



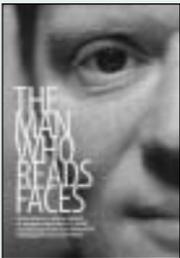
# focus

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# trent

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## in the news



Elm Street Magazine featured an in-depth article about Trent alumnus Kevin Chappell in

their October 2002 issue. Mr. Chappell completed his B.A. and, later, his M.A. at Trent. The M.A. was earned after Mr. Chappell was hit by a car causing a brain injury which means he cannot identify the objects he sees. Only human faces register in his memory.



The *National Post* featured a review of the newest volume of Robertson Davies's letters on Dec. 14. Called *Discoveries, Early Letters 1938 - 1975*, the book includes letters to Trent Professor Emeritus Gordon Roper, a personal friend of Mr. Davies and a long-time resident of Peterborough. Prof. Roper is also mentioned in the Post review.



The *Toronto Star* featured research by Professor Magda Havas on Sat., Jan. 14. Prof. Havas has been studying electromagnetic fields and their impact on human health.

The *Peterborough Examiner* reviewed adjunct Professor Shelagh Grant's newest book in December. *Arctic Justice* was praised for its thorough and balanced approach in telling a unique Arctic story.

Discovery Channel's *Daily Planet* recently featured Prof. Brad White's research on the spread of rabies in Ontario.

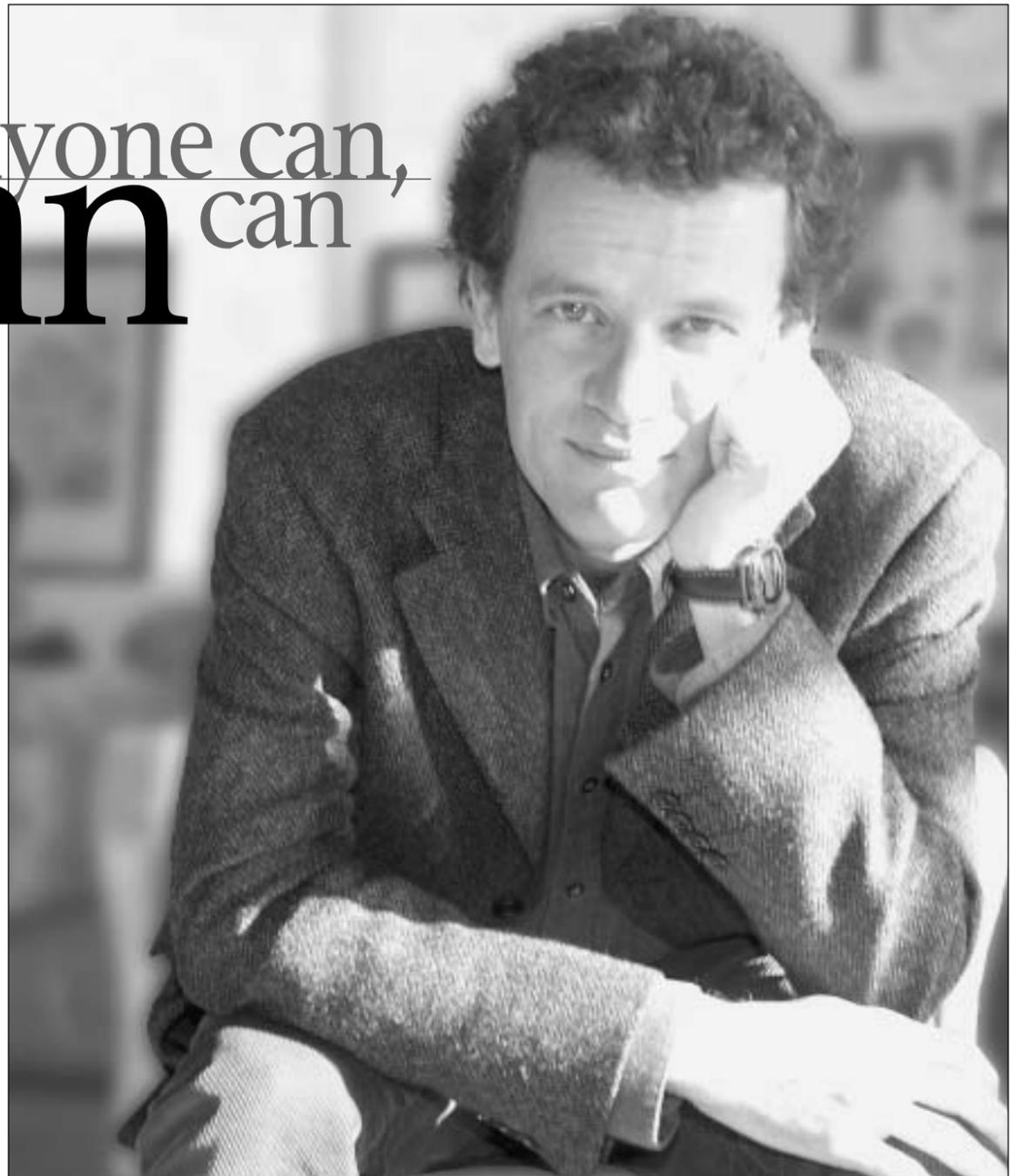
# If anyone can, Yann can

IN A LIVE INTERACTIVE FORUM online, Yann Martel is asked what it's like to be the most recent Booker Prize winner, and replies: "I feel like a beach in Normandy on D Day."

But this graduate of Trent University knows this is one siege he can't complain about. In October 2002, his second novel, *Life of Pi*, took one of the world's most coveted literary awards: the Mann Booker Prize. Since then, it's been a string of phone calls, interviews, invitations and, Mr. Martel adds, "I've become a professional e-mail writer."

Yet, in the midst of such literary mayhem, Yann Martel still managed to find time to squeeze in a brief interview and photo shoot for Trent University at Random House in early December. Why? Because his experiences at Trent meant a lot to him. Almost 20 years after graduating, he is still able to name favourite professors like Constantin Boundas, David Gallop, Bob Carter, and recalls his friends at other universities marveling at the small classes he attended. "Tutorials of 12, maybe 15 students," he remarks. "It's astonishing for first year."

