

in the NEWS

On Thursday, October 19 Trent professor Tom Hutchinson appeared on CBC *NewsWorld* to



discuss his rooftop garden at the University as well as the monitoring of urban pollution and its impact on crops. The coverage was associated with the federal government's new environmental proposals and targets.

"Breaking Down Barriers" was the title of an article in the Saturday, October 28 edition of the *The Toronto Star*, which featured Eunice Lund-Lucas, manager of Disability Services at Trent. In the article, Ms. Lund-Lucas discussed the increase in higher-needs students on Ontario campuses and the need for matching financial support.

Trent graduate Stacy Watson was featured in an article about the pros and cons of teaching overseas in the Sunday, October 29 edition of *The Toronto Star*. Ms. Watson taught English in Taiwan for a year and is now working with Oxford Seminars in Toronto, helping prepare people to teach overseas.



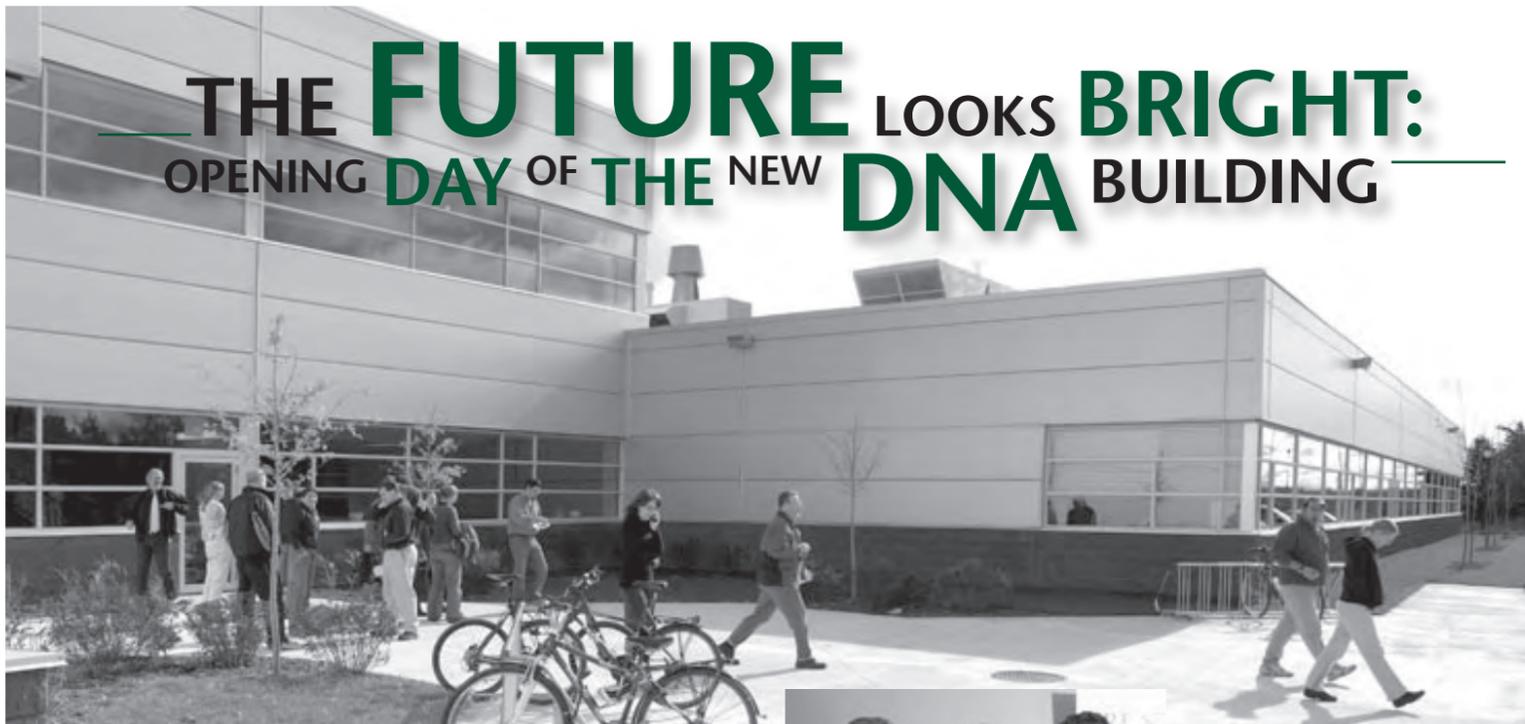
Trent Continuing Education instructor Michelle Berry's review of Adam Lewis

