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LEARNING TO MAKE A WORLD OF **DIFFERENCE**
AT TRENT UNIVERSITY

TRENT

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The Many Rewards *of Teaching Excellence*

"Without Emilia, I would not have become a philosophy major. I have no doubt that the conversations we have had, inside and outside of the classroom, have changed for the better the way I see the world and the way I live in it."

– Iris Hodgson, fourth-year Trent student

When talking about Trent University philosophy professor, Dr. Emilia Angelova, inspirational student testimonials like this one are abundant. And with such glowing reviews, it comes as no surprise that Prof. Angelova has been selected as the 2008 recipient of the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching, the University's most prestigious teaching honour.

To read more about Prof. Angelova and her award-winning approach to teaching, see page 2.

"I want to pass on my enthusiasm for the art of learning." – Dr. Emilia Angelova



Prof. Angelova with her husband Dr. David Morris, professor of Philosophy at Trent.

A Passionate Dedication to Teaching

With expertise in the areas of 20th Century continental Philosophy, French and German existentialism, and feminist theory, Professor Emilia Angelova contributes greatly to the diversity of perspectives in Trent's Philosophy program, one of its defining features. Combine her academic knowledge with her passionate dedication to teaching and commitment to enhancing the learning experience for all of her students, and you have the recipe for a truly remarkable professor.

"Professor Angelova's teaching style is unique to the academic realm due to her enthusiasm and encouragement of the individual rather than just the collective," says second-year student Stephanie Bailey, who has taken two courses with Prof. Angelova. "She is very passionate about the material she teaches, and she spreads that passion on to her students with an attentive enthusiasm and kindness."

Educated in Bulgaria, Prof. Angelova completed a Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, during which time she heard many great things about Trent University's dedication to teaching and a commitment to the individual student. In 1999, Prof. Angelova took her first sessional teaching position at Trent and in 2003, joined the Department of Philosophy on a full-time basis.

"At Trent, excellence in teaching is a prerequisite. It's an honour and a pleasure to be part of such a community of accomplished people across the generations." – Prof. Angelova

In reference to teaching at Trent, Prof. Angelova says proudly, "At Trent, excellence in teaching is a prerequisite. It's an honour and a pleasure to be part of such a community of accomplished people across the generations."

Encouraging Independent Thought

For Prof. Angelova, teaching is all about encouraging excellence in her students and helping them reach their full potential. "I work to encourage independent thinking in my students. I like to guide my students – help them develop the foundations for their own work,"

"Trent's smaller class sizes have given Prof. Angelova the opportunity to bond and share with students, and she has embraced this to the benefit of the countless individuals who have gotten to know her and who she has helped in some way or another." – Iris Hodgson, Trent Student

Talk about Teaching

she says, adding, "It seems to be a successful approach because a good number of students who have followed me through the years, have developed an interest in pursuing Philosophy."

Second-year Philosophy student, Daniel Siksay agrees with Prof. Angelova's assessment wholeheartedly, saying, "Emilia makes room for interested students to go further than what is presented in class. I leave Emilia's workshops with my mind full of new ideas, directions, and possibilities, and unquestionably these experiences in Emilia's courses are among the most rewarding I have had at Trent."

Ms. Bailey, Prof. Angelova was the reason she chose to pursue Philosophy in her academic career. "Attending the first class I had with Emilia broadened my love and understanding for Philosophy in a way that has been monumental to my academic career. Prior to taking her Existentialism course, I hadn't considered Philosophy as part of my joint major, a month into it I had changed my major in part to Philosophy," she says.

Prof. Angelova inspires her students in the classroom through assigning challenging readings and assignments and by encouraging vigorous and topical discussion and debate. To ensure students are getting the most out of her courses, Prof. Angelova uses small group seminars to facilitate critical thinking.

This small group environment is also more conducive to ensuring students have a true understanding of the material.



"Professor Angelova is the breath of fresh air that every teaching establishment needs." – Stephanie Bailey, Trent Student

"Philosophical concepts are difficult," Prof. Angelova explains. "For me, it's important to have a question and answer period after even ten minutes of exposition."

This approach is easier to achieve in a seminar rather than a large lecture. These seminars also lend themselves better to engrossing discussion among her students where she can sit back and act as facilitator. Prof. Angelova cites this as one of her favourite parts about teaching at Trent.

Facilitating the "Aha" Moments

When asked how she believes her students would describe her, Prof. Angelova smiles before saying, "Approachable, demanding, and serious. But also eager to make them learn and get them interested in the material." She adds with a laugh, "I do teach difficult courses, everyone knows that."

Her students would confirm this to be an accurate description; most would also state that the challenging nature of Prof. Angelova's classes is what makes them memorable and worthwhile. "I find that there is an "AHA!" moment in every

class, when the picture Emilia has been painting reveals itself in a thought-provoking and often astounding manner," says Mr. Siksay.

Prof. Angelova's impressive approach to teaching extends itself to her work with graduate students within the Centre for the Study of Theory, Culture and Politics at Trent. At the graduate level, she finds a different realm of thought and additional challenges. "This has given me truly more than I anticipated in terms of learning about teaching," she says.

Sought After by Students

Teaching at Trent is a rewarding experience for Prof. Angelova in several ways. Not only does teaching contribute to her own personal growth and development, it also presents an opportunity to witness the personal and academic growth of her students.

"The reason why Emilia is the one who has received the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching is because of her dedication to the individuals in her class as people and as students," says Iris Hodgson, a fourth year student and one of Prof. Angelova's nominators. "In addition to her teaching, Emilia becomes a great friend and mentor to many students. This makes her sought after by students, who often continue to take her classes year after year. Trent's smaller class sizes have given her the opportunity to bond and share with students, and she has

embraced this to the benefit of the countless individuals who have gotten to know her and who she has helped in some way or another."

In response to winning the award, Prof. Angelova says modestly, "I feel really honoured. It makes me proud of my teaching but this sense of pride is shared – it's also an award for my students, I really mean that. Without the excellence of these students, my skills as a teacher wouldn't have developed."

Looking to the future, Prof. Angelova is eager to continue her own personal growth as teacher and mentor to future Trent students. "This is a great recognition, but it's only a beginning," she says. "I feel even more committed to teaching at this level and I certainly don't feel I have exhausted the limit of good teaching – the field is limitless." ☺

Prof. Angelova will be presented with the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching at Trent University's spring Convocation ceremonies to be held June 4, 5 and 6. To read more about the 2008 Convocation ceremonies at Trent see our special section on pages 6 and 7 or visit www.trentu.ca/convocation



Boipelo Oitsile graduate student in Trent's History M.A. program

an interesting project related to the history of liberation struggles in Southern Africa."

For Ms. Oitsile the opportunity to be a member of the first class in the History M.A. program at Trent represents the chance to expand her own horizons and gain access to new knowledge. "The more I read, the more I get to learn. There are things I thought I knew, but I realize I never knew them until now, with more access to various reading materials."