While at Trent, he participated actively in all aspects of University life, from senate to the swim team, and is described by Prof. Boundas as a student with a voracious appetite for debate. "He was a young man of strong beliefs and he was not unwilling to share them with his fellow students," Prof. Boundas recalls. "As a result, he generated robust discussion in class." Prof. Boundas also remembers that Mr. Martel expressed a fervent desire to write. "He was ripe to write. He was more in tune with his talents and abilities than



most of us."

"Writing chose me," Mr. Martel says, recalling the pull toward writing. "I was 19 years old. Hegel and Kant weren't speaking to me. While at Trent, I wrote a play, a really bad play, but the pleasure was in its making."

That urge to write has resulted in a career as a professional writer and the publication of one collection of short stories, *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccomatios* (the first paragraph of which describes Trent University), and two novels: *Self* and the blockbuster *Life of Pi*.

The latter tells the story of a 16-year-old boy stranded on a lifeboat with a variety of zoo animals, and eventually left to contend with a 400-pound Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. One of the Mann Booker judges called

it an "audacious book in which inventiveness explores belief . . . a novel which makes you believe in God."

Mr. Martel agrees that the novel proves the existence of God, but adds, "there's hardly any talk about philosophy or religion." His is more a philosophy of storytelling and the life of the imagination, and he subtly explores both themes in *Life of Pi*.

As a writer, he recharges himself through volunteer work and through one of his favourite pastimes: walking. His reward to himself after the completion of *Life of Pi* was a 1600-kilometre pilgrimage, walking across Europe to Santiago De Compostela in Spain.

His chosen volunteer work is at a palliative care unit in Montreal, an experience he finds

"not depressing, but sobering. It blows away the trivial from life."

Of his brief brush with scandal around the origins of the idea for *Life of Pi*, Mr. Martel shares that "it wasn't fun." His subsequent discussions with the Brazilian author involved, whom he acknowledges for giving his novel the "spark of life," have been stimulating and the two plan to write articles for *La Presse* comparing their books.

At present, Mr. Martel is wrapping up a course he is teaching in Berlin on animals in literature and has accepted a stint as writer in residence at the Saskatoon Public Library for 2003/04. Already, he is contemplating his next book: an allegory with a story involving animals . . .

# unearthing

## a rare find

Archaeologist Ken Cassavoy, a long-term research associate of Trent University, made a thrilling discovery this past October.

On a dig at Southamptton Beach, on Lake Huron, Mr. Cassavoy found a cannon buried in the sand, lying inside the remains of a late 1700s sailing vessel. The 200-pound weapon would have been mounted on the rail of the ship, at the bow or stern.

To non-archaeologist types, this discovery might seem fairly tame. But Mr. Cassavoy explains that unearthing a cannon on a Great Lakes beach is anything but mundane.

"The cannon was a particularly exciting find. I don't know of any other cannon found in any excavation or investigation of Great Lakes shipwrecks, outside of War of 1812 vessels," says Mr. Cassavoy. "As well, the cannon type and style and structural information from the October dig suggest it is a late 1700s ship. Again, finding a ship of this peri-

od on the Great Lakes, especially the upper lakes, is extremely rare."

Just why was this ship plying the waters of Lake Huron, equipped with weapons? And what circumstances culminated in the fateful grounding on Southamptton shores? These questions are difficult to answer, and contribute to the mystery Mr. Cassavoy is attempting to unravel.

He does know that the ship was a two-masted schooner, as evidenced by two mast steps discovered during excavation. These steps marked the location of the former foremast and main mast. The ship was five metres wide and 16 metres long. The bow of the ship was buried about one metre below the surface of the beach, with the stern about two metres below the surface.

A recent discovery by Tobermory historian Patrick Folkes may help identify the ship. He has discovered a letter that refers to a boat called the

"Weasel" that was lost in the Southamptton area before 1808. The "Weasel" was built in 1786, in Detroit, for John Askin, a prominent merchant, and carried muskets, rum, flour, fish and other goods between Fort Erie, Detroit, Sault Ste. Marie and Michilimakinac during the late 1700s. References to the ship end before 1800. Given the relatively small number of vessels on the lake during this period, the "Weasel" is a strong candidate for

identification as the Southamptton wreck, although Mr. Cassavoy cautions that additional research will need to be completed before any identification is made.

The vessel was initially discovered in April of 2001, when a resident went for a walk along the beach and saw a row of wooden timbers sticking out of the sand. Some initial digging was completed, followed by magnetometer testing that indicated there

was metal beneath the sand. This testing determined the excavation areas for the second stage of the project.

The site has been recovered with sand for the winter months and the cannon is being cleaned and conserved in Ottawa at the Canadian Conservation Institute. The cleaning is going well, and it is anticipated the cannon could be returned to Southamptton sometime in the spring. So far, there are no indications of any markings on the cannon.

For years, Mr. Cassavoy taught an underwater archaeology class at Trent, and is hoping to offer a Trent summer course this summer on the Southamptton dig.

"We are tentatively planning a Trent field school for May and June of this coming year. The work would involve the excavation of the major part of the vessel," says Mr. Cassavoy, adding that the viability of the course will depend on the number of interested students, as well as some funding and logistical issues.

For information about the 2003 summer field school, please contact Julian Blackburn College (705-748-1229) or the Anthropology Department (705-748-1011, ext. 1325).

▲ Photo: In October of 2002 Trent research associate Ken Cassavoy discovered a cannon dating to the late 1700s, lying inside the remains of a two-masted schooner on a Lake Huron beach. This find is extremely rare and raises a new historical mystery to the forefront of archaeological research in Ontario. He is pictured here holding a smaller artifact from the ship. Photo courtesy of the Grey-Bruce Sun Times.



# a thesis

## in the making

Graduate student Caroline Archambault has been interested in international development issues for a long time. She graduated with a B.A. in international development studies from Trent in the early 1990s and went on to work with the former intercultural training centre at CIDA, and at TFO, the French network of TVOntario.

"I worked at TFO for four years as an associate producer and researcher," explains Ms. Archambault. "My work involved a lot of community participation, which was interesting because, for years, I had been thinking about why people choose to become involved in community and international projects."

