Recent Trent University Outreach Activities

A full roster of events and activities showcasing the Trent experience was enjoyed by over 1200 visitors who attended the University’s Spring Open House on Saturday, 1 May 2010. Later in May, the highly successful 2010 Canada Wide Science Fair was held at Trent with more than 500 student finalists and hundreds of accompanying delegates. Gina Collins was announced as the recipient of the 2009-10 Nancy E. Simmons Smith Staff Award of Excellence in recognition of her leadership to organize the Canada Wide Science Fair and for her work on the Peterborough Regional Science Fairs.

A special feature of Trent University’s Chancellor is leadership of an outreach activity in which the Chancellor can engage with the university and broader community. Dr. Roberta Bondar’s Multiple Lenses, and Dr. Peter Gzowski’s Chancellor’s Dialogues, had lasting impacts and were organized as highly-anticipated annual events in Peterborough. Last month, in early April, the first events in new Trent University Chancellor Dr. Tom Jackson Dreamcatcher Series were held, including a Water Matters Workshop, a session on stress management for students, and a luncheon with Trent University student leaders. The Water Matters Workshop featured over 100 participants in a thoughtful exchange of ideas and action items, and local representatives from the municipal, provincial and federal governments met subsequently (with Trent participation) to begin discussion on how to coordinate efforts dealing with regional water issues. A plan is also under consideration to coordinate meetings with Parks Canada on the Trent Severn Water Way next fall.

The newly developed Dreamcatcher (http://www.trentu.ca/dreamcatcher/) website has links to highlights and additional information on these activities. The Chancellor’s Dreamcatcher Series for 2010-11 is currently under consideration; early ideas include a Pinetree Lecture followed by community or school presentations focussed on student recruitment and leadership development. Additional planning for the Dreamcatcher Series will occur in June.

Integrated Planning Activities

Again this month I would like to emphasize that the success of integrated planning, and all the review activities, depend on the enthusiastic and thoughtful contributions of all those participating across campus – thank you, for your commitment to the renewal of Trent’s planning processes.

The review of Vision, Mission, and Strategic Directions has been completed with approval of the Vision for Trent University at the April Senate and Board meetings, and approval of Mission and endorsement of Strategic Directions at the Senate meeting in May. The Board will consider Mission and Strategic Directions at the June meeting, and it is expected that this will conclude the formal approval process. Certain administrative changes are being implemented based on the Report of the Special Advisory Committee on Changing Academic Structures and on the 2009 introduction of the Provost and Vice-President Academic model for Trent University. Discussions will continue in governance, administrative and academic settings to ensure effective management of these changes at Trent University.

The integrated planning websites are:

1. Main integrated planning website: http://www.trentu.ca/planning/integratedplanning.php
4. Strategic Directions Advisory Committee: [http://www.trentu.ca/planning/strategicdirections/](http://www.trentu.ca/planning/strategicdirections/)
5. Report from the Special Advisory Committee on Changing Academic Structures
6. Provost’s Planning Group integrated planning template, workshops, and links to other planning documents (such as the recently developed Multi-year Strategic Enrolment and Retention Plan, and Trent’s Strategic Research Plan): [http://www.trentu.ca/planning/ppg.php](http://www.trentu.ca/planning/ppg.php)

The next phase of integrated planning will involve the senior executive leadership team of the university (the President/Vice-President Executive Committee (PVP), and the Provost’s Planning Group (PPG)) leading in the development of an institutional integrated plan.

**Major Consultative and Administrative Activities**

Several interesting and productive meetings were held this past month with Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI) and Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) officials. The President of UOIT and I met with the Deputy Minister of MTCU and emphasized that the two institutions (Trent and UOIT) were working together, collaborating, finding complementarity, efficiencies, and a shared future in the region based on distinct and complementary missions. A more complete understanding and development of this possible strategic collaboration between Trent and UOIT in the Durham Region is a worthwhile goal that appears to be consistent with public policy and the needs of learners in the eastern GTA and elsewhere. A COU Working Group on University Research, co-chaired by the Deputy Minister of MRI, met to discuss high performance computing issues, and other pressing needs, including the development of responsive commercialization strategies in support of universities in Ontario. Continued discussion of pension issues and implications of the most recent Ontario budget was also featured in various settings as part of Trent’s external and government relations portfolio.

