

# FOCUS

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

# TRENT

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## Transforming the Classroom through Innovation

*"If you care about your students,  
if you care about teaching them,  
you should always be exploring the  
best ways to do so." — Dr. Alan Slavin*

Spoken by Dr. Alan Slavin, a professor in Trent's Department of Physics and Astronomy, these words demonstrate what makes this outstanding professor one of the University's most celebrated teachers. With an inherent desire to constantly evolve his award-winning teaching style to maximize his students' academic experience, Prof. Slavin takes his role as professor and mentor to heart and, as a result, has made a lasting impact on hundreds of Trent students.

*"Dr. Slavin brings physics to life."*

Joe Steinman, third-year Chemical Physics major

To read more about Prof. Slavin and his dedication to student learning and success, see page 2.



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*“I really hope students take these ideas and methodologies and use them to form their own opinions and make informed decisions about what to do with our planet.”— Prof. Alan Slavin*

# Talk about Teaching

## Award-Winning Teaching

“My teaching has changed dramatically over the years,” Prof. Slavin says, reflecting on a 35-year career at Trent. Whatever changes his teaching style may have undergone, many Trent students will agree, Prof. Slavin’s approach to teaching has always been impressive.

Since joining the Department of Physics and Astronomy in 1973, after a prestigious National Research Council (NRC) post-doctorate at McMaster, Prof. Slavin has become one of Trent’s most recognized professors. In 1992, he won his first teaching award – the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching, the University’s most prestigious teaching honour. Follow-up awards came in 1993 when Prof. Slavin was recognized at both the provincial and national levels with the Ontario Lieutenant Governor’s Award for University Teaching and an esteemed 3M Teaching Fellowship, of which only ten awards are given annually in Canada.

In 1996, when Prof. Slavin was presented with yet another prominent award – the Canadian Association of Physicists Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching – he took the opportunity to reflect on his own teaching style. Rather than resting on his award-winning laurels, Prof. Slavin became even more dedicated to ensuring the success of all of his students.

“I was always trying to be a good teacher,” Prof. Slavin explains. “But when got that medal, I really started paying more attention to pedagogical literature. I wanted to be more innovative.”

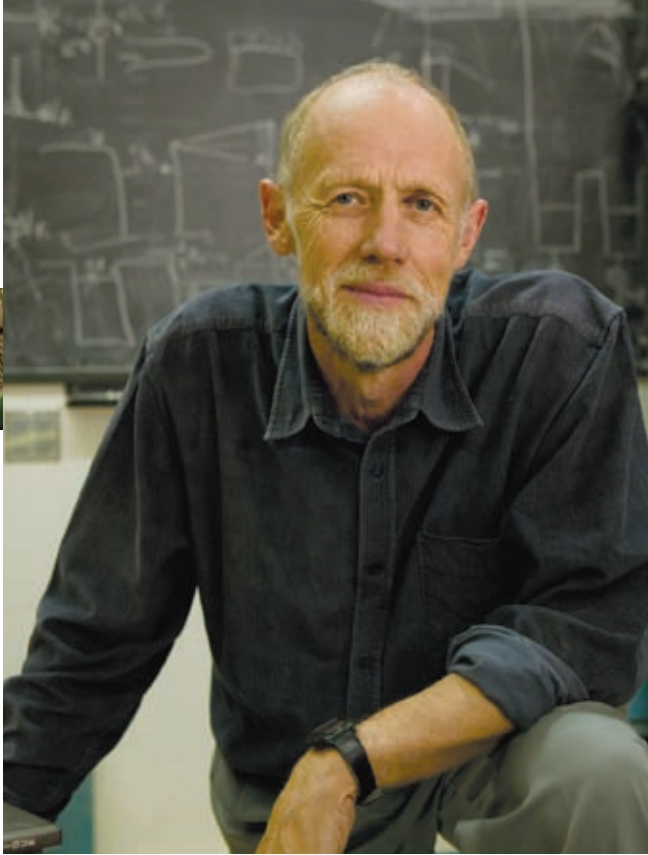
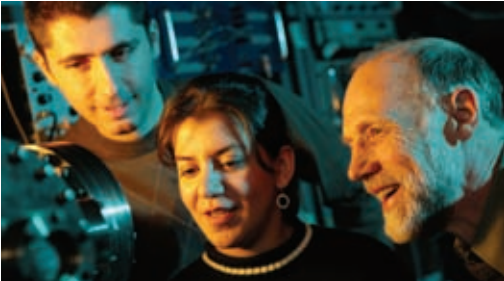
## An Interactive Teaching Style

One of the first new approaches Prof. Slavin applied to his own lectures was Peer Instruction, which aims to make the classroom experience more interactive for students.

Based on published research from within the physics community that demonstrates lecturing is not the most effective way to teach, Peer Instruction provides students with more opportunities to develop their understanding of the basic concepts. To incorporate this method in his classroom, Prof. Slavin provides the “lecture” notes to the students well before the scheduled class. Students are required to read these notes before class to be prepared to discuss the ideas. The class starts with a brief review of this material. Prof. Slavin then presents to his students questions that embody the physics principles from the day’s notes. Students are given multiple-choice answers for the question, and after determining their own answer, are encouraged to discuss it with the students around them. After some debate, a group will submit, via a vote, their agreed-upon answer to the professor and the rest of the class.

“If it’s a good question, there will be a split in voting,” Prof. Slavin says, explaining that the purpose of the exercise is to draw out and challenge misconceptions. “My role as the instructor is to explain why the right answer is right and the wrong answer is wrong.”

For many years, Prof. Slavin used a manual voting system. To improve the method of voting, he has successfully introduced



Personal Response Systems, or “clickers,” into his lectures. This new technology allows the class voting pattern to be displayed on a screen automatically and in bar graph form for ease of interpretation.

Today, the majority of classes Prof. Slavin moderates are delivered using Peer Instruction techniques. The result is a less intimidating learning environment in which students are more engaged and involved.

“Prof. Slavin’s teaching style is completely interactive, classes are less of a lecture and more of a discussion,” says fourth-year Trent Physics student Eric Brown. “Often, Prof. Slavin asks the class to vote on the answer of a multiple choice question which he has given. It is amazing how many times this method reveals to you flaws in your understanding of which you were previously ignorant. This is, in my opinion, the greatest advantage of his teaching style.”

## Relevant In-Class Material Guaranteed

Although Peer Instruction methodologies have worked well in his classes, Prof. Slavin is always looking for ways to improve them and ensure that all of his students were getting the most out of the lectures. As a complementary approach, Just-in-Time Teaching principles have also been incorporated by Prof. Slavin. This model helps to ensure students are reading the required material prior to the lecture by making it mandatory for students to sign onto WebCT prior to a class to answer two multiple choice questions about the assigned material. They are awarded partial marks just for responding and full marks for answering correctly. According to Prof. Slavin, this approach has seen student preparedness increase from less than 50 per cent to more than 75 per cent.

