

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TRENT UNIVERSITY DURHAM



Durham Head Eyes the Future

Assessing how he currently sees Trent University Durham, Joe Muldoon looks to Peterborough—and the past.

"It reminds me of how Trent was 30 years ago," smiles the Head of Durham Campus. "Nine Hundred students—small, intimate—with plenty of possibilities..."

As Durham prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary, *TRENT Magazine* has asked Muldoon to gaze into the future and give his thoughts on the evolution of his campus.

"You can't help but feel hopeful," he says. "There is growth in the GTA—many new Canadians in the GTA—it is one of the few areas where the number of students is increasing. So we are strategically positioned there." And there is an administration that is committed to the growth of the campus.

"Leo Groarke was a big part of the satellite campus of Wilfrid Laurier in Brantford," notes Muldoon. "And he believes that we have to create Durham to be quite different than Peterborough—with new programs that are different and unique. So I've been working to get four new programs started, including Child and Youth Studies, and Communications and Critical Thinking."

The physical location of the campus will continue to help Durham carve out an identity.



"When we were on Simcoe Street we shared space with Durham College and UOIT—we didn't even have our own sign outside. We were nearly invisible," he explains. "Now, on Thornton Road, we have our own buildings—our own library and student services. It's made a significant difference. It's helped us identify with Trent University. What's more, we have room to expand, with land to the west of the university. There's a Campus Master Plan Committee. Some of this won't

happen for a few years, but if we are planning on expanding—and planning on attracting students from the GTA—it is important to have the capacity to expand."

When asked how he sees Durham in the not-too-distant future, Muldoon sees it doubling in size. "I'd like to see another 1,000 students by 2020. And I think those students will have to come from new programs."

The campus would assume some autonomy as well.

1974

Trent's college for part-time studies, Julian Blackburn College (JBC), begins offering courses in Oshawa at Eastdale Collegiate and Vocational Institute

1977

Senate approves the expansion of courses offered to part-time students in Oshawa

Trent begins offering courses at Durham College

1982

Trent establishes an Oshawa Information Office at the YWCA



1988

Trent's presence in Oshawa grows to 55 course offerings

1989

Trent becomes founding partner in new Durham Alliance for Training and Education to increase opportunities for adults in the Durham region

Trent's Oshawa Information Office moves to Durham College



1993

Trent students enroll full-time in evening classes at the Oshawa Durham campus, marking the beginning of full-time university programming in Durham

"I see it as having its own Dean," Muldoon notes. "And its own governance structure—with the ability to introduce and grow its own programming. It would have its own budget—and, to a certain extent, create its own destiny. And then, situated where it is, with the right marketing and the right recruitment, it should really be a great success story."

Craig Cameron '01

As part of our look at Trent University Durham, we talked to administrators both past and present to get their take on the campus history—and its future. Craig Cameron is an academic advisor and peer mentoring coordinator at the Durham campus, and is a former Durham campus student. Here are his thoughts on his experience. *[Note: comments have been lightly edited for length and clarity.]*

1 What is your fondest memory of the Oshawa campus?

I was a transfer student to Trent University Durham from 2000 to 2002. I've been working as an Academic Advisor and Peer Mentoring Coordinator from 2003 until the present, with three years in there as the disability services advisor as well.

Therefore, I have spent 10 years on our "old" Durham College campus and the past five years here on the new campus (2010 onwards). I also wrote my M.A. thesis in 2008 on the "Trent Oshawa Full Time Student Experience."

It is an impossible task to identify a fondest memory because the reality is there are so many fond memories that it would be unfair to identify just one—either from a student or employee perspective!

Cumulatively, my fondest memory is the privilege of bearing witness to so many student journeys over the years. It is genuinely a joy to share not only their "victories" but also their "exasperations" along the way. Some degrees were earned in a straightforward fashion and some were complex, but all were inspirational. Whether mature, direct entry, transfer, part-time, or full-time, I feel fortunate to have met each student where they "were" on their life journey—each with different backgrounds and each with differing goals. Being a small and intimate campus atmosphere it was possible to see firsthand the transformational nature of their Trent University experience.