It is this knowledge Ms. Oitsile will carry with her as she moves forward in the graduate program. She also hopes to transfer her new experiences into a future career as a university professor in Botswana. When asked why she wants to pursue a career in teaching, Ms. Oitsile pauses before saying, "There's just something about teachers that makes me want to be one too." ☺

The Next Step: Grad Studies at Trent

Forging a New Future

When a poster advertising a new Master's program in History at Trent University caught her eye, Boipelo Oitsile started on a journey that would change her life.

Ms. Oitsile first saw the poster about a year ago while walking the halls of the University of Botswana, where she was a student. At the time, she hadn't yet considered pursuing a graduate degree and had no idea where Trent was or what the program was all about but she felt inclined to seek more information and apply.

When she received her acceptance letter, Ms. Oitsile decided the opportunity to study history abroad, in a brand new program at a world-renowned university was too good to pass up. The financial scholarships she received as an international student sealed the deal so she packed her bags and travelled overseas, for the first time, to begin her studies at Trent.

"Everything was a first time for me," Ms. Oitsile recalls, referencing how she had never been to Canada before and how, on the day she arrived, she saw her first snowfall. "I arrived during one of worst snowstorms. It was incredible. I was so shocked!"

"The more I read, the more I get to learn." – Boipelo Oitsile

In spite of the bad weather, Ms. Oitsile felt at home at Trent almost immediately. As the first international student to join the History M.A. program, she received a warm welcome from staff within both the History Department and the Trent International Program (TIP).

"Everyone has been so great," Ms. Oitsile says, before adding with a smile, "I think Canadians, all of them, are nice people."

One person in particular whom Ms. Oitsile credits with assisting her with the transition to life in Canada and at Trent is Dr. Tim Stapleton, head of the History Department at Trent, and her Master's thesis supervisor. Prof. Stapleton is an historian of Africa, with specific research interests focusing on South Africa and Zimbabwe. It was a perfect fit for Ms. Oitsile, whose Master's research focuses on the role of Botswana in the liberation struggles of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

"When you have a close relationship with a prof, it helps you to open up," Ms. Oitsile says of her relationship with Prof. Stapleton.

Prof. Stapleton is equally as complementary about his new student. "There are many reasons why I am particularly pleased to have Boipelo as a student in our new History M.A. program," he says. "Her application was a result of my visit to Botswana in May 2007 where I represented Trent on a WUISC delegation; her presence here contributes to a growing relationship between Trent and the University of Botswana, and she is embarking on



Peer Mentoring

Creates Community at Trent in Oshawa

The concept behind the Peer Mentoring program at Trent University in Oshawa is a simple one. "It's about students helping students – students getting together, talking about academic ideas, sharing experiences at Trent and sharing knowledge," explains fourth-year student and Peer Mentoring co-coordinator Aili Palonen.

The peer mentoring concept was first introduced on Trent's Peterborough campus in 2000. A year later the program found its roots at Trent University in Oshawa, where it is now an important component of the student experience in Durham.

"We are a largely commuter-based campus," explains Craig Cameron, academic advisor and staff coordinator of the Peer Mentoring program. "This program creates opportunities for students to make connections and take advantage of the many opportunities and services offered here."

Second-year student and newly appointed peer mentor, Katy Guthenberg agrees, saying, "Without peer mentoring, there would be a lot of 'floaters.' People would come to campus, go to class and go home. This program allows students to make connections."

The concept of making connections lies at the heart of this flourishing program. Thirty-five student peer mentors are tasked each year with making sure all Trent University in Oshawa students, especially those in their first year, find their place within the University community and have the support they need to succeed.

"There is definitely a need for a support system like this for students to connect on a personal level, with other students, not just professors," explains Rosa Telep, a fourth-year English student and member of the peer mentoring team.

While the Peer Mentoring program recognizes the importance of academic support for students, it also places emphasis on the social aspects student life. As such, the mentors play a significant role in various events, such as New Student Orientation, Open Houses and other social events. "The peer mentors are very much ambassadors for Trent in Oshawa," says Mr. Cameron.

With such an important role to play, it is no surprise that the students who are

selected as peer mentors are all outgoing, high achieving men and women interested in making a difference in the lives of their fellow students.

When asked why a student should volunteer as a peer mentor at Trent University in Oshawa, fourth-year student and co-coordinator of the Peer Mentoring program, A.J. Rowley says, "This is a place to make yourself and to achieve great personal gain towards any goal – peer mentoring can help you achieve those goals. It's also about not just helping yourself; it's about helping others as well."

Fellow mentor, Rosa Teleps agrees, saying, "The bottom line is that by getting involved you will enrich your memories of your university experience." 

"The peer mentors are very much ambassadors for Trent in Oshawa." – Craig Cameron



Meet a Trent Student

Emily Home Benefits from a Passport to Trent

Emily Home has been destined to become a Trent University student for as long as she can remember. In 2007, that destiny was realized when she started her first year and in 2011, she will become the third member of her family to receive a degree from Trent University; both her parents are also Trent graduates. "Trent has always been very much a part of our lives," she says. "It was always somewhere I considered going after high school."

Ms. Home's destined path to Trent has been clear since the day she was born. Not only does she have an existing family legacy at the University, she also has the distinction of being a Passport to Trent Baby – one of nine children born in Peterborough on October 17, 1989, Trent's 25th anniversary. Through a special University initiative to mark the anniversary, all children born in Peterborough on that day (including Ms. Horne) were offered free tuition to Trent, when ready to apply.



By the time Ms. Home was sending out applications for universities, she had her pick of locations, graduating from her high school in Kingston with a 96 per cent average. But it was at Trent where she knew she would find her home.

She was accepted at other schools, with scholarship opportunities," her mother, Heather Home, explains. "But I think Trent's tutorial system and small class sizes are well suited to Emily. Trent allows students to get more out of an undergraduate degree than some other, larger institutions do."

Ms. Home echoes her mother's statements when she says, "Trent has a great vibe; it appealed to me because it's a small, liberal and tolerant school. I also noticed other schools weren't offering what Trent does – Indigenous Studies and Canadian Studies are programs you can't find in many other schools."

For this Canadian Studies and Politics major, these unique course offerings were paramount in her decision on where to study. And since her arrival on campus in September, she has been pleased with her decision to return to her former hometown of Peterborough and become a student at Trent. The offer of free tuition was just a happy bonus.

"Feeling financially sound is important to me, but I would have come to Trent anyway. I've always been aware that I had this offer waiting for me at Trent, and I've always known I had to be accepted first and would then need to finance my cost of living. I worked hard throughout high school to get here," she recalls.

"Trent's generosity and its welcoming community make it easy to reach out and become involved." – Emily Home

Ms. Home is the first to say she's lucky for the opportunities afforded her. "People don't believe me when I explain my situation to them. I don't really understand it either but it's very, very lucky for me." In light of this opportunity, she is also eager to give back to Trent and says, "Trent's generosity and its welcoming community make it easy to reach out and become involved. I know I'm more involved at Trent than I would be if I were elsewhere."