One of the real gems of this approach, however, is an unmarked third question, which requires students to state what in the readings or topics requires more clarification. Prof. Slavin uses this information in choosing the questions he asks in the Peer Instruction approach, ensuring that the material covered in class is most relevant to the students.

“This way it is the students who drive content of the class,” Prof. Slavin says. “We focus on things they don’t understand and this makes for more effective in-class teaching.”

Third-year Chemical Physics student, Joe Steinman, who had Prof. Slavin as a professor in first year, agrees, saying: “Dr. Slavin’s teaching style is great because I’ve been actively involved in the lecture. Coherence is not a problem, and after the lecture I understand what I have been taught. The topic is no longer a collection of abstract and semi-related thoughts, but ideas I understand and can work with.”

## Probing Understanding Outside the Classroom

Behind all of the innovative methods Prof. Slavin uses in his teaching lies a common purpose – to get students involved in learning the material as active participants. “Physics is difficult. For true understanding, a student has to be involved in constructing their own models of the universe,” explains Prof. Slavin. “You can’t just tell them, you have to let them adjust their personal models of how nature works, to conform to the laws of physics.”

*“He was an amazing teacher to have for first year, he made physics fun. He also inspired me to continue with Physics for my degree – I was originally a Biochem major.”*

— Wendy Van Drunen, fourth-year Biology and Physics joint major

In order to ensure his students comprehend the course material, Prof. Slavin is also available for one-on-one tutorials for any student who requires a little extra instruction. “I really enjoy one-on-one discussions with students when they come to me with a problem or questions,” he says. “When you’re in front of a classroom, there is a performance aspect to contend with – not so in a one-on-on scenario, where you can probe understanding in a way you can’t in a classroom.”

His students also appreciate Prof. Slavin’s open door policy and approachability. “He goes to great lengths to make sure that you understand concepts, and is always available for those times when you still don’t get it,” says fourth-year Biology and Physics major Wendy Van Drunen. “He’s an extremely busy man, but always makes time for any one of his students.”

Prof. Slavin is proud of his distinguished teaching career and honoured by the numerous awards. At the end of the day, however, he hopes for his students to take what they have learned in his classes and apply it to the real world. “I really hope students take these ideas and methodologies and use them to form their own opinions and make informed decisions about what to do with our planet,” he says.

Prof. Alan Slavin has been presented with many prestigious teaching awards over his 35-year career, including:

- Trent University’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Educational Leadership and Innovation in Instruction (2008)
- Canadian Association of Physicists Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (1996)
- 3M Teaching Fellowship (1993)
- Ontario Lieutenant-Governor’s Award for University Teaching (1993)
- Trent University’s Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching (1992)

# • Consolidating Teaching and Administrative Space at Trent in Oshawa •

Access to professors and administrative staff in one convenient location, a consolidated Trent identity, and a renewed presence on campus are just a few of the benefits Trent University in Oshawa students will gain when the University moves to a new location on the Durham College/UOIT campus later this fall.

“The upcoming move will be a huge step in creating a visible presence for Trent in Oshawa; on a campus with three institutions this is paramount,” says Valerie Naylor, a third-year English major and student association vice-president of Trent in Oshawa. “I am incredibly excited as the signage on the new Trent area will also provide students with a stronger sense of school identity and pride. Students will also easily be able to find all Trent resources in one place making administrative tasks a lot easier.”

When the new consolidated offices open in the Simcoe Building, it will mark the first time since Trent University opened a campus in Oshawa 34 years ago that faculty and staff will be together under the same roof. Soon the days of having Trent in Oshawa offices and administrative space spread across the ever-expanding Durham College and UOIT campuses will be over.

“We have wanted, for some time, to bring all the Trent in Oshawa offices together, rather than spread out across campus,” says Prof. Murray Genoe, associate dean and principal of Julian



Blackburn College. “Having all of Trent in Oshawa in one location will generate an enhanced identity. Bringing us all together will create much more of a Trent presence.”

Uniting students, while perhaps the greatest benefit the move will generate, is only part of the picture. Staff and faculty will now also have a greater sense of community.

“Locating all the Trent in Oshawa offices in one location serves to unify us and allow us to work better as a team,” says Sandra Gunn, administrative coordinator for Trent in Oshawa. “Faculty will be able to connect with their peers and have easier access to our office services. Our staff is very excited to have appropriate space to provide the best possible service to our

students and faculty. Students will have a larger, more convenient area to meet and connect with the Trent environment in Oshawa.”

The new space will be about three times larger than current Trent in Oshawa office space and will allow for specific locations for Academic Skills, Counselling Services, the Career Centre and academic advising.

Prof. Genoe also sees the move as building on and enhancing Trent’s long-standing presence in Oshawa. “Bringing together faculty, staff and students to one identifiable Trent area affirms our presence, not only to our current students, but also to our partners on campus and to prospective students,” he says. “This move reinforces the fact that Trent University in Oshawa is here to stay.”

## The Benefits of Moving

- Consolidated teaching and administrative space
- Increased identity for Trent in Oshawa on Durham College and UOIT campus
- Faculty offices located in one convenient location for students
- New location will be conveniently located kitty-corner to a new building housing UOIT classrooms and a daycare
- Close to parking and amenities





# Life-Changing Experience Brings Grad Student to Trent



Mark Dzurko studies mercury contamination in water as a Trent-Queen's grad student.

Trent-Queen's Graduate Program student Mark Dzurko has a love of science. It is this love of science he is committed to passing on to students across the country as co-chair of the organizing committee for the 2010 Canada Wide Science Fair, which will be hosted in Peterborough by Trent University in partnership with the Peterborough Regional Science Fair.

Mr. Dzurko's love of science and involvement in the Canada Wide Science Fair began in high school, as a student at Adam Scott C.V.I. in Peterborough. As a high school student, he participated in the 1998 Canada Wide Fair in Timmins and won a gold medal in the Senior Life Sciences division. In addition to the medal, he was awarded a scholarship to study at the prestigious Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel for a summer.

For Mr. Dzurko, the opportunity to be a participant in the national science fair was "life changing." He recalls an influential high school science teacher who gave him the opportunity to study 'real science' geared towards undergraduate science studies. That teacher encouraged him to enter the fair and set him up to work on his project at Trent with renowned professor and researcher Dr. Doug Evans.

"I was headed toward a completely different field to a completely different university and my experience with that

*"Working on the project in Prof. Evans' laboratory exposed me to the equipment and expertise available at Trent." — Mark Dzurko*

project at the 1998 fair changed my focus to chemistry and environmental science and to Trent," he says. "Working on the project in Prof. Evans' laboratory exposed me to the equipment and expertise available at Trent. I see the 2010 Canada Wide Science Fair as an opportunity to give someone else that exposure to Trent University."

Mr. Dzurko has since translated his positive science fair experiences into an academic career at Trent, where he has not only completed his undergraduate and master's degrees, but has also been involved in the Peterborough Regional Science Fair, held at the University every spring.

