

# focus trent

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Canada's **Outstanding Small University**

## in the news

In a February 25 article in the *Toronto Star* headlined "Women storm Canada's ivory towers," Trent President Bonnie Patterson was quoted on the trend toward increasing numbers of female professors. "Of the 65 faculty we've hired over the past three years, 49 percent are women," she commented. "So there's a nice pattern emerging."



Prof. Davide Panagia, Rhodes Scholar and Trent University's Canada Research Chair in Cultural Studies, was the focus of a full page profile in *The Peterborough Examiner* on February 12. Titled "Pop Professor," the article delved into Prof. Panagia's research on the connection between aesthetics of imagery and democratic politics.



Professor Mike Allcott, director of the Trent International Program, was quoted in the March *University Affairs* magazine article "The pursuit of happiness," about American academics moving north for the "milder social climate."

*University Affairs* also featured the Trent Centre for Community Based Education in its March article "Small pond, big splash" which looked at how smaller university are having an impact on their communities.

The life of Professor Emeritus Gordon Roper was the subject of a column in *The Peterborough Examiner* on February 28. "Late professor was 'gentle spirit'" mentioned Prof. Roper's role in pioneering the teaching of Canadian literature in Canada and his role as a mentor to many. One of his students was Governor-General Adrienne Clarkson. ☺

## remembering places and spaces

**Animal study shows memories of familiar environments can survive after brain damage that results in severe amnesia**

It's A SNAIL-SHAPED formation in the medial-temporal lobe of the brain and it's long been thought to be the storage and retrieval bin for our memories of spaces and places. But the hippocampus, thanks to the work of Trent University Professor Gordon Winocur, will now have to share credit with other parts of the brain for the functions of spatial memory.

So important is the discovery made by Professor Winocur and his team of researchers, that one of the world's leading neuroscience publications, *Nature Neuroscience*, published his paper on the results of the three-year study this month. Professor Winocur is a leading researcher in Trent University's Department of Psychology and a senior scientist at the Rotman Research Institute at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Prof. Winocur has shown that spatial memory is not housed in a single part of the brain, but rather in different places at varying levels of detail. The hippocampus remains the lead player in the processing of new memories and the storage of detailed memory, but Prof. Winocur's experiment proves that the brain keeps a back-up copy, a more generalized version of spatial memory stored outside of the hippocampus. This back-up memory stored elsewhere is schematic in detail as opposed to the richly detailed memory in the hippocampus.

Hints that the brain was backing up information outside of the hippocampus have shown themselves in two known human cases – one in Toronto and the other in California. Two

individuals who suffered brain damage, specifically to the hippocampus, were unable to learn new spatial information, but somehow were able to recall how to get to places they had been in the past. The problem was how to prove the phenomenon in a laboratory setting with non-human subjects.

To do so, Prof. Winocur and his team, including Trent graduates Melanie Sekeres and Stuart Fogel, set out to create a "rat village," a setting that would mimic a human neighbourhood of sorts. In various corners of the village, they placed reward items such as water and food that would attract

were as able as normal rats to find their way to various areas of the village they had previously learned about. Creating new memories by learning new locations, however, was impossible.

The significance of this discovery will change the way we understand memory and the brain and create a new platform from which to research brain plasticity.

"What's important is that everyone talks about a model that shows same results in the lab as in humans," says Prof. Winocur of the results. "It's always a challenge to demonstrate clinical observations in a lab setting."

**"What's important is that everyone talks about a model that shows the same results in the lab as in humans. It's always a challenge to demonstrate clinical observations in a lab setting."**  
— Prof. Winocur

the rats repeatedly. Once the rats had a chance to learn their surroundings, a selected group was given lesions to the hippocampus.

The results of the study reflected exactly the same experience as that of the two brain-damaged individuals. The rats with lesions to the hippocampus

