**Convocation 2015 in the Spotlight: Andressa Lacerda**

**2 minute, 7 seconds in length**

Andressa Lacerda speaking

Through out my Ph.D. I worked on a specific protein that causes a disease in humans, which is a neurological disease, but I also had the chance to work with some viruses under the supervision of Dr. Craig Brunetti. So I covered actually a lot of ground in these four years of work. My answer is always the same to me it felt like home from the beginning and I feel like the small environment gave me the chance to do what I wanted to do. I was allowed to get a hold of my own education so I always had the freedom to go out and explore what I was interested in rather than staying in a curriculum. I did my undergraduate at Trent as well, in 2011 I received my Biology degree from Trent with a specialization in health sciences and right away to stay with Trent because of the research that I started doing as an undergraduate with Dr. Craig Brunetti and I really felt intrigued by it and I really wanted to pursue it further so I decided to start as a Masters student and later on I got convinced to change to a Ph.D. and here I am today. So anyone who is considering Trent will be very lucky to have a chance to come here because of all the chances that you have. I fully have my success because of Trent and it is a great program to really get involved so it's more than a degree you actually get to apply what you learn, and that is very valuable. I am very proud that I am an international student I am originally from Brazil and at Trent they have an amazing program for international students with the T.I.P office it's quite unique to Trent. They really provide a lot of support throughout the whole time they even have a special camp international students get to go to do Canadian things that they might have never done before to avoid the culture shock and make sure they feel at home as soon as they land in Canada. Next after my Ph.D. I'm really hoping to stay around Trent I got a chance to teach some classes this year and I really enjoyed it. So I want to pursue a teaching career here also keep doing research in my business space at Trent University so I want to pursue that.