The desire to provide young students with the opportunity to explore real science is what drives Mr. Dzurko to undertake such great responsibility while, at the same time, also focussing on his Ph.D. through the Trent-Queen's collaborative graduate program. Supervised by Dr. Holger Hintelmann, Mr. Dzurko conducts his research in the state-of-the-art Worsfold Water Quality Centre at Trent where he uses high precision isotope ratio measurements of mercury to track methyl mercury in aquatic food webs. The goal of his research is to be able to trace mercury in fish to the point sources of that contamination, helping to provide necessary data for policy makers to better regulate mercury emission.

In addition to working on his demanding Ph.D. and offering his expertise to the 2010 Science Fair committee, Mr. Dzurko is also going to share his scientific expertise with the Peterborough community later this fall as a panel member at the

popular *Inside Trent: Lunch with the Experts* speaker series. At the event, to be held on November 13, 2008,

Mr. Dzurko will join Trent professor Maggie Xenopolous and the inaugural Roberta Bondar Post-doctoral Fellow Derek Mueller to discuss environmental issues surrounding the world's water.

"Inside Trent is a chance for the community to get an inside view of research at Trent and provides researchers the opportunity to discuss their views. It gives the community a chance to understand current environmental issues. It's a chance for them to gain a better understanding from a scientific perspective," Mr. Dzurko explains. "We take for granted the environment around us. The more we know about the fragile world around us, the more we will respect it."

## Meet the Innovators: Research Showcase



### Canada's First Canada Research Chair in Feminist and Gender Studies comes to Trent

Before Dr. Carol Williams had even officially arrived at Trent in September, the University's newest Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Feminist and Gender Studies had already completed a successful international workshop positioning Trent at the centre of new scholarship in the field of Indigenous women's labour history.

"This relocation grants me the research focus and opportunity to initiate new networks of scholarly collaboration both global and local," explains Prof. Williams, who comes to Trent from the University of Lethbridge. "The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council-funded Indigenous women's labour history workshop is the first expression of my commitment to striking a wide dialogue between a range of senior and junior scholars from the US, Canada, New Zealand and Australia."

An award-winning author, Prof. Williams specializes in women's studies, US history, North American women's history and Indigenous women's history. For the past 15 years, Prof. Williams has concentrated on defining questions of visual culture, photography and history. She has written extensively on the history of Aboriginal women in the Pacific Northwest, examining their portrayal in early photographs and challenging the conventional notion that Euro-American ideology dominated photographic imagery of the region. In another essay

*"Trent has an explicit and active commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship, and its program in Indigenous Studies is groundbreaking." — Prof. Williams*

analyzing women's commerce in functional goods and edible provisions, Prof. Williams went on to coin the term "doorstep economy" to characterize nineteenth century Aboriginal women's entrepreneurial economic agency which was absolutely crucial to the survival of the Euro-American settler families.

"Trent has an explicit and active commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship in the humanities and social sciences, and its program in Indigenous Studies is groundbreaking," says Prof. Williams, whose CRC appointment in Feminist and Gender Studies is a Canadian first. "Trent is clearly receptive to all that might be

gleaned from these complex bodies of thought and praxis. These attributes distinguish Trent as innovative and intellectually progressive." Prof. Williams noted that she is keen to collaborate

with scholars at Trent, and very pleased that the University's well-established graduate studies program will provide her with increased opportunities to work with graduate students. "I look forward to meeting various community activists, community scholars, and educators working within, and with, regional Anishnaabe and Ojibwa communities on and off campus."

As passionate about the natural environment as she is about her research, Prof. Williams also looks forward to the pleasures



## Meet a Trent Student

### Prestigious Scholarship Winner Eager to Begin Studies at Trent

Graduating from high school with an average of 99 per cent, Aly Haji had his pick of universities. When it came time to make a decision, the Belleville native opted to attend Trent. It was a decision that came with a \$20,000 bonus for Mr. Haji, the 2008 recipient of the prestigious Champlain Scholarship.

"It takes a lot of work to maintain a 99 per cent average, and it feels really good to be rewarded for my hard work," Mr. Haji says, in reference to winning the esteemed entrance scholarship. "It's a rare occasion when you can feel really excited about something, and finding out about the scholarship was one of those occasions for me."



Mr. Haji is also excited to get started as an undergraduate student at Trent. When he was first introduced to the University at a liaison presentation at his high school, Mr. Haji felt an immediate connection, especially when he heard Trent's motto "nunc cognosco ex parte."

"The motto, which means 'now I know in part,' really appealed to me because it embodies what university is supposed to," he says. "University is a place to learn and grow; a place with no boundaries to knowledge. You are always exploring as a student. I think this is really understood at Trent."

*"University is a place to learn and grow; a place with no boundaries to knowledge. You are always exploring as a student. I think this is really understood at Trent."*

— Aly Haji

For Mr. Haji, Trent offers the full package — a beautiful campus where nature is juxtaposed with post-modern architecture and a strong reputation in innovation and commitment to teaching.

"Education is something that should always be evolving, and I think Trent epitomizes evolution in education. A good school has a synergy between its students and teachers and Trent has this. Trent embodies the perfect learning environment" he says. During his first year at Trent, he is looking forward to taking advantage of the University's interdisciplinary programming by taking a range of courses, including biology, organic chemistry, calculus, sociology and psychology.

"I'm excited for university because it is an opportunity to extend my knowledge in areas I'm very interested in, but haven't had the chance to study yet," he says.

While his studies at Trent are what he's most looking forward to, Mr. Haji is also looking forward to getting involved in campus activities, including the Trent Model UN. He was an active participant in the Belleville Regional Model UN and won a Top Delegate award in 2007. "I'm glad Trent encourages a Model UN and the idea of living and learning," he says. "I like the global perspective you can get from participating. As students, we represent the next generation of leaders and the Model UN is an illustration of how global politics may progress."

One day Mr. Haji would like to pursue a career in health sciences, possibly becoming a doctor. But in the meantime he is focused on making the most of the next four years. "I'm feeling a little overwhelmed," he said. "Right now four years feels like forever. But I'm very excited."

of the Kawarthas. "I anticipate getting to know this place of drumlins, lakes, pine, and smooth rock," she says. "Central Ontario is a dramatic departure from the Great Plains, foothills and Rocky Mountains I have experienced over the past eight years. I'll miss the snakes, cactus, bears, hawks, eagles, glaring light, swirling dust and wind of Southern Alberta but anticipate the gifts offered by the Shield."

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



# Matter of Course

## Exploring the Heart of Geography

**Field Research in Geography**  
**Geography 386H**  
**Professor: Dr. Peter Lafleur**

“In many ways, this course epitomizes what geography is all about,” Trent Professor Peter Lafleur says about one of Trent’s longest-running Geography courses – Geography 386H: Field Research in Geography.

“The study of geography is about human and physical environments and how they work. It really is a field science, not a book science,” he explains, adding, “The original geographers in the 1900s didn’t learn from a textbook, they walked out and studied the world around them.”