In her first year at Trent, Ms. Home joined the novice rowing crew, became a volunteer note taker through the Disability Services Office and took on the role of first year political studies representative. She also belongs to one of Trent's Living and Learning Communities – the Trent Global Living Community in her residence at Champlain College.

"I'm exposed to new and different view points here and I'm always considering things from a different angle," she says. "Overall, Trent definitely provides me with a sense of community and a place to learn how to think. It's challenging me to consider the world in ways I never did before." 

tenable. The discontents of Quebec, the insistence that there were First Nations, and the claims of ethnic groups, women, and many others for recognition and equality all meant that Canada as it was once understood no longer really existed. No new Canadian identity has emerged. "There's a certain creativity and pulse to the uncertainties of today that can be traced back to the 1960s," Prof. Palmer concludes. He clearly thinks there is something positive in ambiguity, in not knowing one's place and not being too rigidly rooted in it. 

To find out more about interesting research taking place at Trent, pick up a copy of *Showcase – Trent University's premiere research publication*.

Meet the Innovators: Research Showcase



Canada's Radical Tradition

"I entered academic life because it offered the opportunity to learn, research and write, teach, and be critical," explains Dr. Bryan Palmer, chair of Trent's Canadian Studies Department. "Coming out of the 1960s, this was important because I saw much around me, in Canada and the world, demanding opposition: war, racism, and many kinds of oppression."

With these early motivations it's not surprising that Prof. Palmer, who also holds a prestigious Canada Research Chair in Canadian Studies, has emerged as an internationally-recognized scholar in the field of labour studies, working-class history, and the Canadian radical tradition.

"My interest in the working class is related to how I see workers as fundamental to social change. Through their actions, both conscious and unrecognized, working people have been crucial players in the creation of more democratic, humane, and economically equitable societies," insists Prof. Palmer. "They will be central agents in any ongoing social transformations of the future."

"My research has always attempted to relate the well-known and the familiar to the more obscure and often misunderstood." – Prof. Palmer

Prof. Palmer was among the so-called "new labour historians" of the 1970s, who looked at working-class life as something that included unions and political parties, but that also reached beyond these basic institutions. His historical writing addressed these organizations, but it also made reference to baseball diamonds, taverns, and the rough culture of the streets. "My research has always attempted to relate the well-known and the familiar to the more obscure and often misunderstood."

Among the numerous books Palmer has published is a fascinating volume entitled *Cultures of Darkness: Night Travels in the Histories of Transgression*. First appearing in 2000, the book has recently been re-released in Greek translation. Using night as a time, place, and metaphor for transgression, Prof. Palmer explores defiance of authority. Those "people of night" who chose to live dangerously outside of the conventions of the day are his subject, reaching from medieval witches to contemporary gang culture, the Paris Commune of 1871 to anti-Nazi resistance in the 1930s, gay and lesbian lives and anti-slavery movements.

The next book Prof. Palmer has planned is a history of Canada in the 1960s. This text grew directly out of a course he taught on the same subject at Trent, and the second-year lecture remains popular with students. Placing an accent on youth radicalism, Prof. Palmer offers new insights into wildcat (illegal) strikes, riotous street confrontations, New Left politics, Quebec's revolutionary nationalism, and the emergence of a Red Power movement among aboriginal peoples.

"Before the 1960s, there was a settled notion of what constituted Canadian identity," Prof. Palmer suggests, adding that this understanding denied much of the country's history. "Canada was perceived to be white, British, and relatively homogenous – an extension of an old Empire into a New World of the North." After the turmoil of the 1960s, however, this one dimensional understanding of national identity was no longer

Matter of Course

Evolving Perspectives from the Grotesque to the Beautiful



Special Topics: Forensic Entomology
Biology 397

Professor David Beresford

According to Biology professor Dr. David Beresford, his new course in Forensic Entomology might just be the “most exciting course ever done” at Trent. Offered for the first time in the summer of 2007 and again for the winter term in 2008, this intriguing biology course “looks at the science of using insects for forensic purposes,” which includes establishing a post-mortem interval of the death of an animal and determining the geographic origin of foreign substances.

Despite its forensic applications, the third-year course is, at its heart, rooted in biology and biological systems. As Prof. Beresford explains, students must adjust their frames of mind from studying the corpse of a specimen to examining the living organisms and insects that use the corpse to survive and flourish.

“A corpse is a package of nutrition that appears at random,” says Prof. Beresford, who started teaching at Trent in 2006, and proposed the development of a course in forensic entomology shortly after. “This course is based on living organisms and insects, not dead things. It’s about what is living on the corpse; it is a biology course – it’s all about the insects.”

For Prof. Beresford, this new course is his ideal subject.

Since he was a child, he has been fascinated by the lives of insects, and especially flies. He transferred that curiosity into a Ph.D. in Trent’s Watershed Ecosystems Graduate Program. Now, he is pleased to pass along his knowledge, and passion for the subject, to his students.

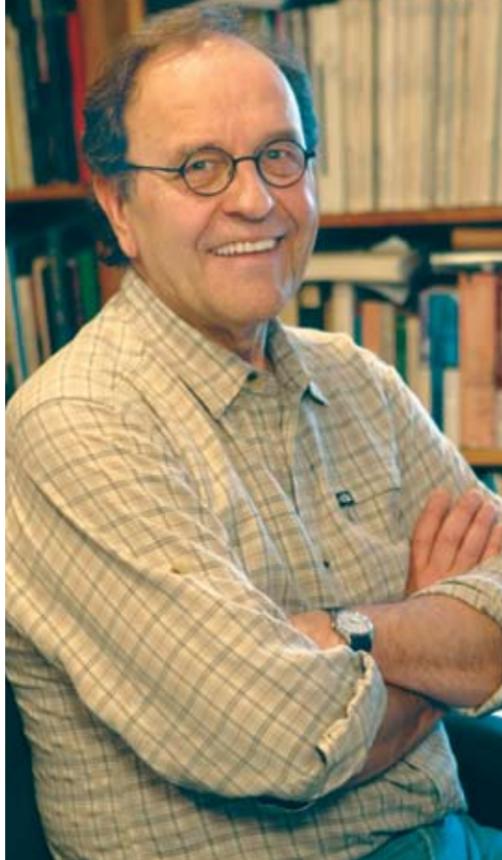
“It’s about getting students to see past the grotesque to the beauty of the natural system,” he explains. “It really is amazing.”

When asked what he hopes students will take from this course, Prof. Beresford replies, “I hope students will learn good science, the interconnectedness of systems, and gain insight into things they haven’t thought of before.”



Reflections on an Extraordinary Career

Trent University Honours
Retiring Professor John Wadland



“John believes in every one of his students. He gets you to find your own passion for Canada because he knows this country is worth getting excited about.”

– Former student Jeremy Ward (’89)

“He has tremendously added to our knowledge in the field of Canadian Studies.”

– Professor T.H.B. Symons, founding president, Trent University

“John cares very deeply about academic scholarship, about making a difference to communities.”