When Ms. Archambault decided to pursue her master's degree, she wanted to delve deeper into this issue, and discovered that, through the Frost Centre at Trent, her interdisciplinary approach could be successful. "It's certainly reinforced, for

me, the value of interdisciplinary studies and it's been wonderful to have the resources of so many great scholars and professors at



Trent," she says.

Ms. Archambault has fine-tuned her research to the study of university students and their engagement in international development. She is asking why

students get involved and how their participation takes shape.

Focussing primarily on the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Ms. Archambault has completed interviews with students at WUSC local committees at Dalhousie University in Halifax and at the Collège d'Alfred, near Ottawa. In late November she will travel to

committees and contact groups at colleges and universities in Canada. Its mandate is based on a belief that all peoples are entitled to the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to a more equitable world. Its mission is to foster human development and global understanding through education and training.

"I am using WUSC as a case study specifically because of its involvement at the local level and with students," explains Ms. Archambault, who is in the second year of her M.A. program. She also works as a T.A. in Politics 201 and does copyediting and translation work for the *Journal of Canadian Studies* and *Labour/Le Travail*. She still does some contract work with TFO.

Hoping to complete her M.A. by the summer of 2003, Ms. Archambault is excited about her research and is seeing trends emerge from her interviews.

She says it is gratifying to be back in a learning environment and is happy to be involved again in the Peterborough community.

the University of Alberta in Edmonton to conduct additional interviews.

WUSC is a non-governmental organization, based in Ottawa, which has approximately 80 local

# language lore

Anyone who has read *Lord of the Rings*, by J.R.R. Tolkien, might recognize some sounds from the Old English language if they heard them. Remember the language of Rohan, written in modern day English but scattered with words like Theoden, Eomer, Eowyn and Meduseld? These words all have meanings in Old English and impart some feeling for the ancient language.

Written in its original form, Old English is fascinating and puzzling to look at. Filled with unfamiliar letters, it seems indecipherable and foreign to the modern eye.

However, Professor Sarah Keefer, and her English 431 students, know this language well. They can read Old English, make transcriptions and, thanks to Prof. Keefer's innovative theories on course content, are working through the complicated issues of editing and handling ancient work. Most scholars assume students need to be working at a graduate level before they can tackle issues like this, but Prof. Keefer has proven undergraduate students are completely capable of such high-level critical work.

"I am so proud of these honours students. In many ways they are working at a graduate level. I'm

in the first place. They are evaluating what the original manuscript context looks like and the issues an editor must face."

A foundation of English 431 is study of the *Exeter Book*, the earliest recorded anthology of poetry in English. Dating to circa 975 C.E. (Common Era, also known as A.D., or Anno Domini), the *Exeter Book* is an important text, one that some scholars have devoted their entire lives to. In fact, one of Prof. Keefer's



Australian colleagues, Bernard Muir, has dedicated himself to the study of this text for the past 25 years, and has developed an innovative *Exeter Book* computer program. All pages of the ancient manuscript can be accessed electronically, through this program, along with many other text resources. Some damaged portions of text can be magnified and also viewed through ultraviolet light, helping students piece together the original text.

"It's like taking students to the Exeter Cathedral Library for an entire year and letting them have unlimited access to the manuscript. This is a unique manuscript and you don't want people pawing over it. If you digitize it, you don't have to," smiles Prof. Keefer, adding that she is the first educator in the world to use the program for educational purposes. The University of Exeter Press hadn't even considered its pedagogical possibilities until Sarah heard about it and offered to test it with her students.

"I start the course by giving riddles to transcribe," explains Prof. Keefer. There are three levels of transcription involved. Facsimile transcription, which involves copying the actual script and layout of a manuscript text in the same manner as a 10th-century scribe, helps students learn to read insular minuscule,

the handwriting of Anglo-Saxon vernacular writing. Diplomatic transcription includes copying the layout and textual manuscript details into modern letterforms, paying close attention to errors and scribal abbreviations. Critical transcription culminates in presenting the text in a format that modern readers can best understand.

"Each student transcribes between 150 and 180 lines,

and prepares the text as if they were publishing it," says Prof. Keefer. "They get to dig into the issues around editing and, through working from the original text, can assess the work of other editors to their own."

The students also work cooperatively to strengthen each other's work. A peer review process is part of each assignment, where students submit their work to each other for review and comments. Based on this input, students have the opportunity to make revisions before submitting their final assignments to Prof. Keefer.

Prof. Keefer's own fascination with the medieval period began when she was 15. She broke her right femur and ended up in a hospital traction sling and body cast for an entire summer. *The Lord of the Rings* made its way into her hands, and she loved it. "It changed my mind about everything," she recalls. "Then, when I was doing graduate work, I was all prepared to be a Victorianist, but when I took my first Old English course, it felt like I'd come home." Prof. Keefer adds that Tolkien also had a fascination with language and built structured languages into his books. A

course she taught in 2001/02, exploring these links, was called "The Anglo Saxon World of J.R.R. Tolkien," and was very popular with Trent students. This course will be offered again in 2003/04.

In English 431, also, students are very engaged. They eagerly discuss their own transcription work and the challenges they have encountered. During a class in early December, student Dave Jordan touched on one of the complexities of making transcription relevant for modern readers. He said: "You don't respect the poem by translating it word for word. It becomes flat. If you give yourself license to make it a poem again, you've given it an opportunity to live and breathe and for people to experience it."

"Translation is transformation," Prof. Keefer told her students. "Walter Ong said that. You change the colour, the flavour, the texture."

As her class discussed the ethics of editing ancient manuscripts, Prof. Keefer was visibly pleased. The level of discussion was intelligent, intense and engrossing, creating an atmosphere suffused with erudition.

"This is definitely a course I want to teach again," says Prof. Keefer. "My students would be able to digitize manuscripts at a publishing house based on this. They have experience in editing, archiving and conservation. And they're having a blast - they love it."

Photos: Prof. Sarah Keefer during one of her English 431 classes, *Studies in Old English Language and Literature*. In the foreground are two texts: the *Exeter Book*, the primary text for the course, and *A Concise Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**January 11 - 27:** Canadian artist Michele Karch-Ackerman and photographer Martin Ackerman, artists in residence at Champlain College, offer workshops. 748-1237.