The concept of getting outside the office, the classroom and the library to really get a sense of what geography is all about is the underlying purpose behind this popular Trent course. As the only course offered in the department at the undergraduate level that focuses primarily on field research, it also plays an important role in preparing students to complete an honours thesis or pursue further studies at the graduate level.



**Field Work: A Trent Tradition**

At Trent, the field research course has been a vital academic opportunity for geography students since the department was first formed 40 years ago. “The founding members of the department believed you don’t teach geography from a book,” says Prof. Lafleur, who has been teaching the course for nearly 17 years, almost as long as he has been a professor in the University’s Geography Department.

As testament to the important role this course plays in the department, the structure of the course hasn’t changed much since it was first offered four decades ago. A mandatory field trip remains at the heart of the course – providing students with the opportunity to explore such places as the Canadian Rockies, Nova Scotia, Barbados, the French Alps, England, and Northern Ireland, to dig in the dirt, talk to people and really get into the environment around them.

*“It is definitely one of the courses our students remember the most.”*  
– Prof. Peter Lafleur



To prepare for the trip, students spend the first six weeks of the semester attending lectures and seminars learning the concepts and methodologies behind field research. During this stage, students also work to prepare their project proposals. Once on location, students spend a week exploring the field site and gathering data for their projects, which, according to Prof. Lafleur, “cover all of the things geographers normally study” – from the physical elements of the landscape to the human interactions with and impact on the location itself. Back at Trent, students spend less time in lectures and more time analyzing the data they collected during the trip. The course wraps up with presentations on each project and the submission of a final report.

Looking back on the many years of delivering “one of the hallmark courses” in geography, Prof. Lafleur says confidently, “It is definitely one of the courses our students remember the most.”

2008 marks the  
**40th Anniversary**  
of Trent’s Geography Department



# Adventure Living Comes to Trent

## New Living Learning Community Offers Exciting Opportunities for First-Year Students

“It’s all about a holistic approach to health and wellness, with an outdoor adventure twist,” says Colleen Lewis, college residence life coordinator at Trent, when describing one of the University’s new Living Learning Communities – Adventure Living at Champlain College. “It encourages self discovery through nature.”

One of five Living Learning Communities (LLC) at Trent, Adventure Living offers first-year students the opportunity to live in a smaller residence community with other students who share similar interests. In the case of this new community, students share a passion for outdoor adventure, athletics and health and wellness.

“We want to make their experience at Trent the best it can be,” explains May Zaw, a second-year Nursing student from Thailand and don of the new Adventure Living community. “Living in residence can be a better experience if students are involved in the things they like and if they are able to live with other students who like the same things.”

For many Trent students, a community devoted to adventure living is a natural fit, especially when it incorporates so many different aspects of leading a healthy life.

All students affiliated with this new LLC have much to look forward to in the year ahead. Ms. Lewis and Ms. Zaw have been busy laying the groundwork for many exciting initiatives and activities, including field trips, hiking adventures, and snowshoeing expeditions. In addition, they have been striking key partnerships with many community groups such as the Trent Climbing Club and the Canadian Canoe Museum.

As a way to involve faculty and other members of the Trent community in Adventure Living, Ms. Zaw is also planning to invite guest speakers into the community to talk to students about such topics as nutrition and the psychology of sport. Despite all the planning, Ms. Zaw is also careful not to plan too much. She is eager to have the students involved as much as possible in creating the Adventure Living community and driving its programming.

“I am looking forward to students bringing their own ideas of adventure to the table,” Ms. Zaw says, before adding, “Teaching the students to respect the diversity of everyone’s ideas will also be a key component of the community. It’s an opportunity to teach and learn from each other.”

Designed to engage, excite, challenge and inspire students, Living Learning Communities are a recent addition to campus life at Trent but are rooted in one of Trent’s oldest traditions – the College system. A vital part of the University’s history, the Colleges



at Trent were built on the foundation of smaller units of living and learning, each with its own history, traditions and character. The new LLCs represent an evolution of this system, maintaining smaller units of living and learning, each with its own history, traditions and character.

“These communities work to reinvigorate the college system and keep students engaged in campus life past first year,” Ms. Lewis explains. “The majority of learning at university doesn’t necessarily happen in the classroom. Living Learning Communities give Trent the opportunity to purposefully gear learning in residence – our University’s largest classroom. It’s really an exciting time for Trent.”

### Living Learning Communities at Trent University

**Adventure Living – Champlain College \*NEW\***

Through shared passion for indoor or outdoor athletic activities, students in Trent’s Adventure Living Community will have the opportunity to develop leadership skills and connect with their natural environment while living and learning together on a journey of physical, mental, emotional and community wellness.



**Expressions – Otonabee College \*NEW\***

Music, Theatre, Art – and everything in between! OC Expressions is a community of students who are interested in visual and performing arts. Community members also provide all Otonabee students with opportunities to engage in the arts with such programs as art shows, improv nights, and music showcases.

**Trent Global Living Community – Champlain College**

Trent’s first Living Learning Community, the Trent Global Living Community (TGLC) is home to students who share a common interest in global citizenship, diversity and working together to live, learn and grow from one another in a residence environment.

**Environment Community & Leadership – Gzowski College**

The Environment, Community and Leadership (ECL) community is intended to engage students with a strong interest in and passion for working through the adage of “thinking globally and acting locally.” As a group, ECL undertakes activities ranging from social welfare volunteering to green businesses.

**Teachers of Tomorrow – Lady Eaton College**

The common thread for this living-learning community is teaching, and students within the Teachers of Tomorrow (TOT) community have the opportunity to learn about curriculum and instruction, special education, teaching overseas, classroom management, lesson planning and much more.





# New Hospital Creates More Opportunities for Nursing Students

With the opening of the new Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC) in June 2008, Peterborough became home to one of the most technologically-advanced hospitals in the country. The new hospital is of great benefit to the entire community, especially to Trent University, as it strengthens an already impressive partnership between the PRHC and the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing.

"The relationship between Trent and PRHC has been one where we've been growing together over time," says Jane Parr, vice-president of people, systems and process at PRHC. "It's been an important relationship that allows Trent to become part of the fabric of PRHC and lets PRHC become part of the fabric of Trent."

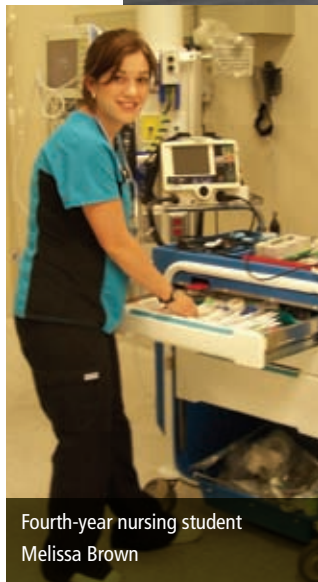
Building on a long history of collaboration with Fleming College, the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing has been working in partnership with PRHC since the School of Nursing launched in 2001. For Trent, the benefits of the partnership lie in the wealth of learning opportunities available to students.