Schroeder's novel, *Empress of Asia*, appeared in the Saturday, October 14 edition of *The Globe and Mail*.

President Bonnie Patterson was interviewed about the opening of the new DNA Building at Trent University by local radio station CKPT on Friday, October 27.

In the Saturday, October 28 edition of the *Barrie Examiner*, Dr. James Schaefer, a biology professor at Trent, weighed in on the topic of making wildlife a planning priority for the provincial government. ☞

THE FUTURE LOOKS BRIGHT: OPENING DAY OF THE NEW DNA BUILDING



Friday, October 27 marked a great day for Trent University, and a great day for the future.

Amid throngs of dignitaries, community leaders, and Trent students and staff, President Bonnie Patterson proudly announced the official opening of the new DNA Building in a special event on October 27.

Right: David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources and Peterborough Mayor, Sylvia Sutherland



During her opening presentation, President Patterson remarked enthusiastically how "the DNA program and the new DNA Building represent one example of how Trent University is strategically raising its national profile and showcasing its teaching and research excellence in DNA Forensics."

A multi-purpose facility, the DNA Building serves as home to Trent's Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensics Centre (NRDPFC) and houses 56 researchers and staff from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The NRDPFC is built upon a key partnership between Trent University and the MNR, and is dedicated to wildlife forensics. Researchers affiliated with the NRDPFC have been involved in groundbreaking wildlife DNA research since 1998.

All levels of government were key partners in the development of the new facility.

Representatives from each were on hand to celebrate this historic occasion, including Dean Del Mastro, MP for Peterborough; the Honourable David Ramsay, Minister of Natural Resources; Jeff Leal, Peterborough MPP; and Mayor Sylvia Sutherland.

Over the course of the morning, more than 80 guests from government, granting agencies and media participated in organized tours. These tours highlighted the Automation Lab, featuring robotic equipment that can rapidly process thousands of wildlife DNA samples, the Post Mortem Lab which is used to examine wildlife specimens to collect diagnostic samples or evaluate the cause of death, and the Forensics Teaching Lab, designed specifically for the Trent-Fleming forensics degree program.

Following the tours, guests enjoyed brief presentations by Professors Neil Emery and Craig Brunetti showcasing their leading-edge DNA research. In the afternoon, open house tours were conducted for Trent staff, faculty and students.

It is the integrated nature of this facility that makes it so unique, combining teaching, research and commercial functions. Minister Ramsay was delighted to see the results of all the hard work from so many partners, commenting that "we believe this is a well-placed investment, and an



Trent President Bonnie Patterson thanks Peterborough MPP Jeff Leal and MP Dean Del Mastro.

exciting opportunity for MNR staff to strengthen their working relationship with Trent University faculty and students."

Trent students are equally excited about the new building. While holding a 4,000 year-old whale bone used in her research, Ph.D student Brenna McLeod explained, "there is now a greater opportunity to share expertise between students, while increasing the calibre and appeal of graduate students." The new DNA Building will contribute to Trent's reputation as a major centre for DNA profiling, forensics, automation, and diagnostics, and providing students and faculty with access to the latest technology and research laboratories.