– Professor Lynne Davis, Indigenous Studies

The weekend of April 25 was a time of celebration at Trent University as students, faculty, staff and friends of Trent came together to celebrate the remarkable 35-year academic career of Professor John Wadland, one of the country’s most influential Canadian Studies’ scholars.

To pay tribute to Prof. Wadland’s countless contributions to students and the fields of Canadian and Environmental Studies, a variety of reunion opportunities and a full-day panel discussion were held. Entitled “Teaching Canada”, the event explored many of the themes close to Prof. Wadland’s heart, such as Canada’s national identity, its heritage, and the nature of responsibility as the impact of climate change makes itself felt.

Prof. Wadland began teaching at Trent in 1972 as the first full-time appointment to the Canadian Studies program. His signature course, “Canada: The Land,” soon became one of the best-known and most influential courses in the humanities. This course, along with “Culture and Communications in Canada,” “Bioregionalism” and “Canadian Images” helped to define new interdisciplinary models and ways of understanding Canada for generations of Trent students. Prof. Wadland was the first winner of the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1977, and he subsequently achieved external recognition for his outstanding teaching from the Association for Canadian Studies in 1992 and the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations in 1993. He served as chair of Trent’s groundbreaking Canadian Studies Program from 1985 to 1993 and in 2006-07, edited the *Journal of Canadian Studies* from 1980 to 1984, and acted as director of the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies between 1996 and 2000.

“Studying Canada with John was more like giving us a kaleidoscope to look through, and as he led us to change the lens, whether through the lens of history, literature or geography, all those bright bits were constantly changing patterns.”

– Kate Ramsay, vice chair, Trent University Board of Governors

In honour of Prof. Wadland’s influential career, a Tribute Fund has been established in his name to support Trent students pursuing Canadian Studies. For further information, please visit www.trentu.ca/johnwadland



himself at the University 44 years ago – he wanted to be part of an institution dedicated to the success of the individual student.

Prof. Stairs was first introduced to this groundbreaking vision when he came across an interview with Trent’s founding president, T.H.B. Symons in the Kingston Whig-Standard while teaching at Queen’s in 1963. Prof. Symons’ ideas of an ideal university impressed Prof. Stairs so much that he sought Prof. Symons out and offered to come to Trent to help set up the Department of Chemistry. Prof. Stairs became “the first Chemistry professor hired at Trent...by five minutes,” he jokes, recalling how the second hire wasn’t far behind. While at Trent, Prof. Stairs was chair of the department twice – once at the beginning of his career and again at the end.

Since retiring, Prof. Stairs still keeps up a close relationship with Trent, returning regularly for lectures and special events, and maintaining a modest research program. He has also been active in volunteer work with the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Investing in Trent

Giving Back and Making a Difference

Professor Emeritus Establishes First Lecture Series in Chemistry at Trent

“When you give someone a present, you want to give them something they need, something they might not have given themselves.”

For Dr. Robert Stairs, professor emeritus at Trent, this notion of giving was the very idea that inspired him and his wife, Sibyl, to create the first endowed lecture series in Chemistry at Trent University. “It was something Trent needed,” says Prof. Stairs, who joined the Department of Chemistry at Trent in 1964, the year the University opened.

Established through a generous donation of \$50,000, the Stairs Lecture in Chemistry will enable Trent to invite a distinguished scientist to speak on his or her research, which will not only be of interest to undergraduate and graduate students and to faculty in Chemistry, but perhaps also to a wider audience.

Chemistry is a subject Prof. Stairs has always been passionate about, starting from a young age when he received his first Chemistry set and following him throughout a distinguished career – first as a member of the Canadian Navy, serving in motor torpedo boats in the North Sea, to his academic pursuits at McGill, the University of Western Ontario and Cornell, and finally to his role as professor at Queen’s and then at Trent, where he retired from in 1990.

“Chemistry is the central science,” Prof. Stairs explains.

“It is the science the world is most in need of. There are many problems that have resulted from ignorance of chemistry – now good chemistry is needed to learn how to avoid similar problems in the future as well as to amend the past.”

It is Prof. Stairs’s hope that this lecture series will present new opportunities to showcase the field of Chemistry to generations of future students. As he explains, the lectures will have a double benefit for Trent: “It will bring people into our University who are doing interesting and exciting things that our faculty and students would do well to be exposed to and learn from; at the same time, it will expose Trent to the world and expose the world to Trent.”

When asked why he feels it was important to make this significant investment in Trent, Prof. Stairs says with a smile, “I invested twenty-six years in Trent as a professor; I want to protect my investment and do what I can to help Trent flourish.” His wife, Sibyl, also has affection for Trent, having graduated with a degree in English and Anthropology in 1981.

Establishing the new lecture series also represents an opportunity for Prof. Stairs to give back to the place that “has something to offer that no other university has.” Citing Trent’s vision to provide its students with a unique, individualized learning environment, Prof. Stairs recalls why he sought out a place for

“Good chemistry is needed to learn
how to avoid problems in the future and to amend the past.”

– Prof. Emeritus Robert Stairs

“I’m very impressed with the research being conducted here.”
– Stéphane Dion

Stéphane Dion, leader of the Liberal Party of Canada, paid a special visit to Trent University on April 24 to tour the Worsfold Water Quality Centre (WWQC) and learn more about the important contributions to environmental research and education by Trent University and Fleming College.

Home to the most sophisticated water analysis instruments in the world, the WWQC enables Trent scientists to address virtually any water quality issue related to contaminants. During the tour, led by mercury specialist Dr. Holger Hintelmann, Mr. Dion learned about his efforts to develop methods of tracking mercury from pollution sources to environmental receptor sites. Professor



Stéphane Dion Visits Trent’s World-Class Worsfold Water Quality Centre

Hintelmann’s work has gained international attention for its potential to determine whether mercury contamination is the result of natural or industrial processes.

Several students were on hand to discuss their research with Mr. Dion, including recent environmental science graduate Jeffrey Charters and Panayot Petrov, who is currently pursuing his post-doctoral work in environmental chemistry.

Left: Stéphane Dion talks with Dr. Holger Hintelmann in the WWQC at Trent.

While in the WWQC, Mr. Dion also met Dr. Chris Metcalfe, director of the Institute for Watershed Science, who explained how chemicals from pharmaceuticals and personal care products have been detected in municipal water supplies, negatively affecting aquatic ecosystems.

“I’m very impressed with the research being conducted here,” Mr. Dion said at the conclusion of his tour. ☞



The Worsfold Water Quality Centre at Trent University

Internationally recognized as one of the top water analytics laboratories in the world, the Worsfold Water Quality Centre (WWQC) is dedicated to the development and application of innovative new techniques for the analysis of organic and inorganic contaminants at the isotopic, elemental and molecular scale.

Named in honour of benefactors Graham and Lynn Worsfold in 2005, the WWQC is a multidisciplinary facility that utilizes state-of-the-art instrumentation. The focus of the Centre is the determination of trace quantities of inorganic and organic substances found in aquatic environments. Biological material, sediments, soils, fly ash, industrial by-products, and municipal wastewaters are also investigated with respect to their potential impact on the water quality.