2 What impact do you think the Oshawa campus has had on the Durham community?

I think our impact on the community is twofold. I think Trent brings a unique opportunity to those in our region that wish to participate in a quality liberal arts and science degree in their own backyard. I also believe our presence brings a certain cachet to the region, as people make Trent their educational destination. I've seen more and more

people from outside the region drawn here because of what Trent has to offer, and this in turn has enhanced the diversity of our community and exposed people to the opportunities available in our region. I live in this community and the

people I've spoken with feel a sense of pride that Trent is here helping people succeed and make an impact on the future of our own community and beyond.



1995

Trent begins adding daytime courses to its evening offerings



1998–1999

Ministry of Colleges and Universities initiates a grant for university level programs to be offered at Durham College, under the DUC. This arrangement allows Trent to offer and stabilize full-time academic programs during the day and evening

2001

Trent in Oshawa continues to grow with over 25 summer courses and 95 full or half-courses in the fall/winter

Ontario government announces opening of University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT)

2002

Memorandum of Understanding is signed with Trent, Durham College, and UOIT allowing Trent to offer UOIT degree program electives; define process for joint programs; and elaborate on articulation agreements with Durham College

2003

Trent makes eight Oshawa-based tenure track appointments in five disciplines

Trent and UOIT develop a registration protocol to facilitate student registration between the two institutions

2004

Trent makes an additional tenure-track appointment, bringing the total positions to nine





Beth Popham

Beth Popham was Principal of Julian Blackburn College from 1999 to 2002. Here are her thoughts on what the Durham campus was like then.

1 What is your fondest memory of the Oshawa campus?

I was associate dean (Arts and Science) and principal of Julian Blackburn College from 1999-2002. This was a time of transition for Trent in Oshawa—and, although there have been many “times of transition” there, this was a major one. Although Trent had been teaching courses in the city for many years, day courses had only recently been introduced.

Our relationship with Durham College was also changing. Trent had been part of a small consortium of universities offering courses on the Durham College site as part of the Durham University Centre. Now, only Trent and York remained, and while Trent was expanding, York was easing out. And, of course, Gray Polonski, the president of Durham College, was hoping to establish a new university—what would become UOIT. There were a lot of negotiations around the future of university education in the Durham region.

For Trent, it was an exciting time. Joan Milovick and Sandra Gunn were the program coordinators on-site. Back in Peterborough, Tui Menzies was the faculty liaison and Deb O’Dette ran the vans (and herded the troop of student drivers) that ferried faculty, books, AV material, and whatever else was needed to and from Oshawa. In 1999, because of day classes, we went from one trip a day to two or three, and had to buy a second van.

A series of VPs of University Affairs in the Durham College Student Association took the lead on coordinating some pretty spectacular college events. Lynda Allison in 1999-2000 put together a very impressive lecture series with speakers including Naomi Klein (who had just published *No Logo*) and James Laxter, as well as several Trent faculty. Also, in 2000-01, Keri Koeghan specialized in Trent parties at the Durham College Student Centre, field trips to the Bata Library, and making sure that the Trent Bookstore came down to sell “Trent” gear so students could self-identify at Durham College.

Other student groups sprung up around disciplinary majors in Psychology, History, and English; Jackie Borosa started up a very active writers’ group; Jill Smith’s Women’s

Studies class performed *The Vagina Monologues*—shocking the locals to no end! There was a lot more going on than ever before!

2 What impact do you think the Oshawa campus has had on the Durham community?

We at Julian Blackburn College tried to facilitate a Trent culture in Oshawa. Some of our main projects were to provide more access to services—not just to the gym (one of our great victories was negotiating access for Trent students at Durham College), but also to personal and career counselling, accessibility services, more Academic Skills Centre courses, and one-on-one meetings, and easier access to academic advising.

Another goal was to create more of a Trent community on-site—something difficult to do when most faculty were there only long enough to teach one course a week. By 2002, with an increased student base, Trent was finally able to make some full-time teaching appointments, and these people have been the heart and soul of the operation ever since—and a tremendous resource for Oshawa students in and out of class.