The DNA Building is the first phase of a multi-level development for the Peterborough Regional DNA Cluster, a multi-party collaboration among Trent University, Fleming College, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the City of Peterborough, the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation (GPAEDC) and the private sector. Ground for the building was broken in July 2005 and the first occupants moved in on August 14, 2006. ☞



Trent President Bonnie Patterson

STEP INSIDE

THE NEW DNA BUILDING



Ph.D. student
Brenna McLeod

Once you enter the new DNA Building, it is clear to see how it is gaining renown as one of the most technologically impressive buildings at Trent University.

While the outer shell of the DNA Building reflects the campus's natural surroundings through its use of stone and metal; the inner spaces are an expression of functionality and flexibility. Modular in design, the building houses a combination of wet and dry laboratories, some of which are organized in a traditional layout while others are open-concept. Laid out in a grid-like design, the open-concept labs can be reconfigured quickly in order to adapt to ever-evolving scientific needs.

The single and semi two storey building also places a strong emphasis on shared research space. Housing labs and office space for Trent faculty, Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) staff, and independent researchers from companies such as Genopod Inc., a manufacturer of DNA sample containers and lab-related electronic equipment, the DNA Building provides an environment that is conducive to teaching, learning, and discovery on a variety of levels.

DNA-related technology is rapidly transforming the world

by creating opportunities for new processes, services, and innovations that will revolutionize the way we live.

Research Highlights

Here are a few examples of the kinds of research taking place in the new DNA Building at Trent University:

"Food of the future" capable of increasing Canada's agricultural competitiveness

For Dr. Neil Emery, the legume family – lentils, peas, chick peas and beans – holds enormous potential for Canada's agricultural industry. Not only are they extremely healthy to eat, they are environmentally friendly because they produce their own nitrogen fertilizer. Thanks to a new state-of-the-art greenhouse (the first of its kind in Canada) and DNA research facility at Trent, Prof. Emery can now zero in on the growth hormones in legumes with a goal to increasing plant yields. One of the world's leading experts in the study of plant hormones, Prof. Emery calls these plants the "food of the future." His research could transform Canada into a major exporter of high-yield legumes,

improving the health of local populations and farming practices worldwide.

What can a 10,000-year-old whale bone tell us about the future?

Analyzing the genetic diversity of today's most threatened whale species is key to predicting their future survival. Ph.D. graduate student Brenna McLeod at Trent University compares present-day whale bones to historic samples that are 400 to 10,000 years old in order to study the diversity of Right whale and Bowhead whale populations. Now with access to the best wildlife DNA research facilities in Canada, Ms. McLeod's work is accelerating, and her findings are providing fascinating clues to why Bowheads are recovering more quickly than their Right whale cousins. ☞



Chris Kyle prepares bear fur samples.

Facilities

- 57,900 square feet
- Wet and dry laboratories
- Aurora greenhouse. First of its kind in Canada – able to strictly control climate to a maximum variation of 1 degree Celsius
- Post Mortem Lab; Examination room designed for performance of animal necropsies; ceiling-mounted monorail crane runs along a track out to receiving door for transfer of large animal remains
- Large lecture hall
- 2 seminar rooms and 2 classrooms (220 total seat capacity)
- Forensics teaching lab
- Office space for faculty and staff of Trent and the OMNR

In addition, with safety and security as top priorities, the building is equipped with a powerful diesel generator to supply back-up power to operate essential equipment, such as lab refrigerators and freezers, coolers, the greenhouse, and life-safety systems.

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Prof. Neal McLeod wins literary award

Faculty and students who have met Neal McLeod since his arrival at Trent last July will already be familiar with his in-depth knowledge of Cree history, Indigenous knowledge systems and great storytelling abilities. What they might not know, however, is that he is also an award-winning poet.

One of two new members of the Indigenous Studies department, Prof. Neal McLeod learned recently that his book of poetry, entitled *Songs to Kill a Wíhtikow* just won the Anskohk Aboriginal Festival Literature Award for Poetry Book of the Year (2006). The announcement came during a special gala held September 30 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

"It was a great honour when I heard my book was chosen," Prof. McLeod said when asked about his accomplishment. Organized by the Saskatchewan Native Theatre Company, Prof. McLeod is grateful for this recognition from fellow artists and credits the support given to him over the years from his artistic mentors, including writer Alan Safarik and publisher Paul Wilson of Hagios Press.