The WWQC houses a variety of different mass spectrometers, giving researchers the opportunity to carry out many different kinds of investigations in a single centre, a feature that is unique to the Centre. Chemists, environmental scientists, botanists, biologists, geologists and anthropologists work side-by-side creating interdisciplinary interaction leading ultimately to the generation of an innovation pool. Numerous peer-reviewed papers have resulted from data generated in the Centre in recent years. Graduate students, post doctoral fellows and scientists from other institutes all over the world use the Centre. The WWQC also offers specialty analytical services to researchers and private companies. The Worsfold Water Quality Centre is located within the Chemical Sciences Building at Trent University.



In the Thick of It: Forensic Science Placement Students Shine in the Field

In a small room behind some carefully draped plastic sheeting, fourth-year forensic science student Lindsay Nowack looks intently at the fresh bloodstains spattered on the wall.

Her placement supervisor, O.P.P. Staff Sergeant Mike Illes, just created an impact pattern spattering sheep’s blood onto the wall as part of an important experiment Ms. Nowack is conducting. Through her careful measurement of individual bloodstains, she will be able to analyze blood spatter impact patterns on doubled -angled surfaces in order to determine the origin of the blood source.

Ms. Nowack is helping the O.P.P. expand the application of BackTrack™, a computer program that calculates the trajectories of blood droplets that have been in flight. Currently, the program only works on perpendicular surfaces like walls, ceilings and floors, however, S/Sgt. Illes wants to see this program expand to angled surfaces, such as picture frames and computer screens. “We’re testing something that’s never been done before,” says Ms. Nowack. “That’s exciting to me.”

It’s this energy and enthusiasm exuded by forensic science students that makes them stand out in the field according to their placement supervisors. “Working with Trent’s forensic science students has been phenomenal,” says S/Sgt. Illes. “They’re very hard workers and extremely interested in the projects we give them.”



S/Sgt. Illes places a high value on the contributions Trent students are making to forensic science. “These placements are so important to the O.P.P. because we need avenues for research and development and this a good way to do that. If it wasn’t for Trent, we wouldn’t be able to do many of these projects because we’re so busy in the field.”

Lloyd Kennedy, a pathologists’ assistant at Kingston General Hospital (KGH), echoes this sentiment when sharing his own experiences with Trent forensic science students on placement. “They are very curious, and ask really good questions,” he says, adding, “they also have a great background in the importance of maintaining continuity of evidence, how we gather it and protect it.” During their placements at KGH, students shadow him during autopsies, and get involved in some of the tissue handling and toxicology work.

Whether placements are based off-site or within the labs in the University’s DNA Building, the skills and abilities of Trent’s forensic science students are starting to get noticed. “We have students on forensic placements around the world, and now many of our partners contact us when they have projects instead of our program canvassing them for placement opportunities,” explains Dr. Paul Wilson, chair of the Forensic Science Program at Trent.

Placements have taken place from Prince Edward Island to Barbados in a variety of forensic settings, such as funeral homes, mental health centres, fire investigation units and hospitals. Regardless of where they wind up, there’s little doubt that the experience is a positive one for all involved. “I’m so happy with the placements because you get so much hands-on experience and learn what you can handle,” says Ms. Nowack. “It helps you find out who you are.” ☞

“Working with Trent’s forensic science students has been phenomenal, they’re very hard workers and extremely interested in the projects we give them.”

– O.P.P. Staff Sergeant Mike Illes

2008 Convocation

See Trent's Convocation website for full coverage of the ceremonies on June 4, 5 & 6, including photos and graduating student profiles www.trentu.ca/convocation

A Time to Honour Faculty and Staff

Convocation is a time of celebration – a time to not only honour the accomplishments of graduating students, but to also pay tribute to the accomplished and dedicated faculty and staff of Trent University.

Each year at Convocation, three of Trent's most prestigious awards are presented to faculty and staff members who have made significant contributions to the life of the University: the Distinguished Research Award, the Eminent Service Award, and the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Canadian Studies Prof Recognized for Research Contributions

"To summarize Prof. Struthers' output, accomplishment, and peer respect through a listing of his publications, papers, and grants is one thing... But it is in coming to grips with how he has commanded and charted an important area of Canadian scholarship over the last three decades that the true measure of this Trent faculty member's research can be grasped."

These words, written by one of Dr. James Struthers' colleagues, demonstrate why the Canadian Studies professor and director of the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies at Trent is a worthy recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Research Award.

Prof. Struthers joined the Canadian Studies Department as a professor in 1978 after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto. Since coming to Trent, Prof. Struthers has had a significant impact on building the national and international reputation of

Trent's Canadian Studies programs, at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

Prof. Struthers is the author of two books. His first book, *No Fault of Their Own: Unemployment and the Canadian Welfare State, 1914-1941*, has been described as "the most important scholarly work published in the last half century on the history of the Great Depression in the 1930s". In recent years his research has focused on the history of policy responses to aging and long term care in Canada from the 1940s to the present. In addition to his research work, Prof. Struthers has held a number of key administrative roles at Trent, including chair of the Canadian Studies Department. In 2006, Prof. Struthers was appointed director of the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies.

Prof. Struthers will be presented with the Distinguished Research Award, which was established in 1986, during the morning Convocation ceremony on Wednesday, June 4.

Philosophy professor Dr. Emilia Angelova is the recipient of the 2008 Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching. To read more about Prof. Angelova, see the cover story in this issue of Focus Trent.



Staff Member Honoured for Dedication

A member of the University's administrative team

since 1982, Susan (Tui) Menzies is the recipient of this year's Eminent Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the University.

Ms. Menzies is being honoured for her tireless efforts ensuring the smooth operation of Julian Blackburn College (JBC) and her leadership supporting the establishment of Trent University in Oshawa. Most recently, she has held the title of JBC College Administrator and Faculty Liaison where one nominator described her contributions as "decisive in the evolution of the college."

Over the past 26 years, Ms. Menzies has served on a number of committees, including the Status of Women Committee, the 40th Anniversary Committee, and the Athletics Committee. She has also served on various JBC/Registrar's Office liaison and recruitment committees and on the Part-Time Students Review Committee. She organizes and manages the JBC Writers Reading Series, and coordinates every aspect of JBC's graduate convocation dinner.

Ms. Menzies is set to retire from Trent this year. She will be presented with the Eminent Service Award on Wednesday, June 4, during the morning convocation ceremony. ☞



Trent Speaks: On Convocation

Student Perspective

Elena Merrill

A New Future

In September of 2003, my daughter Ava took her first steps, and less than a week later, I was in a similar position. As Ava advanced from crawling to walking, I began my first of five years as a student of English Literature at Trent University. As I worked toward my degree, I was always aware that three lives were being impacted by my education.