"The partnership with PRHC is essential to the ongoing health of the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing," says Molly Westland, collaborative B.Sc.N program coordinator at Trent. "The partnership creates a real-life lab in which the students can practise. There is no better place to learn."

## State-of-the-Art Facilities

While students had many placement opportunities at the old hospital, the new PRHC affords many more, all within a state-of-the-art facility. From the ER to the birthing suite to outpatient clinics, Trent students can be found everywhere. They are also involved in many special projects. For example, last winter a group of fourth-year students participated in a wound care audit of the entire hospital population. This audit yielded data to assist in program development at the hospital; it also gave the students valuable assessment skills as well as a glimpse into the growing specialty of wound care nursing.

"The new hospital has been an absolute pleasure to work in and it is exciting to be completing my clinical practices in such a contemporary environment," explains Megan Smith, a fourth-year Nursing student in the compressed program, who has completed all of her clinical placements at PRHC – first at the old site and



Fourth-year nursing student  
Melissa Brown

they are learning at the university to what they are experiencing in practice," she says. "Our placements allow us to experience the reality of practice and to examine ways we can advocate to improve patient care and our own practice, using academic skills to do so. They help us learn to prioritize patient care and needs and to practice holistic assessment skills in a variety of clinical environments."

When it comes to working in the new hospital, Molly Westland stresses that the greatest advantages for students lie in having access to the newest medical technology. "In this ever more technical world this newly constructed environment will be a real asset. It will give the students the skills to work in a variety of environments in Ontario or around the world," she says.

Wendy Fucile, acting director of the School of Nursing agrees, stating that familiarity with a comprehensive hospital environment is vital to helping nursing students transition into the workplace.

now at the new facility. "Having the best resources available to you as a nurse enhances your ability to provide the best for your patients. I am proud to be able to be a part of such an innovative environment."

For fourth-year student Melissa Brown, who is in the midst of completing a placement in the Emergency Department of the new PRHC, the emphasis on placements is a key strength of the nursing program. "I think that the most important advantages of having placements throughout the program is that it allows nursing students to link what

"The more comfortable students feel with a variety of settings, the more likely they'll successfully make the transition, which is good for society," she says.

## Collaboration with a Difference

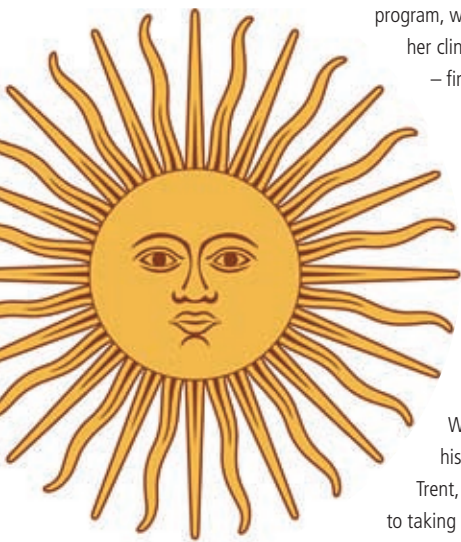
For the PRHC, the collaboration with Trent is equally as beneficial, as it works to support the development of a learning organization at the hospital and assists with the recruitment of new nursing professionals. Students in the program also provide much-needed support for existing hospital staff and help to keep nursing professionals sharp. Ms. Parr explains by saying, "Students help nurses stay current by sharing new perspectives. Students ask 'why are doing it that way?' which makes nurses stop and think about their practice a bit differently, instead of doing everything automatically."

Looking to the future, it is clear that the demand for qualified nurses and the need for evolving, state-of-the-art facilities will continue. As such, the partnership between the PRHC

and the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing will continue to play a key role in the Peterborough community and beyond. In regards to addressing these evolving needs, Sheila Hamilton, vice-

president of clinical services and chief of nursing at PRHC says, "I'm excited to see how our partnership with Trent will continue to grow and develop."

***Within the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing, the PRHC is just one of many key partners. Nursing students also benefit from placement opportunities with a variety of other leading hospitals and institutions across the province.***



# Double Dose of Global Perspective for Trent Student

When Darren Hinde started his undergraduate degree at Trent, he was looking forward to taking advantage of the many study abroad opportunities offered at the University. When the time came to choose a destination, Mr. Hinde had trouble deciding, so he opted to undertake not one, but two, study abroad opportunities in the same year.

"I figured if I had the chance to visit two different countries instead of just one. Well, why not?" he explains with a smile. With the assistance and organization of the Trent International Program (TIP) office, Mr. Hinde successfully completed exchanges to both Cuba and Argentina last year.


"For quite some time I have had the objective of visiting and learning about as many countries as possible," Mr. Hinde says. "I've always dreamed of studying abroad and the staff in the TIP office really helped me turn my dream into a reality."

Mr. Hinde studied at the University of Havana in Cuba during the first term. "My most fulfilling moments in Cuba occurred when I was simply conversing with locals on a day-to-day basis about the political and economic situation in their country," Mr. Hinde said. "It is an entirely different system down there. Living there was a very rewarding experience because I came home with a greater appreciation for my own country."

In his second term, he moved to Argentina where he studied at the University of Belgrano in Buenos Aires. "Some of my favourite experiences there occurred outside the University, attending soccer matches and concerts, and enjoying Buenos Aires' spectacular night life."

Mr. Hinde credits much of his ability to study at both the University of Havana and the University of Belgrano to the flexibility of his Trent Global Studies degree and the help of the TIP office. "My degree gave me the freedom to take certain courses abroad and have them count towards my degree, and not just as electives but as required courses. I am proud and very lucky to be a Trent student in regards to my study abroad experience."

For Mr. Hinde, the experiences abroad have confirmed his passion for his chosen major. "It's reinforced my desire to learn about the political, social and economic factors that run the world, which is what my degree and specialization are all about," he says. He is also looking forward to further studies in International Affairs and Global Studies, and hopes to go abroad again soon.

"I know I will complete a Masters degree studying something in the same vein as what I am studying now. I'm thinking about working as a diplomat or political consultant in the future. The experience has taught me that I enjoy and am well-suited to living abroad." 



***In 2007/08, 22 students gained important cultural and global experience participating in a Study Abroad Exchange organized by the Trent International Program.***

***"The study abroad program provides Trent students with an international, multi-cultural experience. I think it makes a student more attractive and employable upon graduation."***

— Lourdes Calderon, the TIP Study Abroad Assistant



# Spotlight on Athletics:



Trent alumna, Karen Sisson (’83) and her husband, Bruce Fitzpatrick, agree – Trent University’s athletics and recreation community programming is one of the “best kept secrets” in the Peterborough region.

“People in the community just don’t appreciate how much of a resource this is. Some aren’t even aware these facilities and programs are available to them,” says Ms. Sisson, who has had a long-standing affiliation with Trent and the Athletics Complex since she was a student here in the early 80s. During that time, Ms. Sisson not only utilized the University’s facilities as an award-winning varsity volleyball player, she also worked at the reception desk, which at the time was called “Central Stores.”