Creative expression has long been an integral part of Prof. McLeod's life. His passions have led him into an eclectic range of artistic pursuits, such as painting, poetry, filmmaking, and leading the Bionic Bannock Boys, a popular Indigenous comedy troupe. The troupe's October 21 performance in Regina was recorded by the CBC for future broadcast.

While living on the prairies, Prof. McLeod was also a founding member of the Crow Hop Café, a regular local talent event showcasing Regina's cultural scene that reached legendary proportions. Starting in 2000 as an open stage, by 2003 it reached its heyday drawing audiences of up to 600 people who came to enjoy the performance, including everything from musical acts to comedy sketches and poetry readings.

Prof. McLeod is excited to be part of the Trent community, and looks forward to encouraging students both in their higher learning and



Prof. Neal McLeod

creative interests. "It is possible to be an academic and an artist and poet as well. Art and writing are powerful. They give people something to believe in," explained Prof. McLeod about the importance of creative

pursuits. "Art gives people hope when all else fails."

Prof. McLeod feels his experiences out west lend a valuable Western perspective to the Indigenous Studies department, as well as a strong understanding of the Cree language for the benefit of his undergraduate and graduate students. Originating from the James Smith Cree First Nation in Saskatchewan, he taught for ten years at the First Nations University of Canada in Regina before joining Trent. His academic specializations and research interests include Cree culture and history, oral history, treaties, Indigenous philosophy, religion, art and political history.

In addition to completing his Ph.D. at the University of Regina, Prof. McLeod has also studied at the Umeå Konsthögskola (Swedish Academy of Fine Arts

at Umeå). His paintings have been exhibited across Canada, most recently in 2005 at Le Musée national des beaux-arts in Quebec City.

So, now that he's an award-winning poet, what's next for Prof. McLeod? "I would write regardless of winning awards," he says. Among his current projects is a second book of poetry, entitled *Gabriel's Beach*, inspired by the stories of his grandfather, a WWII veteran who landed on Juno Beach during the D-Day invasion of 1944.

He's also looking forward to spending more time with Trent students, who he describes as "very hard-working, very respectful, and very intelligent." He finds the teaching environment here particularly inspiring, and the perfect complement to his creative endeavours. "It's nice to work with the students because it feeds your own work." ☞

"Art and writing are powerful. They give people something to believe in. Art gives people hope when all else fails."

After being introduced to South African history at her high school in Leamington, Ontario, fourth-year Trent student Megan Whitfield “just fell in love with it.” Little did she know that, in a couple of years’ time, while pursuing her dream of becoming a teacher in the Queen’s-Trent Concurrent Education program, she would have the opportunity to study South African history first-hand, as part of Trent’s renowned Study Abroad program.

“I never thought in a million years I would have this kind of experience,” Ms. Whitfield says. “It truly was an experience like no other.”

Ms. Whitfield became interested in the Study Abroad option when she came across an information booth for the Trent International Program during Introductory Seminar Week. Shortly thereafter she met another student who was planning on studying in South Africa. The two kept in contact and, after her new friend returned with rave reviews of her experience, Ms. Whitfield “knew right then that I wanted to apply.”

Ms. Whitfield had done some travelling before but never to South Africa and never on her own. Excited to begin this new adventure, she boarded a plane and after

“AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER:” STUDYING ABROAD IN SOUTH AFRICA

a 42-hour long trip, and an unexpected airline strike, she arrived at her new home – the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

Arriving a week before classes began, Ms. Whitfield participated in a series of orientation activities where she met other international students and was paired up with a local student. It was this connection to the local community that she anticipated the most, saying: “If you stay within the City Centre or the university community, it is almost like you never left North America. Some international students are content with just socializing with other international students but there were many of us who wanted to truly experience the local culture.”