2008

Trent’s offices are consolidated in the Simcoe Building providing the first dedicated space for Trent University on the Durham College/UOIT campus

First Research Day held to showcase research by Oshawa faculty and students

2009

Trent buys Thornton Road property

City of Oshawa support: 75-year lease of lands and access to athletics facilities for Trent students



2010

Thornton Road Campus opens

Trent University Oshawa Student Association is established

Business Administration Program established



2011-2014

Steady incline in enrolment

Increase in student services (Indigenous Cultural Councillor, Accessibility Advisor, Student Leadership Programming, Intramurals, etc.)

2014

Dr. Leo Groarke installed as president and vice-chancellor of Trent



Bachelor of Social Work Program, Human Resource Management Certificate, and FastStart entrepreneurship program established

2014/15

40th Anniversary

2015

Media Studies, and Communication and Critical Thinking Programs established

Change of campus name to Trent University Durham

“TRENT DURHAM ALUMNI MEMORIES”

As part of the 40th Anniversary of Trent University Durham, alumni have contributed stories for a permanent exhibition on campus. Here are highlights from some of these stories.

Days at Trent

NICK KONAROWSKI '10

I'm a history graduate who attended Trent from 2010 to 2014, with the final three years at Trent University Durham.

When I think back to my time at Trent, my first memories are of the freedom and flexibility that came with attending this campus. It was a relief to have so many different class options to fit around my schedule – and the fact that classes felt more friendly and intimate due to their small size made them that much better. But it was the flexibility within the classroom that made my time at Trent enjoyable. I'm a hockey fanatic, and the fact that I was able to partake in so many hockey-related class projects, whether they involved dissecting the Hockey Hall of Fame's exhibits, writing about the history of the Toronto Maple Leafs, or researching the evolution of women's hockey, was really a treat for me.

Also, I enjoy my bragging rights about the fact that my team won the first two road hockey championships at Trent!



Memories of Trent

KEELY OWENS-JAFFRAY '03

Ph.D. Student, Project Coordinator and Psychometrist in Oshawa Language and Cognition Lab

I attended classes in Oshawa while enrolled in the Applied Modelling and Quantitative Methods M.A program. I am now currently a Ph.D. student in the joint Trent-Queen's Psychology Program and continue to be primarily based in Oshawa throughout my studies.

Trent's emphasis on small class sizes and one-on-one teaching has enriched my education more than I thought possible. I have fond memories of hashing out research ideas over email, or passionately arguing about theoretical concepts over lunch with my supervisor and a close group of both undergraduate and graduate students. I have felt supported and encouraged throughout my academic career here at Trent University, and look forward continuing within it.



Past student/current faculty

BRENDA SMITH-CHANT '90

Associate Professor of Psychology

I am a Department of Psychology faculty member, and I have seen our campus grow from a few courses offered in Durham to a full psychology program—and now in an independent location on Thornton Road. I have taught there many times. The student composition has changed a little (fewer mature and transfer students, and more entry-from-high-school students), but what hasn't changed is the sense of Trent community and camaraderie. The faculty members know the students, and the students know each other. It makes me wonder if this is what Trent in Peterborough was like back at the beginning: a place of support and mentorship that exemplifies the spirit and meaning of academic mentorship.

Academic support and mentorship

My Trent Durham Story

WENDY DULYEA '01

English Literature

Trent University has indeed left a positive lasting impression in both my mind and heart. Trent University Durham's exceptional professors demonstrate supportive leadership skills to encourage and help students "make it." Trent's knowledgeable staff is noteworthy for their expertise and capability to help students succeed. Trent has a network of excellent students who developed together – some have even become lifelong friends. Trent upholds its reputable name for these reasons and more. My four memorable years at Trent have prepared me for the opportunities I am taking advantage of today as both a postgrad TESL student at Conestoga College and as an individual. I gained strategies to thrive, improve my self-esteem, continue personal growth,

Continued on the next page.



and develop my perseverance and dedication. Trent University prepared me by offering one-on-one attentiveness; their staff showed consideration of my academic needs and interest in my personal challenges. I hope to one day facilitate a classroom that maintains the same sense of warmth, equality, and personal triumph. Trent will always remain a valuable and life-changing experience for me.