There were many nights when my daughter was subjected to bed-time stories that were somewhat unconventional. I doubt she appreciated the novelty of her early exposure to Beowulf, Blake and Pope! It's important that she understands why I am so dedicated to my studies, and that I deeply value both parenting and education. I am motivated by Ava's presence and her own love of reading and learning about the world.



Throughout my time as an undergraduate student, I have had many opportunities to become involved with the English department. I enjoyed my time as a student representative, and was impressed with the level of student involvement in general. I have held a position as a research assistant, and was able to work closely with Margaret Steffler to organize a reading course for my final year. I am so grateful to the excellent professors of English I have worked with and learned from over the past five years.

Trent has been a supportive and encouraging space, as my education extended beyond the text and into my life. I look forward to returning in September 2009, when I will be working towards my Masters in English (Public Texts), following the birth of my second child. I feel prepared by my experiences with school and Ava to enter this next phase of my life. I'm excited to have some time to bond with my children, and I'm also anticipating my future research project. I feel fulfilled by my dual (if occasionally dueling) roles as mother and student. ☞

Faculty Perspective

Prof. Gordon Johnston, English Literature

A Favourite Time of Year

In the word "university" you can see us "turning" into "one," and that's what happens most conspicuously when we're "called together" at "convocation," and see ourselves as a single whole. It's one of my favourite days of the year.

Long ago there used to be a Convocation ceremony in the fall as well as the spring, held indoors in Champlain's Great Hall. I clearly remember on one occasion walking down the steps into the hall beside Margaret Atwood whom I was presenting to the Chancellor for an honorary degree, and watching her smile that complicated smile of hers as "Land of Hope and Glory" began to play over the loudspeakers. But then, we all have complicated smiles on Convocation Day. How many days in our lives come with their own soundtracks?



My favourite seat at Convocation has always been next to the aisle by which students return to their seats after they've been "done." There it's easy to greet and congratulate the students you know. The graduates themselves probably don't remember being greeted, in the blur of their big moment. They're thinking: "I've made it this far. I know roughly where I'm headed. I haven't stumbled or fallen. I'll be fine." But I remember those moments; I remember sharing almost entirely with them their huge feelings of pride and relief.

There's a cartoon by Jean-Jacques Sempé which shows an auditorium and stage during a rehearsal for a children's dance concert. The front rows of seats are covered with snowsuits, backpacks, mittens, scarves, and snacks which leave a messy trail up some stairs to the wings from which emerges onto the lit stage a perfectly straight line of tiny ballerinas. It's like life, in its happiest moments; it's like Convocation. ☞

Staff Perspective

Susan Salusbury, Registrar

Reflections from the Registrar

Convocation is a major ceremonial event representing the point when students revel in the results of their academic accomplishments. Within the pomp and ceremony of the occasion, Convocation is a highly personal story for each student.

As University Registrar, my time is spent ensuring that activities such as registration, enrolment reporting and financial aid meet set deadlines as well as the needs of our students. I am fortunate to meet many terrific students, but I also work with many students who encounter difficulties. At Convocation, it is especially meaningful for me to see students who have overcome significant hardships and barriers that at times threatened to overwhelm them. The deep sense of accomplishment for these students brings me to tears and a warm hug on the podium.



The embrace, however, is not reserved just for those who have had difficulties; knowing many of our students personally and sending them on their way with a heartfelt embrace is as important to me as all of the ceremonial aspects of Convocation.

Attending five Convocation ceremonies is physically tiring, but the joy and pride I feel far outweigh the temporary state of a sore hand from so many handshakes. Our graduates are working or studying around the world, dedicating themselves to making a difference. They have benefited from their education at Trent University – and we have benefited from the experience of knowing and working with these capable individuals. Convocation is, for all of my staff and for me personally, the highlight of each year. ☞

 Refer to these icons to find out at which Convocation ceremony Trent's award-winning faculty, staff and honorary degree recipients will be honoured.

Trent to Honour Six Remarkable Canadians

with Honorary Degrees

Hugh Anson-Cartwright

"I was completely bowled over when Trent's President, Bonnie Patterson invited me to accept the Honorary Doctor of Letters degree. My happy associations with Trent go back over 40 years. In 1964, I brought Charles Omole, Trent's very first Champlain



Scholar to the campus. I had flown with the African Students' Foundation to bring African students to study in Canada. Connections with the Peterborough area go back to my wife's birth in Norwood, and even further to my father's birth in a log cabin at Lakefield in 1881. So you can see how very proud I am to be a part of the Trent family."

– Hugh Anson-Cartwright

Hugh Anson-Cartwright has dedicated his life to championing and preserving Canadian literature and is an internationally-recognized authority on rare books. Using his great expertise and astute sense of observation, he has made it his mission to ensure that the printed record of Canadian literature was collected and treated appropriately. Mr. Anson-Cartwright has given generously to many Canadian universities, and has remained a steadfast friend and advisor to Trent University's Library and Archives and academic programs. In addition to his active role preserving our national literary heritage, he is also a stalwart supporter of contemporary Canadian literature, providing assistance and encouragement to many emerging and established writers.

Mr. Anson-Cartwright will receive his honorary degree during the morning ceremony on Wednesday, June 4.

Natalie MacMaster

"I'm delighted to receive this special honour from Trent, especially with my husband, Donnell. I'm proud to live in this community, of which Trent is such a significant part. Thank you Trent!" – Natalie MacMaster

Well-known to international audiences as one of Canada's major musical talents, Natalie MacMaster is recognized ambassador for traditional East Coast music, and is credited with lifting the style to its contemporary prominence. Renowned for her flamboyant fiddling and step-dancing prowess, she has won two Juno Awards, eleven East Coast Music Awards, and several Canadian Country Awards. In 2000, she was nominated for a Grammy Award in the Best Traditional Folk Album category and in 2006, Ms. MacMaster became one of the youngest people ever named to the prestigious Order of Canada, Canada's highest civilian honour.



Donnell Leahy

"Trent has always been a part of my life: from track meets as a kid, to swimming lessons, using the Trent library, and being Artist-in-Residence at Peter Robinson College. I'm very honoured to receive an honorary degree this from my local university Trent." – Donnell Leahy



The oldest brother of the internationally acclaimed family musical group Leahy, Donnell Leahy is considered one of the best fiddlers in the world. Together with his siblings he has brought traditional Celtic music to audiences worldwide and played a major role in the Peterborough area's musical community. Among his many achievements with the group, Mr. Leahy has won three Juno Awards, created three albums that have collectively sold more than half a million copies, and developed a summer music camp in the Kawarthas for young aspiring musicians.

Ms. MacMaster and Mr. Leahy will receive their honorary degree on Wednesday, June 4 during the afternoon ceremony.