Experiencing the local culture was exactly what Ms. Whitfield had in mind

“There were things that I learned through this program that I could not have learned anywhere else.”

when she enrolled in an Afrikaans language course at the University.

“It was so worthwhile to take a course in another language – it reinforces how you learn,” she says. “It broadened my knowledge of how language affects culture. In Canada,

different cultures are very mixed but in South Africa, they remain very distinct – each culture is different. There are 11 official languages and each language has its own distinct culture.”

She further engrossed herself in the local cultures by traveling to a variety of different places, including Durban, a nearby coastal town with beautiful beaches, and Swaziland, where she had been invited home by a fellow university student.

When discussing the South African experiences that made the most impact, however, Ms. Whitfield recalls two distinct opportunities where she was

able to engross herself into the local communities. One such experience came through her volunteer work with the Salvation Army where she tutored children after school. It was here that she also worked with children with HIV and AIDS, and where she and her fellow international students planned a feast for the local people. The second experience, which Ms. Whitfield describes as “one of the most rewarding of my life,” was a week-long excursion to Zimbabwe where she interacted with local communities and camped out under the stars.

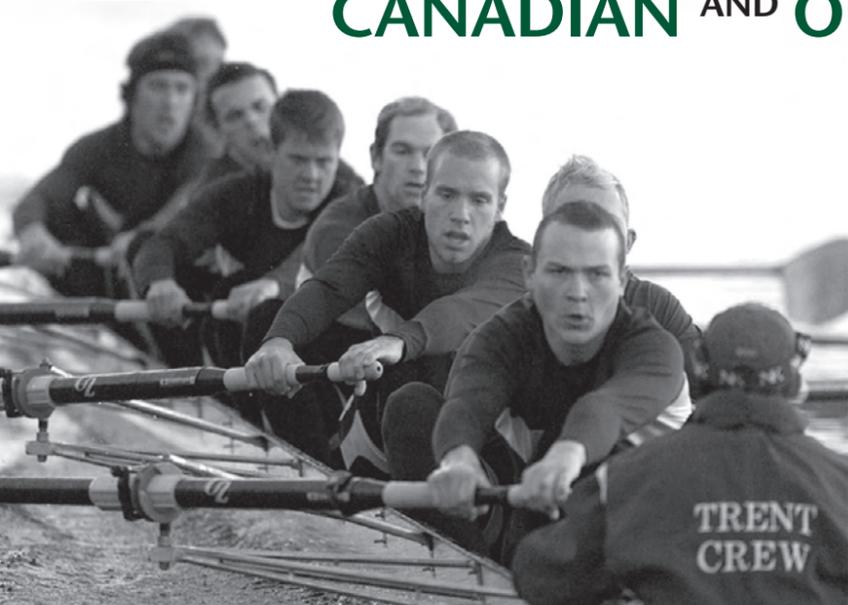
“At night it was like I was seeing the stars for the first time,” she recalls. “There was

no electricity for hundreds of miles and I could actually see the Milky Way. I have never seen a sky like that before.”

Now back in Canada, Ms. Whitfield describes her experience in South Africa as “life-changing”, saying: “It may not be a noticeable difference but, to me, I feel completely different.” And she is grateful to Trent for granting such a significant opportunity: “Trent is really open to allowing you to have many different experiences,” she says. “There were things that I learned through this program that I could not have learned anywhere else.”



TRENT ROWERS BRING HOME CANADIAN AND OUA GOLD



Trent rowers and their coaches achieved phenomenal success on the water in the recent Ontario University Athletic (OUA) Championships held in St. Catharines on October 27 to 29. A couple of gold medals were handed out and two Trent coaches received the ultimate recognition by taking

home OUA Coach of the Year honours. For Trent University’s women’s heavy eight, this was the first time they have ever won a gold medal at the OUA finals.

Thanks to these exceptional results, both of Trent’s men’s and women’s rowing teams earned a berth in the Canadian University Rowing Association National Finals, which were held from November 3 to 5, also in St. Catharines. At the

event Trent’s heavy men’s pair captured the gold.