My Trent Oshawa Experience
DENNIS MOLINARO '03

I wanted to share some of my past experiences at Trent University Durham. My days there were some of the best in my university career. The community was a tight-knit one; I had great support from wonderful faculty members who helped me in pushing the boundaries of my discipline. As a peer reviewer, I also tried to give back to other students and helped them manage university life. As a result of the great experiences I had at Trent, I was inspired to continue on in academia and completed my M.A. in history at Queen's University in 2008. In December 2014, I defended

my Ph.D. thesis in history at the University of Toronto. With four peer-reviewed academic book chapters/articles published and two book manuscripts in

progress, none of what I am doing now would have been possible had I not pursued a university education at Trent's Oshawa campus. I am grateful to that community—including friends, staff, and faculty—for making it a such a life-changing experience for me.

A tight-knit supportive community



To Trent University Durham, with Affection
RUTH WALKER '91

As a mother of four... I knew I needed more education if I had any hope of returning to a good job in the workforce. I must have rewritten my Trent application cover letter dozens of times. Accepted as a part-time mature student, I finally made it to the place I never thought I'd reach: Trent University.

Studying exclusively at the Durham campus, I reveled in the intimacy of the classrooms—in the discussions and seminars, in the readings and engaging lectures. There was not a single course I attended in which I did not gain new layers of knowledge and expertise. Most importantly,

Mature student success

I discovered my narrative voice in Comparative Literary Analysis 205. In that room, submitting creative work for the first time, I became a writer when the sessional instructor, Rachelle Lerner, wrote on my paper: "I don't normally comment on a student's creative work in this class but you have a strong narrative voice. Do you write?"

Bingo.

That was when I realized that I was, in fact, a writer!



A Few Memories About the Trent Days
SIMONE BARNARD '04

When my daughter was about to start junior kindergarten I realized I had better get an education so that I could support her on my own. I applied to Trent, and I can honestly say it was the best thing I ever did. Within my first year there, thanks to the support of staff, I had officially been diagnosed with a learning disability. The support I received from the disability office still warms my heart today! After four years, I successfully graduated with a B.A. in history and half a credit short of a minor in anthropology.

When I reflect on my days at Trent University Durham, I can honestly say they were some of my happiest days ever! The large majority of my professors were lovely, and the staff was always helpful and friendly. My mind was awakened and my confidence grew as, I for the first time ever, achieved something great!

I am now married and my daughter is almost 15 years old and in Grade 10. I run my own company and I am slowly working towards my master's degree in clinical counseling. I work with single moms, encouraging them to better themselves.

I look forward to a bright future, building on the educational foundation I received at Trent.

DURHAM ALUMNI PROFILE: LEON PRESNER '95

"I'm pretty sure I'm Oshawa's longest-running university student," laughs Trent Durham alumnus Leon Presner.

And he definitely has a case to support his assertion.

Presner enrolled in his first course in 1995 and graduated with a joint sociology/computer studies degree just last year.

"I started out taking a half course at a time, with the intention of ramping up," he admits. "I didn't want it to be a shock to take on too much—particularly while working full time."

And that full time job is one that requires full time attention. Presner is a police constable for the Regional Municipality of Durham providing police services in the Ajax/Pickering area for over 24 years.

"It's been interesting to see how my Trent coursework has informed my police work," he says. "I have a joint major in sociology/computer studies. But I also have a philosophy minor—I like asking the hard questions. The analytical side of my studies really comes into play with my work. You can be on the streets, or arriving at a domestic incident—or any type of investigation—and that ability to think outside the box, to see outside the lines, to view things in a new way, gives you a whole new set of tools."

Presner hopes to parlay his Trent experience into a new legal profession.

"I figure I need a job for when I grow up," he jokes. "After 25 years of policing, I'm almost set to retire. So I'm looking at becoming either a lawyer or paralegal. I've been part of prosecuting people for a long time. Now I'm looking at what it's like to be on the other side of this equation."

The close-knit nature of Trent Durham community also impacted him.



Profile

Leon Presner is flanked by Minister of Child and Youth Services Tracy MacCharles and Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne. Presner represented Durham Regional Police and Trent University at the 2014 Black History Month Proclamation.

"I never discount the importance of community—either as part of my job or away from it," says Presner.

As president and director of c Services for the Rotary Club of Pickering, he tries his best to serve the community that houses him.

"It definitely keeps me busy," he admits. "Between the administrative side of things and the various programs and events, there is a lot to do. But it is rewarding."