Decades later, Ms. Sisson, who is now a lawyer at Lockington, Lawless, Fitzpatrick, has successfully transferred her affinity for athletics and recreation at Trent to her entire family. It all began with her mother, Lois, who became interested in the facilities at Trent when the pool opened in 1977. At the time, a swim-only membership did not exist but Ms. Sisson used her connections to see to it that one was created for her mother. Lois Sisson became

*To honour the memory of Lois Sisson, a life-time member of the Trent Athletics Complex, the University has established a fund in her name. Monies from this fund will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for the Alan Marshall Pool at Trent.*

# Making Athletics and Recreation a Family Affair

## How One Local Family is Taking Advantage of Community Programming at Trent

the first swim-only membership holder at the Trent Athletics Complex in 1979 and, up until her death earlier this year, she came as often as she could.

Swimming in the pool on average two to three times a week earned Mrs. Sisson a lifetime membership at Trent’s Athletics Complex; it was an honour she was presented with on her 80th birthday, three years ago.

“There’s just something about Trent that makes you want to continue to do something for it.” – Karen Sisson

“My mom would not have continued swimming into her 80s if this place didn’t exist,” says Ms. Sisson. “She became a part of this community and this community became a part of her.”

This important sense of community within the Athletics Complex at Trent lies at the heart of Ms. Sisson’s connection to Trent and is one of the reasons why she continues to be involved with the University. Since graduating, Ms. Sisson has served on the University Senate as an alumni representative and on several athletics committees. “I have a real attachment to Trent,” she explains. “There’s just something about Trent that makes you want to continue to do something for it.”

When Ms. Sisson returned to Peterborough after graduating from Queen’s Law School, she and her husband, Bruce Fitzpatrick, who is a lawyer at the same firm as his wife, almost immediately reestablished a connection with athletics and recreation at Trent. Now that connection is a true family affair, which involves their three sons, Liam, age 16, Daire, age 13, and Eamon, age 10. “They think they own the building,” Ms. Sisson says about her sons with a laugh. “They’re very comfortable here.”

That level of comfort no doubt stems from the fact that all three boys have been involved in athletics and recreation programming at Trent in some form or another since infancy. All three boys have taken swimming lessons at the University; Liam most recently completed the National Lifeguard Service level. They have also been active participants in the popular Trent Summer Sports Camp (TSSC), which their father describes as “the Cadillac of camps.”



“The Trent Summer Sports Camp is unbelievable. The counsellors’ attitudes are second to none and they really teach the kids good values.” – Bruce Fitzpatrick

“The Trent Summer Sports Camp is unbelievable. The counsellors’ attitudes are second to none and they really teach the kids good values,” says Mr. Fitzpatrick. “The boys also love interacting with Trent students – the staff and other users of the facilities. It is amazing what they learn from them.”

What the Sisson-Fitzpatrick family enjoys most about the atmosphere at Trent is the “sports for all” tradition the University’s programs are built on. At Trent, everyone is welcome to participate and get involved in sport. “If you choose to get involved, if you want to, you can,” says Ms. Sisson. “It is definitely an opportunity this family has taken full advantage of.” 

# Trent Speaks: On Head of the Trent

## Student Perspective Ashley Holmes Heron, President of the Trent Rowing Club


### An Exciting Day for Everyone

Head of the Trent is a very important and exciting day for many current Trent students as well as for returning alumni and rowers. For the rowers the day is especially memorable as the renowned regatta draws competitors from Ontario, Quebec, and the northern United States, with international competitors also participating on occasion. The regatta coincides



with Trent University’s homecoming celebrations, and consequently provides a unique atmosphere of spectators, festivities and activities. The present regatta boasts over 50 universities and clubs competing with an estimated 1,200 athletes participating over the course of the day – making Head of the Trent the largest single day regatta in North America.

This will be my eighth Head of the Trent and my love for this day keeps growing. It is exciting to see the other schools and spectators coming to our course as well as the alumni who return to acquaint themselves with their alma mater.

I am going into my third year at Trent, but I have been very involved with the rowing club since I started rowing. Every year the energy around Peterborough at the Head of the Trent amazes me. It is always impressive to see so many people coming back to Trent to celebrate the time that they spent here. 



## Faculty Perspective Professor Arndt Kruger, Principal of Lady Eaton College

### An Opportunity to Celebrate

Every year at this time many people from the wider Trent community are hoping for nice warm weather for the annual Head of the Trent weekend. In my memory there were some of those glorious sunny days full of activity, hundreds of rowing sculls, many fit rowers and even more curious onlookers. I also remember, of course, those cooler days when warm outerwear was helpful and a certain amount of endurance was asked for not only from the rowers.

This year I am hoping for favourable weather again because the Head of the Trent is coinciding with the a special “Family BBQ 100 and Reunion” celebrating the 40th anniversary of Lady Eaton College. As principal of LEC, it is my great pleasure to invite all members of the LEC family: students, faculty, staff, alumni, former dons, senior tutors, retirees and past principals of the college, to this exciting event. We want to bring together many generations of students and for me it is again and again encouraging to hear from alumni how much they value their experience living in LEC (or in any other college at Trent). For many these were formative years where they met friends and interacted with resident dons, fellow students and their academic advisors. Many friendships were formed at LEC and memories are still fresh. Reunions are for me the real proof of what Trent is all about with its unique and lively college system and its academic programs with personal advising. I am looking forward to witness this kind of friendship and feeling of being connected with the LEC family and with Trent at this year’s Head of the Trent. 



## Staff Perspective Tony Storey, Director of Alumni Affairs


### Reflections on Alumni Homecoming

A horn wails. Colourful banners blow in the breeze along the Faryon footbridge. Rowing crews roam the campus. Crowds cheer as boats charge out of the canal and accelerate towards the regatta finish line. Children with painted faces and balloons vie for Mom and Dad’s attention as they greet old friends. Food, beverages, souvenirs, reminiscence, athletes, alumni and sports galore...

In describing the annual Head of the Trent regatta and Alumni Homecoming at Trent University, my good friend and varsity rowing coach Carol Love is fond of saying, “It’s all very exciting.” She’s right!

The early 1970s saw the emergence of an annual rowing regatta at Trent which was quickly adopted by the Alumni Association as an unbeatable homecoming opportunity, unique in Canada. Almost four decades later, the annual event draws huge crowds of rowing enthusiasts and alumni alike. In a good weather year, the total crowd has been estimated at well over 5,000 people. Many high school student rowers’ first discovery of Trent is at the regatta; the impression is favourable and often leads to a decision to select Trent for their post secondary education.

The beautiful banners that hang from the footbridge were the inspiration of the late Rob de Jong, a dynamic student rower and leader of the mid 1990s whose affliction with cystic fibrosis did not stop him from envisioning the dramatic opportunities provided by Head of the Trent. The visual splendor of those banners always brings back lovely memories of Rob’s infectious spirit.