**Jan. 13:** Winter fitness programs begin at the Athletics Complex. [www.trentu.ca/athletics](http://www.trentu.ca/athletics).

**Jan. 15:** Michelle Berry reads from her work as part of this year's Writers Reading Series, 8 p.m., "squash court hall," Townhouse 1, Peter Robinson College.

**Jan. 15:** Shelagh Grant, author of the new book *Arctic Justice: On Trial for Murder, Pond Inlet, 1923*, will be speaking about "researching and writing Arctic justice" at the Scott House JCR, Trail College, 8 p.m.

**Jan. 16:** Prof. John Topic speaks about "Communicating Heritage in a Context of Institutional Conflict" as part of the K.E. Kidd Lecture Series & Colloquium, 4 p.m., OC109.

**Jan. 17 - 20:** John O'Leary, president of Frontier College, will be at Champlain to lead workshops on literacy. 748-1237.

**Jan. 20:** Faculty members are invited to an Interactive Learning Centre talk called "Strategies for Discouraging Plagiarism," 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., OC 219.

**Jan. 21:** Senate meeting, 2 pm, AJM Smith Rm, Bata Library.

**Jan. 21:** Dr. Jim Parker will speak about why smart students fail as part of the Teaching & Learning speaker series, 7 p.m., Peter Robinson Squash Court Hall, Townhouse #1.

**Jan. 23:** Dr. Ludger Müller-Wille, Northern Chair lecturer for 2002/03, will deliver a lecture called "Caribou Never Die: Dene Hunters and Modernization in the 1970s," 7:30 p.m., Bata Library Film Theatre.

**January 23:** Gwen Boniface speaks at Champlain about her work in Lithuania. She is a commissioner of the OPP and advisor to the UN on community policing, 7 p.m. Location t.b.a. 748-1237.

**Jan. 23:** Rooke lecture at Ptbo. Public Library, 7:30 pm, with Simon Ortiz. Topic: "Poetry is story is community."

**January 24 - 27:** Canadian textile artist Alice Williams offers workshops and a weekend quilting symposium at Champlain College (with an emphasis on the traditions of quilting and women's narrative culture). 748-1237.

**January 28:** Dr. Carlyle Smith will speak about sleep and learning as part of the Teaching & Learning speaker series, 7 p.m., Peter Robinson Squash Court Hall, TH #1.

Visit [www.trentu.ca](http://www.trentu.ca) for more coming events.

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# legendary **A.J.M.** impa



**"It was the publication of Arthur's first comprehensive Canadian anthology, *The Book of Canadian Poetry*, in 1943, which immediately established him in the position of authority which he has ever since maintained among Canadian critics. He gave shape to what had been before him an unmapped waste poetic land, and while avoiding the excessive praise which other anthologists had lavishly applied to their mostly mediocre contemporaries, gave everyone a proper recognition in their time and place." ~ F.R. Scott, in an address given at a banquet held in honour of A.J.M. Smith at Michigan State University in 1976**

Many members of the Trent community will recognize the name of A.J.M. Smith. Perhaps students will associate it with classes they have had on the bottom floor of the Bata Library, in the room that bears his name. Board members will also link the name to that location, as the A.J.M. Smith Room is home to meetings of the Board of Governors.

However, how many people stop to ask who this man was and why we have such a beautiful, riverside room named in his honour?

There are those at Trent who know the answers to these questions, of course, and English Professor Gordon Johnston is one of them. He not only knew A.J.M. Smith, but also has written about

his work and feels Mr. Smith played a key role in the development of Canadian poetry.

"He was the one who created our sense of Canadian poetry, in many ways," says Prof. Johnston. "He's a crucial figure in thinking about Canadian poetry."

Prof. Johnston explains that Mr. Smith was involved, as a student, with writing and editing poetry at McGill. Part of the first group of modernists, Mr. Smith founded and ran the *Literary Supplement* of the *McGill Daily* and, subsequently, the *McGill Fortnightly Review*.

In the 1930s Mr. Smith worked with Frank (F.R.) Scott on a collection of poems by himself, Mr. Scott, Leo Kennedy, A.M. Klein, E.J. Pratt and Robert Finch.

This was called *New Provinces* and was published in 1936 by Macmillan.

Mr. Smith's first anthology of Canadian poetry, *The Book of Canadian Poetry*, was published in 1943. This volume, says Prof. Johnston, was what gave Canadians the first clear sense of themselves, poetically.

"All prior anthologies of Canadian poetry weren't critical. They were perhaps patriotic or sentimental – all were published at a popular level. This was the first critical intelligence in Canadian poetry that said there were poems of value out there. He used standards of excellence in selecting the poems," says Prof. Johnston. "At that time Northrop Frye did a yearly

review of Canadian poetry for the *UofT Quarterly*. Frye's review of the anthology is a defining moment in our poetry."

Prof. Johnston says some critics have accused Mr. Smith of having a narrow focus in selecting pieces for his anthologies, but he disagrees. "I know he included poems that weren't necessarily to his own liking, but which he felt were of high quality," he says.

This opinion was formed through personal conversations and meetings with Mr. Smith. Prof. Johnston and Prof. Michael Peterman spent time with Mr. Smith in the late 1970s, when he had decided to donate his library and papers to Trent University.

"He decided to donate his collection of Canadian poetry and his papers to Trent because this was a serious place for Canadian Studies and he liked the University," recalls Prof. Johnston. "We went to East Lansing (Michigan) to visit and look through his materials. We had a wonderful time with him. He had a very sharp mind and was full of stories and opinions and anecdotes."

A.J.M. (Arthur James Marshall) spent most of his teaching career in the English Department at Michigan State University, although he spent considerable time in Canada during the summers, and was a visiting professor at many Canadian university campuses. In addition to the books already noted, he was prolific, and published five books of poetry (*News of the Phoenix* in 1943, *A Sort of Ecstasy* in 1954, *Collected Poems* in 1962, *Poems New and Collected* in 1967 and *The Classic Shade* in 1978), and numerous anthologies. Some of the best known include *The Oxford Book of Canadian Verse* in English and French (1960), *The*

# Smith: Context on Canadian poetry



*Blasted Pine: An Anthology of Satire, Invective and Disrespectful Verse Chiefly by Canadian Writers* (1957, with F.R. Scott), and *100 Poems* (1965).