His view of the Trent Durham community?

"Incredibly tight," he exclaims. "There's a great atmosphere—with everyone knowing everyone. I gained some lifelong friends there."

"It was well worth the many years I spent there."



Learning Who I Wanted to Be CAITLIN DOUGHERTY '07

My favourite part of attending Trent was the fabulous people that I met and worked with; because of the smaller campus and class sizes, I was able to develop a relationship with many of my professors rather than being just a face in a sea of students. I had the opportunity to be a peer mentor, which allowed me to share my experience with other students and provide study tips and suggestions that I found helpful in my academic experience. In a huge way, it was my experience acting as an academic peer mentor, as well as

Positive lasting impressions

many of my favourite psychology courses, that led me to a career in teaching.

In 2011, I graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and continued to pursue my dream of teaching by attending the Bachelor of Education program at UOIT. Four years later, I've achieved my goal and have my dream job teaching Grade 1 French immersion in Whitby.

I fondly look back at my experience at Trent as four of the best years of my life. I learned so much about who I was, what I was capable of, and who I wanted to be. It is in many ways thanks to the support of my professors, academic advisors, friends, family, and my experience at Trent that I am where I am today.



Learning Who I Wanted to Be

BARBARA SHERIDAN '02

B.A. Psychology

I am a kindergarten teacher at Barrie Forest Kindergarten and a Trent University Durham alumna.

I will always remember when I returned to school after eight years. When I walked in, not only did two teachers recognize me and stop to chat, but so did our guidance counselor, Craig. Trent always felt like a family and the teachers got to know you and were concerned about your achievements.

It is also a place that encourages thought and questioning. I don't view education in the traditional sense, having worked in education advocacy as a part of my job (working with families who have children with special needs, and running therapy and education programs). I was a little unsure what I

Teachers who care

would face when I took a course focusing on education, but was very happy to discover that my teacher, Beth Visser, not only questioned the status quo surrounding education but also enjoyed hearing different sides. She was very open and knowledgeable about alternative schooling practices.

I wouldn't be the teacher I am... without my education and the many friendships with fellow students and the guidance of the teachers and staff—from the office to the library and everywhere between at Trent University Durham.

Support and Success

MAMTA VASWANI '10

B.A. Honours Psychology

My time at Trent University Durham was an extremely positive and rewarding experience. As a mature student, I really appreciated the flexibility and course options available—as well as the staff support. These made completing my degree while working on a full-time basis not only much easier, but also enjoyable. The support of academic counseling services, the library, staff, and of course, very supportive teaching assistants and faculty, was crucial to my success in not only completing my degree but doing so with highest academic standing of my graduating class. I am pleased to share that, after completing my degree at Trent, I was accepted into a graduate program in psychology, which I am currently pursuing.

A positive university experience



Finding My Voice

ABIGAIL WILSON '11

B.A. English Literature

[Trent was] three of the best years of my life. I cannot say enough about the Trent faculty and staff. I am still on a first-name basis with all of my English professors in Oshawa and Education faculty from Peterborough. Craig Cameron, the academic advisor, was always running in six different directions trying to do anything and everything he could to help every student in the school, yet he always had time for a quick hello or a question in the hallway. I have spent hours and hours in professors' offices (and not only the ones whom I had classes with), talking not only about assignments but anything and everything (like shoes!). I spent a comparable amount of time chatting with the library staff. Lectures were more like giant roundtable discussions, and nothing a student said was ever put down as wrong or silly.

One of my favourite memories from Trent was presenting at a student symposium. Again, showing how much Trent faculty care, I had received the school wide call for papers and had no interest or intention of submitting. However, a professor I had taken a class with the previous semester (and based out of Peterborough) emailed me to say that she had thought of my paper, and suggested I submit an abstract for consideration.

I thought I was going to be terrified to get up and present in front of a bunch of students and professors whose work seemed so much more important than mine, but when it was my turn I felt like I was talking to friends. To me, this is an example of the caring and commitment to student success of the Trent faculty and staff.