In a still relatively young university, Head of the Trent is indeed a Trent tradition with a gold medal reputation. 



*Head of the Trent is Trent University’s signature Homecoming weekend. It is also the largest single-day rowing regatta in North America. Head of the Trent 2008 will be held October 3-5, 2008.*





Trent helped us learn how to adapt to change and to think outside the box,” alumna Kate Gillespie says, reflecting on her experiences as a Trent student. These skills have been especially useful in Kate’s career of choice – working with her twin brothers, Eric and Sean, two fellow Trent alumni, at Flying Colours, an innovative family-run company that completes refurbishments and modifications to primarily mid to large sized corporate and commercial aircraft.

For Kate, Eric and Sean, the Trent experience has played a vital role in their lives; helping to shape the people they are today – both in the business world and on a personal level.

“I learned how to think at Trent,” says Eric, a Business Administration graduate, while sitting in the boardroom of Flying Colours’ new office in a newly built hanger at the Peterborough Airport. Sean nods and adds that learning the basic business fundamentals from Trent’s award-winning Business Administration program was also a key in transitioning from university life to the world of work. For Kate, also a BBA grad, the transferable skills learned at Trent have made the most impact. “Trent taught us the skills to work together. These skills are important to be successful both as a business and as individuals within the company,” she says.

And successful they have been, working for the company their father, John, started over 25 years ago as an extension of the sales and maintenance division at the Peterborough Airport. Today, these Trent alumni are a vital part of a team of over 160 employees who work to offer their clients the best in aircraft luxury.

“We started as a small paint shop and have grown into finishing all aspects of an aircraft completion,” boasts Eric, explaining that Flying Colours works on both the interior and exterior of new and used aircraft, providing a variety of services such as custom paint jobs and outfitting the cabin with the finest leathers and fabric, as well as state-of-the-art entertainment systems. “Whatever the customer wants,” adds Sean.

Sean and Eric work in the sales and marketing division of the company, preparing proposals, liaising with customers, handling accounts and marketing their unique services across the globe. Kate started off her career at the company working in interior design but over the last couple of years, has transitioned

into coordinating several special projects, including working with Fleming College to create an Aircraft Interior Fundamentals Certificate Program.


For each of the three siblings, it is the variety of opportunities offered through the company that makes working at Flying Colours the most rewarding. “It certainly isn’t boring,” says Sean. “No two projects are alike and you learn something different every day.”

But working for the family company wasn’t always something they wanted to do. After completing his degree at Trent, Eric wrote the LSATs and had dreams to pursue a career in business law. Kate went to Ottawa after Trent and completed a program in interior design and event management. During this time, Flying Colours was growing by leaps and bounds and the exciting opportunities available back home eventually brought them both back. “We love the company and we are passionate about each customer and project,” says Eric.

Over the past couple of years, excitement levels have grown as the company introduced an exciting new completion in late 2006. The new completion involved converting CRJ regional jets from an airline to an executive configured aircraft. The CRJ “ExeCLiner” has expanded their customer base from a primarily North American to a truly global company. Kate, Eric and Sean work with high-profile corporations and

private individuals from around the world to customize these larger planes both inside and out. Also part of the ExeCLiner conversion is the manufacturing of a long-range fuel system that allows the CRJ to fly further distances without re-fueling, which is a major selling point.

When asked the inevitable question if any of their clients are celebrities, the three Trent alumni smile before discreetly replying that, although they retrofit the aircraft for many different companies and private groups, it is likely that celebrities do charter the planes for various trips when they are completed, along with the major corporations such as Irving Oil.

“It’s definitely a niche market,” Sean says. But it’s a niche market that continues to expand, according to Eric, who states proudly, “each one of our departments is growing right now.” This pride in their family’s company is the same pride Eric, Sean and Kate also feel towards Trent. “We would recommend Trent to anyone,” Kate says. “We do already!” 

“Trent taught us the skills to work together. These skills are important to be successful both as a business and as individuals within the company.”

– Kate Gillespie, Trent alumna



Trent alumni Sean, Kate and Eric Gillespie in the Flying Colours hanger at the Peterborough Airport.

## Investing in Trent

### Honouring a Long-time Trent Supporter and Friend

For years, John de Pencier has been an important friend and supporter of Trent University. As a tribute to Mr. de Pencier’s years of service to Trent and to recognize his love of nature conservation, the University has established a new nature trail, named in his honour.

The John de Pencier Nature Trail, a three kilometre trail located in the Canal Nature Areas on the east bank of Trent University’s Symons campus, has been made possible through the generosity of Mr. de Pencier’s friends and family who established the John de Pencier Fund for Trent’s Nature Areas in 2000. Over \$100,000 has been raised for the endowment, allowing the University to establish a new trail, which is located in a previously unused portion of the Trent Nature Areas. The opening of the new trail will allow generations for years to come to enjoy breathtaking views of the Otonabee River while meandering through marshlands and creeks on board walks and bridges.

“The Nature Areas are an important part of the Trent environment where faculty and students conduct research, teach and attend classes. Nature lovers, public schools on field trips, cross country skiers and dog owners use the nature trails throughout the year. This sense of bringing the two communities together is something that was important to John during his terms as Chair on the Board, so we figured it would be a fitting tribute to set something up in his name,” said David Moore, an honorary board member at Trent and a long-time friend of Mr. de Pencier who spearheaded the creation of the endowment fund along with Jalynn Bennett and Michael de Pencier.




John de Pencier’s involvement with Trent started more than 30 years ago when he was asked to fundraise for the Parents Program. His daughter Jan graduated from Trent in 1978. This eventually led to his joining the Board in 1981, which lasted for 12 years, five of which he served as chair. Mr. de Pencier was also chair of the Advisory Committee of the Beyond Our Walls Campaign and chair of the Trent Foundation. To this day, Mr. de Pencier continues his connection to Trent as a key member of the Planned Giving Advisory Committee and as an honorary board member.

**The opening of the new trail will allow generations for years to come to enjoy breathtaking views of the Otonabee River while meandering through marshlands and creeks on board walks and bridges.**

Looking back on his time at Trent, Mr. de Pencier recalls, “There was a warmth about Trent. You always got a warm, personal welcome. We had fun; it didn’t feel like work.”

Outside of Trent, Mr. de Pencier is known as a retired insurance executive who has distinguished himself as a governance volunteer for many Canadian institutions including Trinity College School, the Toronto Symphony and the National Ballet. Mr. de Pencier is also a founding member of the Canadian Paraplegic Association and a director of the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The new nature trail at Trent is the University’s most recent recognition of Mr. de Pencier’s tireless dedication. In 1993, Trent presented him with the distinguished Eminent Service Award and in 2002 he was awarded an honorary degree. 

Help us pay tribute to John de Pencier. Join us for the official opening of the John de Pencier Nature Trail on Friday, October 3 at 3 p.m. in the Trent University Nature Areas parking lot on University Road.