It seems that certain themes dominated Mr. Smith's work, and Prof. Johnston explored these themes in an essay he wrote in 1980 for *Profiles in Canadian Literature*. He says: "One way to recognize the primary levels of meaning in Smith's poems is to consider the groupings he himself makes of his own poems – for example, in his *Poems, New and Collected*. Smith arranges the poems into six groups partly on the basis of their subjects and these subjects are the primary themes of his poetry: (1) mythology (2) nature (3) sex and love (4) poetry (5) society and (6) death. Partly the poems are also arranged on the basis of their methods. It is perfectly characteristic of Smith that the categories should be based on a sliding scale of form and content; after all, he understands that there can be no clear distinction between the two." (Page 75, *Profiles of Canadian Literature*, Dundurn Press Ltd., Toronto, 1980)

The sections on nature and society received the least attention from Mr. Smith, who preferred to write most often about love, sex and death.

His style, says Prof. Johnston, was often "imagist" in scope, and perhaps his most famous poem, "The Lonely Land," is a good example. "If we do think of Smith as a national or nationalist poet, it is probably because of his poem, 'The Lonely Land,' which is frequently anthologized and frequently compared in its vision to the paintings of the 'National' school, the Group of Seven. The prominence of the poem gives quite a misleading sense of Smith as a poet, since he has never had an extended or thorough interest in landscape; indeed, he has never visited that part of Georgian Bay which the poem seems to describe. The poem is



'imagist' more than 'nationalist'; that is, the impulse to create it was literary more than patriotic and has its origins in a kind of poetry developed by Ezra Pound and others in 1913 in England." (Page 74, *Profiles of Canadian Literature*, Dundurn Press Ltd., Toronto, 1980)

This sense, of thinking in an imagist way, seemed to guide the creation of Mr. Smith's anthologies, as well.

A man who opened up a new vision of Canadian poetry, A.J.M. Smith is a larger-than-life figure in Canadian literature. It is a privilege to have his entire Canadian collection and his papers here at Trent, housed in display cases in the A.J.M. Smith Room and in the Archives.

LEFT: A young Arthur James Marshall Smith in 1925 or '26 at McGill.

Photos courtesy of the Trent University Archives.

## The Lonely Land

by A.J.M. Smith

Cedar and jagged fir  
uplift sharp barbs  
against the gray  
and cloud-piled sky;  
and in the bay  
blown spume and windrift  
and thin, bitter spray  
snap  
at the whirling sky;  
and the pine trees  
lean one way.

A wild duck calls  
to her mate,  
and the ragged  
and passionate tones  
stagger and fall,  
and recover,  
and stagger and fall,  
on these stones -  
are lost  
in the lapping of water  
on smooth, flat stones.

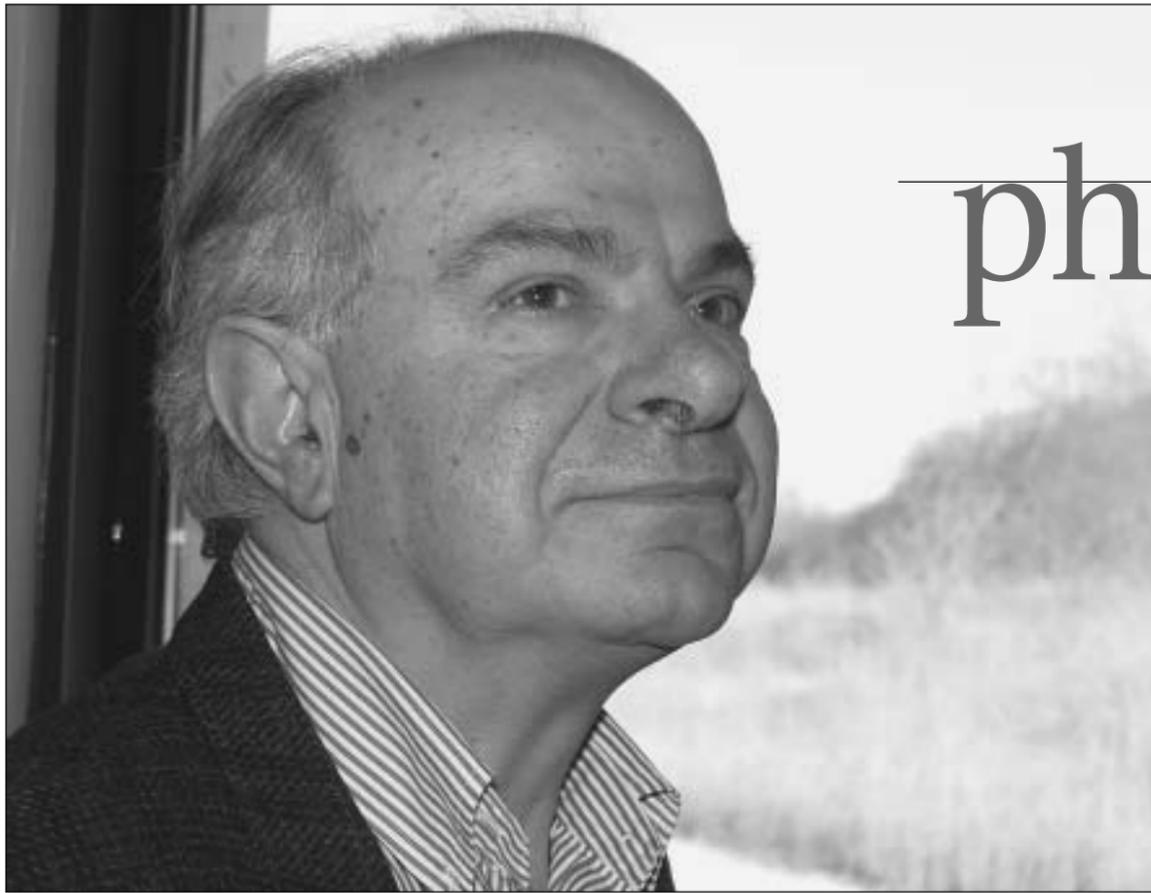
This is a beauty  
of dissonance,  
this resonance  
of stony strand,  
this smoky cry  
curled over a black pine  
like a broken  
and wind-battered branch  
when the wind  
bends the tops of the pines  
and curdles the sky  
from the north.