The following appointments were announced in May:

- Dr. Joan Sangster, professor of History and Women’s Studies, will serve as dean of graduate studies and head of Traill College, effective 1 July 2010.
- Anne Parker, Manager, Support & Instructional Technology, will serve as acting director of IT.
- Dr. Carolyn Kay has accepted a two-year appointment as college head at Lady Eaton College.
- Dr. Ellen Bentzen, who has served as interim college head at Gzowski College for the past year, has accepted an appointment for a further two years.
- Dr. Michael Allcott will serve as interim college head at Champlain College for a term of one year and will undertake this role in addition to his role as the director of TIP.
- Dr. Robin Lathangue will continue as head of colleges and college head at both Otonabee and Julian Blackburn Colleges.
- Dr. Mark Parnis will continue as acting dean of arts and science, and serve as acting provost and vice-president academic from 1 July to 31 August 2010. In September, Dr. Parnis will serve as a special advisor to the incoming provost and vice-president academic, with project-based responsibilities to assist in transition and changing academic structures, quality assurance, and Trent in Oshawa Thornton Road Campus.
- Dr. Gary Boire will become Trent’s new provost and vice-president academic effective 1 September 2010. Dr. Boire will also hold a faculty appointment as a professor of English Literature at Trent.
COU Exec Heads Retreat and Meeting

I attended the COU Executive Head Retreat and Round Table on 27 May 2010 in Toronto. My immediate predecessor, Bonnie Patterson, worked closely with the Chair of COU, Sheldon Levy (President of Ryerson University), to foster thoughtful discussion and decision-making across a wide range of issues. I was reminded yet again how fortunate we are that Bonnie continues to make outstanding contributions to post-secondary education in her role as President of COU. Some of the highlighted topics included:

- FedDev's new $15M research commercialization program appears aimed at university, college and industry collaborations
- Ideas for the Ontario Online Institute have started to form around the notion of highlighting pilot or demonstration projects to show that universities are ready for increased online activities that build on existing initiatives across the Province
- A position paper on university contributions to the economy and society in general may be developed – perhaps to highlight ways to achieve the vision of greater PSE involvement and access (one idea that might be included is a study of comparable institutions in other jurisdictions)
- Pension discussions continue at both MTCU and the Ministry of Finance
- An enrolment growth framework paper outlined a revised method of developing and funding new enrolment in Ontario based on the recent budget provisions of up to 20000 new PSE students in the coming three years.

And finally, a new MTCU multi-campus policy is beginning to take shape - there are something like 100 satellite campuses in Ontario. A consultation phase is planned that might help to recognize the diversity and entrepreneurial spirit of universities with multi-campuses. Often, multiple campuses are considered a healthy response that certain universities have made in the past, and may continue to make, to ensure accessibility and the needs of students and the Province are met. Trent in Oshawa Thornton Road Campus is clearly a great example to be highlighted and celebrated as part of the long-term commitment that Trent and the Province have made to the Durham Region and the eastern GTA.
Internal and External Relations (May 1 – 31, 2010)

Internal Meetings
Trent University staff and faculty meetings (18)
Trent University students and student groups (4)
Trent University Board, members, and committees/subcommittee meetings (10)
Trent University senior administrators (15)
Academic and administrative department/unit meetings (1)
Senate
Search Committees and Candidates (5)
Names Committee
Trent University Association of Retired Persons – Presentation (5 May)
Alumni Council Meeting (15 May)

External Meetings
Community leaders in Peterborough (1)
Post-secondary presidents (King’s College, UOIT, UWO, Saskatchewan, Windsor, Lakehead, Laurentian, Durham College)
Former Trent Senior Administrators
Federal government departments (2)
Deputy Minister and other officials, Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities (1)
Officials of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources
Peterborough community groups (1)
COU Executive Heads Retreat and Roundtable (27 May)
COU Working Group on University Research
Principals Meeting of the PVNC Catholic District School Board at Trent University (12 May)

Events
Trent University Open House
Canada-Wide Science Fair Opening Ceremony
Celebrating 25 Years of Gzowski’s Literacy Legacy
Premier’s Innovation Awards
Kawartha Rotary Club (Breakfast presentation)
Peterborough Regional Health Centre Breakfast – Vision and Plans for Change

The President’s Monthly Report is available on the Office of the President’s Website at http://www.trentu.ca/administration/presidentsoffice_reports.php. Questions or comments are welcome (sfranklin@trentu.ca).