# Showcase Feature: Dr. Rita Bode

**2 minutes, 30 seconds in length**

Dr. Rita Bode – Professor, English Literature speaking:

So, the name of the book, the title of the book is "L.M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys; The Ontario Years 1911 to 1942." And the book involves all of the major events of her life, the 20th Century, and her writing.  It brings them all together because it also focusses on her life, writing, and her fiction.   We hope that the reception to the book will be very positive – it has, I think… It's very readable. We ensured that it would be very accessible because like Jane Austen, L.M. Montgomery has a non-academic following as well.   We think some of the essays in it - some of the chapters - will definitely have good classroom use. I think it's an academic tome as well, repositioning her from a different perspective in Ontario and really focussing on the Ontario influences.  So I'm hoping it really will, you know, appeal to a broad spectrum of readers of, you know, of all kinds of interests.

There are couple of other Trent connections: my colleague Margaret Steffler, who has done some really fine work on Montgomery. I guess we approached her and she submitted and has a lovely piece on her religious doubt - on Montgomery’s religious doubt. And then a student of both mine and Margaret's, Natalie Forrest, she did a B.A. at Trent here in Oshawa actually, and then went on to do a M.A. in public tax and I was her advisor, and I think Margaret was her second reader. And she had done a really interesting senior essay for Margaret on positioning Montgomery as a southern gothic writer, sorry, an Ontario gothic writer. So we asked her if she would be… and she also submitted to that conference. I told her about it because I knew she had done some work on Montgomery.   She's actually now working on Margaret of Anjou at York so it's quite a switch. Anyway we asked her if she'd be interested in submitting and she did and it was a really good piece.

I've always wanted to apply for a Symons awards and I finally got a chance with Montgomery and that's been really great. I feel it really affirms our project to have the support of, you know, such a prestigious award from Trent. So that's been really good too.  So, yes, so it's very much, I think, a Trent project which is all so good.