This is the beauty  
of strength  
broken by strength  
and still strong.

## For Healing

by A.J.M. Smith

Spread your long arms  
To the salt stinging wave:  
Let its breathless enveloping  
Cleanliness lave  
Arms, breast, and shoulders.  
Sinews and thighs  
From the yellow of love,  
Her immoderate eyes,  
The ache of her fingers,  
The whips of her hair,  
And the bruise where her mouth  
Moved here and there.



# Trent's philosopher king

Professor Constantin Boundas, acting chair of the Philosophy Department, is passionate about exposing others to the study of philosophy.

He feels philosophy is a discipline that is often misunderstood, and has found that whenever new students are actually exposed to philosophical read-

ings or discussions, they are surprised and excited about what philosophy has to offer.

This is why Prof. Boundas suggested that Lisa Clark, director of the Continuing Education program, run a program this past fall based in philosophy. The resulting course - Philosophers Look at Religion - attracted over 30 con-

tinuing education students and generated a substantial amount of engaging discussion.

In the seven-week philosophy course, facilitated by Prof. Boundas, the majority of students were in their 50s, although there were several participants on the younger, and older, end of that demographic group. A diver-

sity of employment experience, backgrounds and opinions were represented.

"Philosophy raises questions that aren't always comfortable," smiles Prof. Boundas, "but everyone in the class was very open-minded. They really wanted to hear about what the philosophers we were studying had to say."

Given Prof. Boundas's enthusiasm for his discipline, as well as his impressive experience in teaching at the university level, it is not surprising that people far beyond the Trent campus are aware of his expertise. Most recently, he was asked, by the University of Edinburgh Press, to be the editor-in-chief of a comprehensive book that will survey the achievements of philosophy in the 20th century.

"There will be 36 chapters, and I have approached qualified people from all over the world to

write various sections," explains Prof. Boundas. "The project is going well, and is definitely an international venture."

Prof. Boundas will write a chapter about the latest developments in French philosophy, and the book is scheduled for printing in 2005.

"It is my job to put the team together and screen the finished chapters," adds Prof. Boundas. "In the last ten years I have organized four international conferences here at Trent, which has allowed me to become acquainted with many international figures." This is not only providing a platform for the creation of the writing team for the ambitious book project, but has left Prof. Boundas keen to organize one more conference at Trent before he retires at the end of the 2003/04 academic year.

## the water/ drug connection

Pristine lakes and rivers go hand-in-hand with the image of Canada's natural parks and woodlands. In fact, these elements of nature have become, in many ways, icons of our "place," and are deeply related to the way Canadians view themselves, and society's relationship with a naturalized landscape.

However, this imagery lacks some truth about the health of our resources. For instance, our waterways are marred by pollutants of many kinds, from PCBs to chemical fertilizers. And a startling new toxic threat has been found lurking in our ponds, lakes and streams - the residue of pharmaceutical drugs.

Dr. Chris Metcalfe, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at Trent University, is heading up the only team in Canada that is examining this important issue. He became aware of the need for this type of study after a German researcher, Thomas Ternes, visited Trent in 1998 and discussed his pharmaceutical and environmental work in Europe.

Dr. Metcalfe immediately began examining this issue in Canada, setting up test sites and establishing the proper lab equip-

ment needed to analyze drug residues.

Drugs get into our waterways through human consumption. Our bodies absorb only 30 - 70 per cent of any ingested medication, with the level of absorption dependant on the make-up of each drug, and individual physiology. Medication not absorbed by the body is excreted and flushed into sewage systems. However, sewage treatment facilities are not designed to filter or destroy these elements, so they end up discharged into Ontario waterways as part of treated sewage effluent.

Several drugs have been identified in water samples, including the anti-inflammatory drug Naproxen and Carbamazepine, a drug prescribed for depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. The effects of these medications on fish and, ultimately, on humans through subsequent consumption or contact, are currently unknown, although Dr. Metcalfe has established a branch of the project to begin study in these areas.

"Through NSERC's strategic grant program we have colleagues in Ottawa doing some analytical work with fish. They are conduct-

ing lab-based studies at the moment and are finding that some drugs have the same effects on fish that they would have on humans," explains Dr. Metcalfe. "Drugs that help to lower cholesterol in people will do the same in fish, and anti-depressants also have an effect. The brain recep-

tors involved, in fish, are also linked to reproductive capacity, so there are questions about how this may impact those functions."

Additionally, things like synthetic musks/scents from personal care products, and the antibacterial agent triclosan, found in toothpaste and other products, can be found in fish. These types of chemicals are bio-accumulable and can be found in various concentrations in fish populations.

The effects of these chemicals are also unknown.

"To me, this research is an affirmation of something I've realized all along," says Dr. Metcalfe. "People tend to think of pollution as something that is created by big factories, somewhere far away. We don't like to think of ourselves as part of the problem but we need to be aware of our role, especially as our population ages and grows."



Psychology professor Rory Coughlan, a new faculty member at Trent, lights up when issues involving seniors, midwifery or the health care system surface in discussion. These are disparate topics, it might seem, on the surface, but they are very connected in Prof. Coughlan's research projects.

"Before I came to Trent, I was at the University of Victoria," says Prof. Coughlan. "I was teaching five classes and finishing my Ph.D., and I did a lot of work applying social psychology to health."

Prof. Coughlan explains that social psychology is a nexus for psychology, sociology, anthropology, history and other disciplines. This allows for unique, interdisciplinary research, of which Prof. Coughlan's work is a perfect example.

"I was working with Neena Chappell, from the Centre on Aging; Peter Stephenson, a world-renowned medical anthropologist; and Jennifer Mullett from the Centre for Community Health Promotion. We wanted to look at the experiences of seniors with their physicians, and I became responsible for the qualitative research for the project," explains Prof. Coughlan.