Coach Carol Love won the OUA Women’s Rowing Coach of the Year for her work with the Trent women’s rowing team. Ms. Love coached the women’s heavy eight crew who took home the gold medal on Saturday afternoon, defeating their season-rival Western in a dramatic finish.

“It was really exciting to see – it went right down to the line,” said Carol Love when describing the race. The women’s lightweight eight team also earned a medal – taking home the bronze. In the overall women’s weekend results, the entire Trent team was awarded a bronze medal, representing a major improvement over last year’s team scores.

On the men’s side, the Trent novice men’s eight team also took home a gold medal at the OUA Championships. Adding to the excitement of the win, their coach, Glen MacVichie, was named OUA Novice Men’s Coach of the Year. In addition,

Ed Rushdon won a bronze medal in the heavyweight men’s single event, the lightweight men’s double team won a bronze medal, and the heavyweight men’s four won a bronze medal.

TRENT SOCCER: BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE



Trent’s varsity soccer program poised for a continued rise in university athletics.

Athletics and recreation director, Bill Byrick, credits the teams’ success with both the improved facilities as well as the excellence in coaching brought to the Trent program by Mr. Bolton, saying: “The professionalism being showcased by coaches such as Claude is inspiring students and taking our teams to new levels. He is a coach who knows what has to be done in order to run a successful program.”

It is clear that Trent soccer has a great leader in Coach Bolton. Planning and execution will continue to be key components of this program, as will ongoing effort towards recruitment.

Trent Hosts Indigenous Dance World Premiere

From November 2 to November 5, Nozhem: the First Peoples Performance Space in Enweyng came alive as it hosted the world premiere of *The Threshing Floor* – a breathtaking new duet created, choreographed, and performed by Santee Smith and Michael Greyeyes. *Indian Blue*, a theatrical piece by Carol Greyeyes that was originally produced for the Fringe Festival in Saskatoon, was also featured. Both works explored, from a variety of perspectives, Indigenous journeys through the past, present, and future. Marrie Mumford, the Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Arts and Literature at Trent University, was the artistic director for the performances.



Col. Chris Hadfield (right) poses with Trent students

Students Wowed by Renowned Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield

“Up is wherever your head is,” said Canadian Astronaut Chris Hadfield in describing the experience of weightlessness to a captivated crowd of more than 375 at Trent University during a special visit from the Canadian Space Agency on Thursday, October 26. Throughout his talk, Col. Hadfield regaled the audience, which included students from local schools and members of the community, with facts and anecdotes about his experiences in a zero gravity environment.

Col. Hadfield is best known for his work as Mission Specialist 1 on NASA’s second space shuttle mission to rendezvous and dock with the Russian Space Station Mir in 1995. He was the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm in orbit, and is the only Canadian to ever board Mir. In 2001, he was a member of the crew of Space Shuttle Endeavour, which delivered and installed Canadarm2. On this voyage he also became the first Canadian to ever leave a spacecraft and float freely in space.

Award-Winning Students

Geron Bindseil, a fourth year Trent Physics student, was recently awarded a \$500 McGraw-Hill Ryerson Student Scholarship Award. Mr. Bindseil was one of twenty students to be chosen from over 300 applicants, and recognized for integrity, initiative, and impact on professors, classes and fellow students.

Queen’s-Trent Concurrent Education student, Ainsley Latour, has been awarded the \$2,000 Joseph W. Atkinson Scholarship from the Ontario College of Teachers Foundation. A hard-of-hearing student, Ms. Latour applied for the scholarship in hopes of raising awareness of disability issues in the education profession.

impact of the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). The exhibit was developed by the Spanish Embassy to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the Spanish Civil War.

Trent Appoints Dr. Elizabeth McGregor

In October, President Bonnie Patterson announced the appointment of Dr. Elizabeth McGregor as a senior research associate for the University. Dr. McGregor will be involved in developing scientific research and internationalization initiatives for the University as part of a one-year Executive Interchange agreement with Industry Canada.

