piercy, co-dean of the faculty of technology; and students Olga Antonova and Vivek Gupta.



Winter recreation

Spots are still available for this year's Winter Adventures Sports Camp, which will be held on December 30, 31 and January 2 and 3. Offered by the Athletics and Recreation Department, and staffed by experienced counselors from the Trent Summer Sports Camp program, this camp is open to children aged five – 12. Staff and faculty discounts are available and participants do not have to commit to enrolling in the whole program. Single day rates are offered. Contact the Athletics office at 748-1257 for more information.

My Trent! goes online

On Monday, November 11, My Trent! (www.trentu.ca/mytrent) went live on the Trent University Web site. My Trent! is a fully secure online service where students, using their confidential user ID and password, can login and get up-to-date information regarding their status at Trent.



The information on My Trent! is currently view-only and includes personalized class schedules, grades, averages by term, course lists and transcript request status. Within the next few weeks students will be able

to add/drop courses and change their address information in their personal files while logged in to My Trent! By mid-January, mid-term and fall final grades will be available online. The current Course Drop/Add form will be available for students who are unable to make course changes using My Trent! In March and April, continuing students will pre-register for courses that start in September 2003 and will also be able to register for summer session courses. Plans are in the works for new students who will be starting in September 2003 to register via the Web.

News online www.trentu.ca/news

Don't forget to check out the Trent home page at www.trentu.ca every day. The daily news service offers new articles each day about Trent people and events. Plus a weekly feature gives in-depth coverage of specific issues. Daily news stories can also be viewed at www.trentu.ca/news. Make this part of your morning routine!