Using interviews and focus groups, Prof. Coughlan quickly discovered the seniors he talked to were very unhappy with their

medical experiences. They did not feel as if their doctors were listening to them. Doctors echoed this problem, in interviews with Prof. Coughlan, in the way they talked about their elderly patients and the need to make decisions for them.

"Our original question had been 'what could be done to give patients more input into the health system and the care they receive.' We quickly realized we had the wrong question because currently patients have no impact on the system at all," says Prof. Coughlan. "It confirmed that often doctors and patients live in completely different universes and it was a clue that something is radically wrong."

From this experience, Prof. Coughlan began to question whether patients from other age groups would concur with the seniors surveyed. However, younger age-based cohorts are difficult to establish because of less frequent doctor/patient interaction.

"I realized that one group we could study would be those people having babies, as there is a lot of medical contact during that experience," continues Prof. Coughlan. "Right at that time, the NDP government (in B.C.) had agreed to include midwifery in medicare, so I started to interview patients having babies with midwives, those with male physi-

# a new perspective on health care



cians, those with female physicians and those with physicians paid by salary."

The results were astounding and, says Prof. Coughlan, completely clear. One hundred per cent of the women who experi-

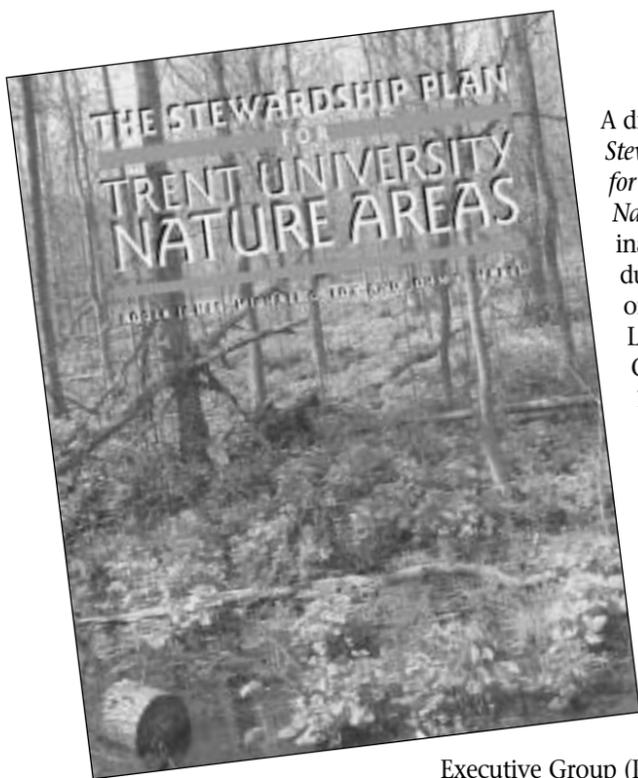
enced pregnancy and birth with midwives were highly satisfied with their treatment. In addition, the women all felt the experience had changed their expectations of future medical relationships. They felt empowered and real-

ized they should have a key role in making decisions about their own health.

Conversely, less than 15 per cent of the women with physician-assisted births were satisfied with their experience and the care they received. Of the few doctors noted who did have satisfied patients, the model of care closely resembled that of midwives. They treated their patients respectfully, gave them lots of time with each appointment and allowed the patient to be involved in decision-making.

"The pattern was overwhelming," says Prof. Coughlan, who is anxious to continue his research. He hopes to return to Victoria to interview the same group of midwives involved in the initial study, to see how their experience has or has not changed since they have been included in publicly-funded medicare. He also hopes to study a broader issue, such as type 2 diabetes, to see if patient experiences bear resemblance to the other scenarios he has examined.

# stewards of the land



A draft of *The Stewardship Plan for Trent University Nature Areas*, originally requested during the term of President Leonard Conolly for the 16 Nature Areas (TNAs) on the Symons Campus, has been completed.

At a meeting on December 17, 2002, the President's Executive Group (PEG) began a preliminary discussion of the draft plan with three of its authors, Professors Roger Jones, John Marsh and the chair of the Nature Areas Committee, John

Jennings. Prof. Michael Fox was unable to attend the meeting.

Prof. Jones presented a summary of the main recommendations, including one to reduce the number of Nature Areas to 12 as a result of the consolidation of several adjacent nature areas of the 16 originally identified in 1989.

Another major recommendation is that sufficient funding be secured to employ a professional conservation manager to oversee the stewardship, for the short-term and long-term. This person would report to, and receive advice from, a Nature Areas Stewardship Advisory Committee.

It is proposed that the conservation manager would teach a hands-on practical course in nature and environmental education interpretation for students in the teacher education program. According to Prof. Marsh "such a course could also benefit students

seeking summer employment in conservation areas or in provincial or national parks." An important task also for the naturalist/Nature Areas manager would be fundraising, in conjunction with the Development Office.

The draft Stewardship Plan also contains information of use to students, researchers and anyone interested in TNAs. Topics include a TNA mission statement and goals; history, current conditions and uses of TNAs; Nature Area classification and zoning, management issues, guidelines and management recommendations. There are also summary descriptions of each Nature Area that include a contour map, a vegetation communities map, and a vegetation type map. A variety of potential and continuing initiatives are described for teaching, research and fundraising purposes. Maps of formal nature trails are included, as well as a

map for a proposed 15-kilometre University nature trail that would link together most of the TNAs. Appendices to the plan include background information, an account of the cultural histories of the Symons Campus, and a bibliography of publications and reports for TNAs. The draft Stewardship Plan document finishes with a photographs illustrating some of the problems and concerns identified in the Plan, and various activities and volunteers in TNAs.

A draft of the Stewardship Plan can be seen on the TNA Web site ([www.trentu.ca/biology/tna](http://www.trentu.ca/biology/tna)). A form is also available online for individuals to provide comments, concerns and suggestions about the Stewardship Plan and its proposals. A public meeting will be held to discuss this issue in the spring.