From Student to Teacher

NATALIE FOREST '02

B.A. Honours English Literature

In September 2014, I received keys for the contract faculty offices at Durham College. As I approached the designated door, I chuckled as I recalled crossing the very same threshold in 2002 when the offices belonged to Trent in Oshawa. For the next eight years, I followed those offices to the Simcoe building, and then to the Thornton Road campus. As a journeyman in my trade, I was in no hurry to complete my degree; however, with Trent's course offerings and accommodating faculty, I was easily able to navigate my way towards graduating. While earning my undergraduate degree I was able to successfully maintain two businesses, start a family, and build a future.

The Trent experience is unique. I am currently attending a Doctorate program at a large university where anonymity is the norm, and I am nostalgic for the small class sizes and personal atmosphere of the Thornton Road campus. The mentor-student relationships I developed with various Trent faculty members were sustained into both my M.A. and Ph.D. programs, and the professors continue to offer me professional guidance, as well as opportunities for scholarships, conferences, and publications.

Of all the colleges, universities, and corporate institutions I have attended, Trent is the most responsible for fostering my confidence and love of academia. As I develop my teaching methodologies, I am constantly looking back to how my experience at Trent was enhanced—a testament to the impression the campus has left.



A Comfortable and Engaging Space to Learn

BRITTNEY FORESTER '10

B.Sc. Honours Psychology

Although Trent University Durham has been educating and inspiring students in the Durham Region for 40 years, I was fortunate enough to enter my first year of undergraduate studies in the new, rejuvenated hallways of our Thornton Road Campus. Throughout my four years at Trent, I experienced many perspectives as a student, in-class facilitator, peer mentor, employee, and volunteer. The professors and staff of Trent were essential to the success of the campus. I had nothing but positive, memorable experiences with each professor with whom I collaborated throughout my degree. Our faculty members came equipped with unique knowledge and experiences to share, but their absolute specialty was fostering drive in our students and evoking critical thought.

Beyond the academic knowledge I acquired in the classroom setting, the amount of personal and professional growth I gained from being a part of the Trent community is unparalleled. The small class sizes allow for rich discussions among peers and the classroom atmosphere is a comfortable and engaging space to learn. We have an extremely positive campus culture—there is always something for everyone to be involved in. No matter one's future aspirations or interests, there is an abundance of extracurricular activities to choose from. As our campus is constantly evolving, it is very rewarding to know that we are aiding in Trent University Durham's growth and identity as much as the campus contributes to our own.

Evoking critical thought



Close-knit community



New ways to learn
ALLAN ANGUS '03

B.A. Honours Sociology

I am a person with a severe sensory disability, I am totally blind.

... [At Trent] I was able to attain all my textbooks in a digital format for an optimum learning experience.

With the guidance of my academic advisor, I began to

advocate for my accessibility needs and worked with both the library and the informational technology department to help them understand what I needed to successfully navigate all facets of the Trent “system.” As a result, I began to thrive in my academic life and my grades subsequently increased. I then connected with the student success centre where I found assistance that improved my overall writing skills.

In 2010, when Trent moved to their current location on Thornton Road, my academic advisor, many staff members, and several professors encouraged me to continue my post-secondary education. Colleagues with whom I worked on accessibility committees in the community were also proponents of my decision to apply to graduate school. I was honoured to have so many people willing to be a referee on my grad school applications. In 2013, armed with all the experience and expertise I had been provided through both my Trent experience and my extensive community advocacy, I was accepted at two graduate schools. I accepted a full-time MSW program at Windsor University and having only previously done part-time studies I was wary of what was to come! I can say with all confidence, that the training and skills I received at Trent University provided me with the tools to successfully graduate from this program with an A-grade point average.

Advocate for accessibility needs

I am now completing the last 10 weeks of my advanced practicum internship. I have gained the educational and technological skills I set out to gain in reinventing my identity back in 2003 and Trent was a key part of that journey. I am no longer worried about passing as a sighted person, I am a proud, happy, confident, and skilled blind person, prepared to participate and contribute in the twenty-first century.

Getting involved
SARAH GALLEN '09

B.A. Honours Psychology

When I started as a student at Trent University Durham, I immediately got involved by working with the Trent Oshawa Student Association (TOSA). It was a fantastic opportunity to contribute to student life in our new building. I then became the vice president of Campus Life for TOSA. I worked with the other executives to enhance student life on campus and was fortunate to have contributed to the growing sense of community at Trent University Durham.