Zacharias Kunuk

"Being born on the land and gone to big community Igloodik in 1966 at the age of nine to learn English, I have accomplished what I never dreamed of. At the age of five I thought we were the only people on earth, every morning father would harness the dogs to go hunting so we could eat. Winter came to summer and I was learning the laws of nature – be kind to animals, don't kill more than you need, respect someone older than you, help people who are in need and so on, from my parents. To get to where I am today to this level, what more can I say then, Qujanamik (Thank you)." – Zacharias Kunuk



Zacharias Kunuk is an award-winning filmmaker and sculptor whose distinct storytelling style has informed millions of viewers around the world about the Canadian Arctic and Inuit way of life. Following the sale of three soapstone sculptures in 1981 during a trip to Montreal, he brought home the Arctic's first home video camera. Mr. Kunuk is the co-founder and past president of Igloodik Isuma Productions, Canada's first Inuit-owned independent production company. In 2001, he won the Camera d'Or at Cannes International Film Festival for Isuma's first feature film *Atanarjuat (The Fast Runner)*. In 2002, Mr. Kunuk was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Kunuk will be presented with his honorary degree during the morning ceremony on Thursday, June 5.

Michael MacMillan

"I'm deeply honoured to receive this recognition from Trent University. Trent is a young university in a young country – I hope Trent never loses that youthful sense of purpose and optimism which it displays so wonderfully." – Michael MacMillan

Michael MacMillan is a groundbreaking pioneer in the Canadian broadcast industry and a passionate volunteer to numerous community-based organizations. A highly successful entrepreneur, the co-founded Atlantis Films Limited in 1978 which merged with Alliance Communications in 1998 to become Alliance Atlantis Communications Incorporated. Under his leadership, Alliance Atlantis has grown to operate 13 Canadian specialty channels and developed several internationally-acclaimed television shows, including *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. In addition, Mr. MacMillan gives back generously to his community, supporting many organizations such as the Toronto East General Hospital, the Canadian Club of Toronto, the Toronto International Film Festival. He is also Chair of Upper Canada College.

Mr. MacMillan will receive his honorary degree on Thursday, June 5 in the afternoon.

Flora MacDonald

"Peterborough was my home in the early 1950s. In the 1960s I became (and still am) a close friend of Dr. Tom Symons and oft-times listened to his dreams to establish a first-class small liberal arts university in this city – dreams that became concrete plans as they moved towards fulfillment. It is of particular significance and pleasure to me to be awarded an Honorary Degree from this institution I have known since its inception. I salute the success it has achieved in its growth and development, and the high quality of scholarship it has fostered in each and every student." – Flora MacDonald

Following many years of distinguished leadership in federal politics, the Honourable Flora MacDonald has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others in Canada and around the world. As an active member of many humanitarian organizations, including Doctors Without Borders, she has become a leading figure in the movement to alleviate human suffering worldwide. Among her many achievements, Ms. MacDonald became the first woman in Canadian history to serve as secretary of state for External Affairs in 1979; in 1998 she was appointed a companion of the Order of Canada; in 1999 she received the Pearson Medal of Peace; and in 2004 the government of India awarded her with the Padma Shri, one of that country's highest civilian honours.

Ms. MacDonald will be presented with her honorary degree on Friday, June 6 during the morning ceremony. 



Graduating Student Trevor Dunn Selected as 2008 Peter Gzowski Intern at CBC Radio

Graduating student Trevor Dunn is passionate about media and has always had a special interest in exploring the art of radio communication. With interests like these, Mr. Dunn has dreamed of one day learning about radio production and programming first-hand at Canada's largest broadcasting centre. That dream became reality recently when

Mr. Dunn was selected as one of four graduating students from across Canada to become a 2008 Peter Gzowski intern at CBC Radio.

"I heard about the internship when I was working at Trent Radio in my first year. The moment I heard about it, I knew it would be a great opportunity and that I wanted to apply," Mr. Dunn, a Cultural Studies and Hispanic Studies major, explained. "This is the perfect opportunity for me right now. I feel very lucky and I'm really looking forward to this summer and what will happen at the CBC."

A highly coveted employment opportunity, the Gzowski Internship program seeks out students who are highly creative,

curious about the world, engaged in the community, and have an interest in pursuing a career with public radio.

For Mr. Dunn, his interest in radio journalism blossomed through his work with Trent Radio, where he hosted radio shows and served as an archivist, operator and member of the board of directors. This year, he hosted his own show about immigration and the local community, on which he interviewed newcomers to Peterborough.

"I like to talk to people and hear their stories," Mr. Dunn says when asked what he enjoys about working in radio. "It's a different way of learning, compared to academia, but it's a good way to learn."

Hands-on learning is something Mr. Dunn has taken to heart since his arrival at Trent. In his third year, Mr. Dunn, who originally hails from Sarnia, Ontario, participated in the year abroad program, living and studying in Alicante, Spain.

"I was exposed to many different things," Mr. Dunn says, commenting on his experiences abroad and how they fuelled his passion for storytelling. "I was consciously noticing the differences,

and I think that's an important part of journalism – to notice differences and report on them. I kept a blog for my family and I would write about the different things I saw every day and the different places I went. I'm the first in my family to live abroad, and I didn't want to keep it all to myself."

Mr. Dunn will put all of his skills as a writer, journalist, and listener, to the test as a CBC Radio intern. After a training period at CBC in Toronto in May, he will spend the remainder of his internship working for various radio shows across the country. In the end, Mr. Dunn hopes this opportunity will translate into a long and rewarding career at the CBC. 

Created to honour the memory of Peter Gzowski, who died in 2002, the internship program with CBC Radio is available to final year university students at four institutions across Canada. Each institution has a link to the well-known author, broadcaster and columnist.

Headlines and Highlights

Get all the Trent news daily, online from anywhere in the world at www.trentu.ca/news

Sheperd Family Lecture Series Brings Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. to Peterborough

On May 22, renowned environmental activist Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. delivered a powerful presentation on "Our Environmental Destiny" to hundreds of people at the Peterborough Memorial Centre. Mr. Kennedy's first trip to the Peterborough was made possible through Trent University's David Sheperd Family Lecture Series, which aims to introduce Trent students to leading speakers on environmental global issues and significantly build on the University's globally recognized expertise in environmental research and teaching. His presentation was the keynote address for the 2008 International Association for Great Lakes Research (IAGLR) Conference, which was held at Trent from May 19 to 23.

The annual IAGLR Conference represents one of the greatest meetings of the minds for scientists involved in studying the Great Lakes and other large lakes around the world. Alternating each year between the United States and Canada, this is the first year the conference has been held at Trent. With Mr. Kennedy's impressive track record instigating positive environmental change across North America, he was the ideal speaker for the conference. Mr. Kennedy helped the organization Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River. The group's achievement helped spawn more than 160 Waterkeeper organizations across the globe. Mr. Kennedy also serves as senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council in the United States, chief prosecuting attorney for the Hudson Riverkeeper and president of Waterkeeper Alliance. He is also a clinical professor and supervising attorney at Pace University School of Law's Environmental Litigation Clinic. [↗](#)



Trent Surpasses Fundraising Goal for Provincial Matching Program

Trent students for generations to come will be the direct beneficiaries of a successful fundraising campaign. The University's campaign for the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) raised more than \$800,000, exceeding the original fundraising target by nearly \$20,000.