### Helping out

Students from the Trent Business Students' Association were profiled in a cover photo of the *Peterborough Examiner* in early December, unloading donated food for city food banks.

### Spirit of Trent

Alumnus Jason Price has won this year's Spirit of Trent award. This award is presented annually to an alumnus/a who has made a difference through contributions to the University, the Alumni Association or the broader community. It is intended to recognize individuals who continue to demonstrate the values and lessons learned at Trent.

Mr. Price was nominated for the Spirit of Trent award because of significant work he did while serving as a teacher at the International School of Panama. He brought Model United Nations simulations to the school, began the HACIA Democracy program for Latin American students and promoted awareness and activism among students. Mr. Price and his wife also adopted two Panamanian girls while working in that country.

### International co-operation

Trent has entered into a Project Partner Agreement with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) for conservation work to be done in University Nature



Areas in August of 2003. The work will be done by British and FON volunteers and the project is one of 33 conservation projects organized by the FON for 2003. The agreement,

that has been signed by Trent, outlines the expectations of both the FON and the University when volunteers come to campus.

The August project will involve further improvements to the nature trails in the Wildlife Sanctuary and the Lady Eaton Drumlin Nature Area. Trent students are welcome to participate in this work, and will receive a refund of half of the participation cost upon completion of the project. The refund will come from levy funds provided for the Nature Areas by the Trent student body. For more details check out [www.trentu.ca/biology/tnas](http://www.trentu.ca/biology/tnas).

### Greenhouse gas research



Trent's Dr. Wayne Evans has received funding from the Canadian Foundation for Climate

and Atmospheric Sciences. This funding will push forward Dr. Evans's work in studying the radiative forcing of greenhouse gases in the troposphere, a major driver in climate change. This research will use remote sensing techniques based on Fourier-transform spectrometers and will measure the climate forcing of individual greenhouse gases, in a variety of locations.

### Jim Cosgrave recognized

The CUPE local 3908-1 award for excellence in part-time teaching has been awarded to sociology Professor Jim Cosgrave. Prof. Cosgrave is an important member of the Trent team in Durham and has taught at Trent for the past six years. The students who nominated Prof. Cosgrave emphasized his ability to bring sociology to life for them.

### Symons Medal

T.H.B. Symons, Founding President and Vanier Professor Emeritus of Trent, was in the UK in late November to present the Symons Medal to Prof. Geoffrey Caston of the University of the South Pacific. Prof. Symons founded this award to recognize individuals who have given outstanding service to the Association of Commonwealth Universities and/or universities of the Commonwealth.

### Robotics race

Trent University, Fleming College and GE Canada have entered a partnership to sponsor a team of Thomas A. Stewart Secondary School students in the Canadian Regional Robotics Competition in March, 2003.

The competition is called FIRST, which means "for inspiration and recognition of science and technology," and will involve teams from across Canada. It is anticipated that this year – the second year of the competition in Canada – there will be over 50 teams participating. This will involve over 5,000 students. Robots for the competition must be built in just six weeks by teams of students, teachers and other professionals. Robots will compete in a task-oriented, co-operative exercise during the nationwide event. The aim, throughout the entire process, is to inspire students to pursue careers in math, science and technology.

### Stopping crime

Crimestoppers is well known as a program that allows citizens to anonymously submit tips about crimes to the local police. The program works on a province-wide basis, and programs are also active in many high schools. Now members of the Trent community can participate in a University program, as well.

This is the second year that a Trent program has been operational. Peterborough police officers Bob Campbell and John Magee explained this, and many other things about Crimestoppers, to a group of students and staff on Thursday, December 5.

Anyone interested in learning more about Trent's Crimestoppers program can call the Security Office or pick up a brochure at Blackburn Hall.

► *Peterborough police officer Bob Campbell explained the Trent Crimestoppers program to a group of students and staff on Thursday, December 5.*



### Festive spirit!

For the first time in 20 years, Trent University entered a float in Peterborough's December 7th Santa Claus parade. As chair of the committee, Jean Hamilton, Human Resources Assistant, would like to thank all those who volunteered their time and effort to make the float such a great success. "Everyone involved in this project was a joy to work with. We worked very hard and it was great, as chair, to see how much fun people had painting, decorating, and walking with the float. They are all very eager to do it all again next year!"

### Sweatshop update

Trent's No Sweat policy, drafted by the Ad Hoc Presidential Committee on Labour Apparel Practices, was presented to the President's Executive Group in December. The policy requires clothing suppliers to provide assurances that people sewing the apparel are paid a living wage and treated with dignity, to publicly disclose their factory locations and to accept independent monitoring of those sites.

The ad hoc committee involves students, university administrators and staff. The policy was initially spearheaded by Students Against Sweatshops (a working group of OPIRG), an organization that remains active at Trent. As a North American movement, Students Against Sweatshops (SAS) is a university-based network that works to raise awareness about sweatshop issues and to support the efforts of garment workers around the world in their struggles to negotiate fair wages and working conditions.



### Technology Challenge

Trent students have been invited to participate in the 2003 Student Technology Venture Challenge (TVC).

The competition has a prize fund total of \$20,000, with the eventual winner receiving a cash award of \$10,000 and the runners-up receiving \$5,000 each. The event is open to students from Trent University and a dozen other eastern Ontario universities and colleges. Entrants are asked to describe a commercial business idea related to a new technology.

Proposals must be submitted by February 10, 2003, in order to be considered in the competition. For full details visit [www.techvc.ca](http://www.techvc.ca).

### New roles for President Patterson

President Bonnie Patterson has been appointed to the Association of Commonwealth Universities Council and to the executive committee of the board of directors for the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

### When the weather outside is frightful...

If you want to find out if the University has closed because of inclement weather, simply call the Info Trent hotline at 748-1234 and listen to the recorded message. Closing information will also be posted on the Trent University home page, at [www.trentu.ca](http://www.trentu.ca), and local radio stations will include closing information in their news updates.

### Daily news

Check out Trent's online daily news at [www.trentu.ca](http://www.trentu.ca). New articles and features are posted regularly to keep everyone connected at the University. If you have a tip about an upcoming event or potential news story, please call LeeAnne Lavender in the Communications Office at 748-1011, ext. 1456.