Being involved truly helped me achieve academic success. I spent many long hours on weekends with statistics study groups, and made some incredible friends. I spent a lot of time collaborating with members of the faculty and learned a lot of new things about myself.

Many meaningful opportunities

I've been a full-time student, a part-time student, and a mature student—and I never felt out of place at Trent University Durham. The people there welcome everybody into all aspects of academics and student life. I also worked as a marketing and communications assistant, which enabled me to be involved in some amazing events such as TEDx Trent University, Black History Month, and a screening of *Our Man in Tehran*. I have recently graduated and am now working on the events for Trent University's 50th anniversary. But the event I'm most looking forward to is the 40th anniversary reception at Trent University Durham.

The sense of community and the amazing staff and faculty at Trent University Durham truly help you achieve your goals. When I look back on my time there, I realize that my experiences afforded me many opportunities. I have accomplished things that I never imagined I could, and it's all thanks to Trent University Durham.



Our Man in Tehran event

DURHAM ALUMNI PROFILE: SPENCER HAZE '09

Sometimes career aspirations take a while to come into focus.

Such was certainly the case with Spencer Haze. Currently on her way to finishing her Doctor of Medicine at McMaster University, Haze eyed a number of academic avenues before graduating from Trent University Durham with a degree in psychology.

When I started my undergraduate journey at Trent in Peterborough I didn't have a clear vision of what I wanted to study or what I wanted to do," she recalls. "But it quickly became clear it wasn't anthropology or forensics, my majors at the time."

Transferring to University of Toronto Scarborough Campus, Haze took a variety of courses. None of them appealed to her, and she was soon back at Trent for her third year of study—this time in Oshawa.

"But at least I had a plan!" she exclaimed. "I knew I wanted to balance my interests in the arts and sciences—and psychology was a great fit."

As with many Durham students, her transition was eased by the close-knit sense of community.

"I was immediately folded into the small but strong community of learners there," she says. "I was worried about transferring for the third time into second and third year courses but quickly realized that a fresh face stood out in the small group I shared classes with. And these friendly people were not about to let a new student go unwelcomed."

After obtaining her degree, Haze once again explored new avenues. While she successfully applied to law school, part of her wanted to continue that balance of arts and science.

"Which was when I decided to apply to medical school on a whim," she smiles.

Her time in Oshawa equipped her for success at McMaster.

"Trent in general is known for its focus on student learning success, but at the Durham campus knocking on professors' doors for a chat about a topic of interest was a daily reality. I was able to participate in research and learning experiences that would never have been possible at a larger school."

Like any good doctor, Haze stresses the importance of the social when it comes to holistic health.

"Healthy people have plenty of healthy relationships," she explains. "And I think what I remember most about Trent is the people. There's something about sharing knowledge with people who really value it that I feel is central to the university as an institution. This is often not present elsewhere, where high grades are more important than true understanding and personal growth. I will never forget those I met at Trent, nor will I forget the interesting perspectives they shared with me about life. Whenever someone asks me where I received my Bachelor's, I am more proud than I can say to tell them it was at Trent, and that I loved every minute of it."



Profile

Digging for Knowledge

ALEC MCLELLAN '05

B.A. Honours History

I am an archaeologist. I earned my B.A. in History and my M.A. in Anthropology at Trent University. I am a Ph.D. candidate at the University College London, United Kingdom. I have excavated Ancient Maya sites in Belize, Iron-Age Hill Forts in Wales, and Huron-Wendat villages in Ontario. I have travelled the world, pursuing a discipline that is both challenging and rewarding. But before I embarked on a life of study, I attended classes at Trent University Durham.

Before the Thornton Road campus opened, uniting the student body under a single banner, Trent in Oshawa was an unsure title—one used to describe a loose group of students that studied in the dark and quiet corners of Durham College and UOIT. Our classes were small, but our spirit was large. At Trent in Oshawa, I made strong and lasting connections with both students and professors. These connections carried me to where I am today.

**Strong and lasting
connections**



Trent University
55 Thornton Road South
Oshawa, ON
L1J 5Y1

Phone: 905-435-5100
Email: durham@trentu.ca
Fax: 905-435-5101