An internationally-recognized scholar and motivational speaker, Dr. McGregor specializes in ethical and gender issues in the fields of biotechnology and life sciences. A native of the Peterborough region, Dr. McGregor is excited to be back in her hometown contributing to the success of Trent University.

Re-Envisioning Relationships Conference at Trent

The “Re-Envisioning Relationships” Conference, held at Trent from November 2 to 5 was an historic gathering focusing on Aboriginal/non-Aboriginal alliances and coalitions for social and environmental justice. Over the weekend, prominent Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal leaders, activists, and academics met to discuss how they can work effectively in alliances and coalitions to pursue their goals of Indigenous rights, social and environmental justice.

The conference attracted many well-known keynote speakers, including: Sam George (brother of the late Aboriginal activist Dudley George); Beverly Jacobs (President, Native Women’s Association of Canada); and Kenneth Deer and Jennifer Preston from the Coalition on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Making of Picasso’s Guernica Displayed at Trent

From October 30 to November 10, Trent University’s Bata Library was home to an exhibit featuring a true masterpiece – Pablo Picasso’s famous *Guernica*. The free exhibit featured a multimedia presentation which explores the history of the painting, considered to be one of the twentieth century’s most compelling works of art, and the global



Students and Employers Connect at Career Fair

This year’s annual Career Fair, which took place on Wednesday, October 18, was the busiest yet. Thirty employers representing a range of fields, including the Canadian government, the financial sector, teaching institutions, and health services, were on-hand to promote their upcoming recruitment opportunities as well as to provide a wide range of career-related and job search questions to Trent students, highlighting the benefits of a Trent University degree in the workplace. Also present were representatives from CBC Radio, who were on campus in support of the national Peter Gzowski Internship program.

New University Librarian Appointed



Following an extensive national competition, Trent University is pleased to announce the appointment of Robert F. Clarke, MLS, to the position of university librarian. In this role, Mr. Clarke will be overseeing the development of the Bata Library’s learning resources, research tools, and both virtual and material collections to support students and faculty. In addition to providing leadership and direction for the Library, Mr. Clarke will also serve as a member of the academic administrative team at Trent University.

Mr. Clarke comes to Trent after spending 18 years in progressive leadership positions in the libraries of McGill University. In addition to receiving his Master of Library Science degree from McGill, he speaks three languages, and has been actively involved with the Canadian Association of University Teachers, Special Libraries Association and the Corporation of Professional Librarians of Quebec. Mr. Clarke starts his new position at Trent University on January 1, 2007.

Left: Pablo Picasso’s *Guernica*

UPCOMING events

www.trentu.ca

November 12: Reading of Alex Poch-Goldin’s new play, *The Right Road to Pontypool*, at the Peterborough Centennial Museum, 2:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by Champlain College.

November 16: Workshop on publishing your play professionally with playwright Jennifer Sipos. Champlain College Master’s Lodge/ Alumni House, 7:30 p.m.

November 20: Gwynne Dyer, Canadian journalist, producer, and military analyst, returns to Trent to discuss emerging global issues involving China and the West, Wenjack Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Event is open to the public. No charge for admission.

November 22: RCMP Info Session, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Gzowski College room 345. To register call 1-877-888-0433.

November 23: Address by the Hon. Flora MacDonald. Location and time TBA. Free and open to the public.

November 23: Academic All-Canadian Reception, Athletic Complex, 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

November 23: Theory Culture and Politics Speaker Series continues with Prof. David Holdsworth from Trent. Traill College Lecture Hall, 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

November 29: Script writer and dramatist, Shirley Barrie, will speak about her experiences as a writer for a new television medical drama set in Johannesburg, 7:30 p.m., Champlain College Council Chambers.

November 30: Katherine Barber, editor-in-chief of *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*, 2006/2007 Rooke Lecture Series. Peterborough Public Library, 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

December 8: Last day of classes. ☺

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