In case of rain, please come to the AJM Smith Room, Bata Library.



# Headlines and Highlights

Get all the Trent news daily, online from anywhere in the world at [www.trentu.ca/news](http://www.trentu.ca/news)

## Disability Services Develops New Speech Recognition Device

Trent's Disability Services Office (DSO) was recently awarded \$30,000 from the federal government's Office of Disability Issues to coordinate a new phase in a multi-year research project designed to perfect speech recognition technologies to assist Canadians who have hearing challenges.

"Most people who can't hear survive by lip reading, which only provides 20 per cent of the information spoken," explains DSO director Eunice Lund-Lucas, who has led Trent's involvement with this project over the past three years. "With this new speech recognition device, these individuals can now access 60 to 80 per cent of the information conveyed when someone is speaking. Our goal is 100 per cent."

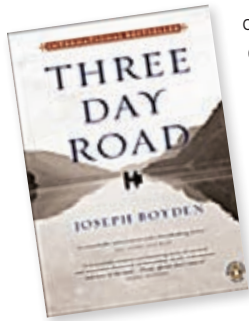


The device combines OQO, one of the world's smallest handheld computer models with Viascribe, a voice recognition software program developed by IBM. As a speaker converses into a microphone they are wearing, the device transcribes the words spoken onto the digital screen in real time, allowing others to access the information immediately by reading them.

Trent has been involved in this research project, called Universal Liberated Learning, for three years, along with its partners St. Mary's University in Halifax and IBM. [↗](#)

## Trent Reads 2008: First Assignment for New Students

When new first-year students arrived at Trent this summer to take part in New Student Orientation, they received a wealth of information about their upcoming University experience. They also received their first Trent assignment – read the award-winning novel *Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden and come prepared to discuss it in seminars offered during Introductory Seminar Week (ISW) in September.



This new initiative, called Trent Reads, was designed to bring the Trent community together by creating a common ground for discussion. In its inaugural year, the program gave new students an academic experience that they can all be a part of before they actually began classes. The seminars were led by Trent faculty in a variety of departments and programs and consisted of small groups of 20 or fewer students, in keeping with a standard seminar class at Trent. The goal was to alleviate students' anxiety as they prepare to enter their first year of university study.

*Three Day Road* by Joseph Boyden, the selection for 2008, was chosen for its relevance to people in all areas of study as it spans across many perspectives. [↗](#)

**As a follow-up to Trent Reads, Mr. Boyden will visit Trent with his wife and fellow author, Amanda Boyden, on September 18, 2008 to read from his latest novel.** [↗](#)



An innovative water transport and filter system, a toilet that recycles water, and an irrigation system designed for small-scale farms were just some of the projects presented by some of the Canada's top high school students at the Shad Valley Open Day at Trent University on July 24, 2008.

The Open Day marked one of the last events for 48 Shad Valley participants at Trent, who spent 27 days at the University participating in workshops, guest lectures and social events. Trent

## Shad Valley Participants Impress Trent Community

was one of twelve universities across Canada to participate in this year's prestigious Shad Valley program.

The "design with conscience" inventions were a significant component of the four-week program as participants were split into six working groups and spent three weeks designing a product that could help address issues of poverty, starvation, homelessness and education issues in Canada or in specific countries from around the world.

The 2008 Trent winner was Team Espoir, who created an irrigation system that monitors soil moisture. The students utilized a solar-powered battery to generate the electrical current through specially designed gypsum blocks attached to a simple drip irrigation system. A resistance meter detected when the soil moisture was sufficient and the water valve was shut off.

In addition to the Design-Entrepreneurship Project, Shad Valley participants at Trent also took part in an annual Rocket Building Competition, a two-day camping trip to Bark Lake, multiple trips to the Peterborough Festival of Lights. Students also delivered a musical performance at Riverview nursing home. [↗](#)

## Trent's Indigenous Studies Experts Mentor Aspiring Aboriginal Entrepreneurs

Ten aspiring First Nations entrepreneurs from northern Ontario came to Trent University in August to take part in a series of workshops to learn about entrepreneurship from leading business and cultural experts as part of Project Beyshick, a youth mentoring program focused on business career development for Aboriginals aged 21 to 35 years.

Project Beyshick participants were trained by members of Trent's Indigenous Studies Department and other Canadian

business schools followed by job shadowing placements with executives in the public and private sectors in Toronto. This is the second year that Project Beyshick has taken place at Trent University.

"As an international leader in the field of Indigenous Studies and as the home of Canada's first Ph.D. program in Indigenous Studies, Trent University is a perfect partner for Project Beyshick and for our other initiatives surrounding Aboriginal people in Canada," said Aditya Jha, chairman of the POA Educational Foundation. [↗](#)

## Trent Student Writes Economics Textbook to Help Future Students

For fourth-year student Juan Camilo Serpa, economics is more than a major, it is a passion. While taking Dr. Bruce Cater's third-year course in econometrics, Mr. Serpa was so taken with the material that he became inspired to write his own textbook on the subject.

Entitled *Econometrics: Within the Model*, the textbook is published online and geared specifically for students in Economics 320 or 420. Econometrics is the application of statistical methods to the study of economic and financial data.

Mr. Serpa had always wanted to write a textbook, so he decided to ask his professor if he would be interested in having a personalized mini-manual for his course. "The idea was to create

a 30-page document that summarized his notes. I expected two weeks of work to produce something that would give a good impression when I applied to grad schools," Mr. Serpa said. Eventually, the mini-manual became a large text, and was developed into a 150-page textbook, with more than 55 graphs, 25 examples and 20 tables.

"This will be a great resource for my students, particularly in its extensive use of examples," said Prof. Cater. "Juan is a brilliant student, and a prime example of how talented and motivated many of our undergraduates are at Trent." [↗](#)



## Little Known Facts

### This Tower Doesn't Ring a Bell

Upon the west bank of the Otonabee River sits a monument that encapsulates the vision and achievement of award-winning architect Ron Thom – Trent University's Champlain College. The College encapsulates the modern image both Ron Thom and T.H.B. Symons, founding president of Trent University, pictured for the new institution when it was built in 1964.

A focal point of the College, the Champlain College Bell Tower (aka Thom Tower) is referential to a tower gate in a city wall or a monastic cloister, and is a tribute to the medieval attributes comparable to the likes of universities such as Oxford or Cambridge. Built using an innovative construction technique similar to that implemented at Yale University, the tower was constructed with local rock in poured concrete forms, intensifying the awe-inspiring rawness of the University's first residential and teaching college on the Symons campus.

Historically, the tower housed a glorious brass bell donated from the CNR's then-president Donald Gordon, but Thom Tower was stripped of its bell after countless pranks. Stored for many years in the basement of Champlain College, students, faculty and staff forgot that the bell even existed. It was rediscovered in 2006 by a student employee at Alumni House. The bell has now found a new location of prominence – resting beside the grand fireplace in Champlain College's Alumni House. [↗](#)