Established by the Government of Ontario in 2005, the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) matches endowed donations on a dollar-for-dollar basis to provide bursaries and awards to Ontario students. Of the \$801,182 raised this year, Trent University faculty and staff contributed over \$81,000 to the OTSS campaign. Members of Trent's Board of Governors also played a leadership role in contributing to the campaign. Generous donors from outside the University brought Trent's fundraising target over the top. [↗](#)

Donate Your Shares to Trent University and Avoid Paying Capital Gains Taxes...

Did you know that when you transfer any securities to a registered charity like Trent University, you don't have to pay the capital gains tax?

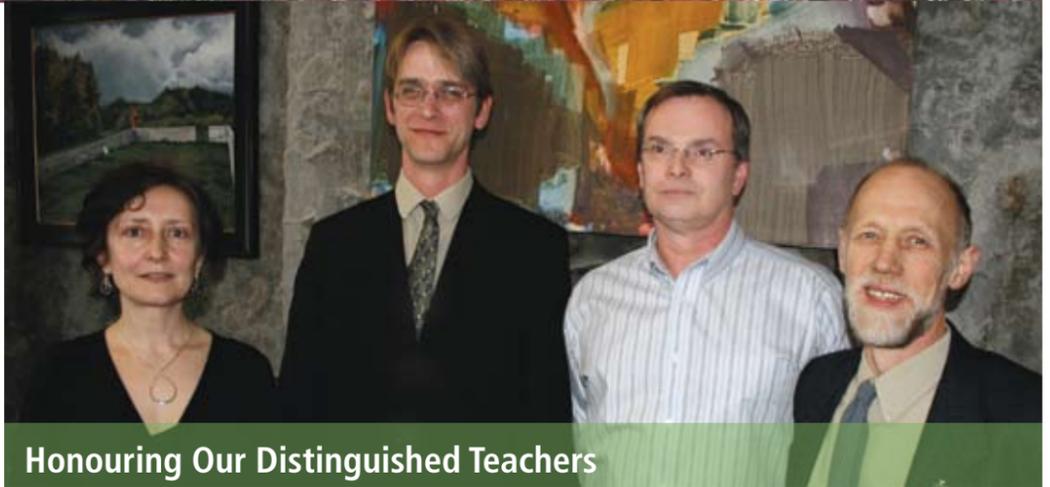
BCE Shareholders Take Note

BCE has recently been acquired by the Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan. Now shareholders will be faced with paying taxes due to the capital gains triggered once the shares are paid out at more than \$42 per share.

By donating your BCE shares in kind to Trent University, the capital gains are eliminated. Review your portfolio today. A gift of securities to Trent could be the right choice for you.

Contact Sherry Booth, Trent University's manager of planned giving and leadership gifts, if you are considering donating your shares.

Call (705) 748-1011 ext. 7593
or send an e-mail to
sbooth@trentu.ca



Honouring Our Distinguished Teachers

Trent held a special reception on March 31 to honour this year's winners of the University's distinguished internal teaching awards.

The Distinguished Teaching Award for Educational Leadership and Innovation in Instruction was presented to Dr. Alan Slavin, a professor in Trent's Department of Physics and Astronomy. Prof. Slavin, who has been teaching at Trent since 1973, was recognized for being "a leader among faculty, in his own department, at Trent and in the broader educational community."

Barry Best was the winner for the Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance, which acknowledges the contributions of academic assistants, and those that facilitate learning in workshop, tutorial, seminar, laboratory, and field settings. Mr. Best, the chemical and instrumentation technician/demonstrator in the Department of Chemistry, was recognized for

his in-classroom work with undergraduate students in the use of chemical instrumentation.

Adam Stibbards, a course instructor for Psychology 341H (Advanced Abnormal Psychology), was the winner of the 2008 CUPE Award for Excellence in Teaching. Through this award, Mr. Stibbards was recognized for his teaching, mentoring and support of undergraduate students.

The University's most prestigious teaching honour, the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching is awarded to Dr. Emilia Angelova, a professor in the Department of Philosophy. Prof. Angelova will be presented with the award at Trent's Spring Convocation ceremonies. To read more about Prof. Angelova, see this issue's cover story. [↗](#)

Eight Trent Alum to Receive Distinguished Alumni Awards



At a special by-invitation-only event scheduled for Saturday, June 21, Trent University will honour eight remarkable alumni at the annual Distinguished Alumni Awards event.

The Spirit of Trent Award is presented to alumni who have made a difference, through contributions to the University, the alumni association, or the community. This year's winners are Paul Davidson, executive director of World University Service of Canada (WUSC), and Helen Sweet, who owns and runs The Brides' Project in Toronto, which finds cost-conscious options for brides, while helping children with cancer.

The Distinguished Alumni Award, presented based on a person's achievement and leadership in their field, will be awarded to five alumni this year. Winners include: Su Ditta, who has worked professionally in the Canadian arts and culture sector for approximately 30 years holding senior, national positions in arts management and serving as a cultural policy advisor for a variety

of government agencies; V. Arnold Dyck, world-renowned entomologist, recipient of the Order of Canada, and a member of Trent's first graduating class in 1967; Richard Fleming, a research scientist at the Canadian Forest Service and adjunct professor in the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto; Christine Harmston, senior advisor to the International Health Division of Health Canada in Ottawa; and Christine White, one of Canada's foremost bioarchaeologists and one of the world's leading authorities on chemical and forensic analysis of human skeletal and mummified remains to reconstruct life histories of disease, diet, physical activity, environment, and migration.

This year, the Young Leader Award, which recognizes young alumni who have shown outstanding leadership throughout their first ten years of alumni status, will be presented to Karin Galldin. Ms. Galldin is a thirty year old lawyer, activist and a founding partner of Galldin Liew LLP, a feminist law office in Ottawa. [↗](#)

Little Known Facts

The Condolence Cane

Each convocation ceremony while members of the Trent community and their families look on, the Condolence Cane makes its annual appearance at the head of the faculty procession. A gift to the University from the Trent Aboriginal Education Council, this replica Cane was carved by the late Chief Jake Thomas of the Cayuga Nation, who was also a Trent Professor. It is a symbolic representation of the governance structure of the Haudenosaunee (People of the Longhouse). For Trent it represents the academic governing power of the Senate, the interdependent nature of the University community, and the search for knowledge in the interests of justice, equality and peace.

For more stories about this year's Convocation, see pages 6 & 7 or visit www.trentu.ca/convocation

Traditionally, the Condolence Cane is used by the Haudenosaunee as a mnemonic device depicting the "seating" arrangement and relationships of the Grand Council Confederacy Chiefs in the Nations and clans of the Six Nations. Each Chief's title is represented by a peg and a pictograph depicting aspects of the title or the story of each title holder. The Peacemaker's mission was to put an end to war and to create unity through bringing Good Minds together to work for peace, his efforts resulted in the founding of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The story of the Journey of the Peacemaker, with its many attendant teachings including the Condolence, is one of the foundational representations of The Great Law of Peace, the Constitution of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. [↗](#)