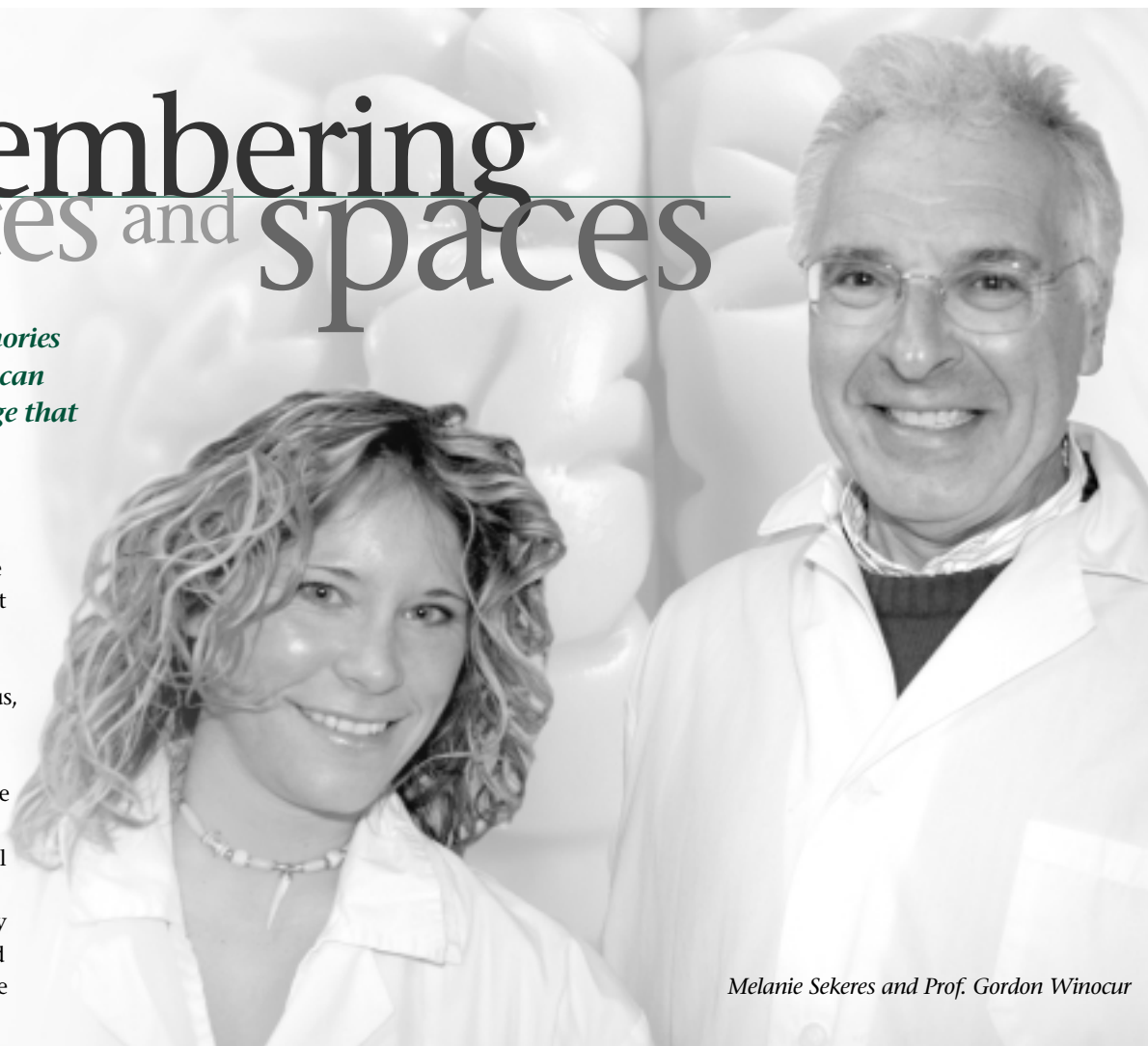
The results have implications for new possibilities in cognitive rehabilitation as well, says Prof. Winocur. "By showing that certain crucial memories remain intact in brain areas other than the hippocampus, we can begin to develop programs that emphasize strategies to learn and

remember information in new and different ways for individuals with brain damage."

Memory loss is one of the most frequent complaints among older people and the hippocampus is one of the first areas of the brain to decline with age. It is also the major side effect for those who suffer from stroke and neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's. The hippocampus is also vulnerable to toxic elements and is the most likely part of the brain to be affected by exposure to toxins.

Publication of the research paper in *Nature Neuroscience* will ensure that the research findings will reach a large audience of clinicians and neuroscientists. "It's also an example of the groundbreaking research going on right here at Trent University," says Prof. Winocur.

Other collaborators on the paper were Dr. Morris Moscovitch and Dr. Shayna Rosenbaum. The study was funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. ☺



Melanie Sekeres and Prof. Gordon Winocur



# professor emeritus appointed to the Order of Canada

**Prof. Marlene Brant Castellano among 74 new appointments announced by the Governor General of Canada**

TRENT UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR Emeritus Marlene Brant Castellano, has received Canada's highest honour for lifetime achievement in her appointment to the Order of Canada, as announced last month by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, Governor General of Canada.

Prof. Castellano, a longstanding member of Trent's Native Studies department, has been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada and is among 74 new appointments, including 17 Officers.

"A bridge between cultures, Marlene Brant Castellano has worked throughout her life for the rights and well-being of Aboriginal peoples. Professor Emeritus at Trent University, she helped pave the way for Native studies as an academic discipline. She is also renowned for

promoting community-based research, which respects Native traditions. This was central to the work of the influential Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, where she served as Co-Director of Research. She maintains a strong involvement with health and educational initiatives for Native Canadians and participates on panels and councils, sharing her wisdom, experience and leadership," states the award citation.

Prof. Castellano taught in the Native Studies Department at Trent in 1971 and 1972 and joined the faculty in 1973, just four years after the establishment of the program – the first of its kind in Canada. Prof. Castellano also served as Chair of the department from 1989 until 1991, at which time she became Co-Director of Research for the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Prof. Castellano retired from Trent in 1996 but returned to teach in the first year of the Native Studies Ph.D. program and



Photo by Terry Bush

continues to be involved in an advisory capacity.

President Bonnie Patterson praised Prof. Castellano for her accomplishments as a faculty member and as an influential Canadian.

"Prof. Castellano has been working to positively influence peoples' lives and society since

the very beginning of her illustrious career. On behalf of Trent University, it is an honour to congratulate Prof. Castellano on this well-deserved recognition," says President Patterson.

Prof. Castellano says she sees herself standing with "a foot in two worlds" – one in the Aboriginal world and the other in academe.

"I'm one of few people who is putting into words what Aboriginal people are telling me," she says. "They are the originators of the things I write... If you see me going forward to accept the insignia of the Order of Canada, you can imagine a whole host of people at my shoulders who have given me the words to pass along."

Professor Castellano has received honorary LLD degrees from Queen's, St. Thomas and Carleton Universities and was inducted into the Order of Ontario in 1995 and in 1996 received a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for her contribution to education.

A member of the Mohawk Nation, Bay of Quinte Band, Prof. Castellano has also pursued careers as a social worker in child and family services and as a full-time wife and mother launching four sons into the world. She maintains a permanent residence on Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory on the Bay of Quinte with her husband Vincent and continues with consulting work on social development and Aboriginal policy while balancing commitments as a grandmother. ☺

*"If you see me going forward to accept the insignia of the Order of Canada, you can imagine a whole host of people at my shoulders who have given me the words to pass along."*

– Prof. Castellano

## excavations at Azoria



Prof. Rodney Fitzsimons at work

PROFESSOR RODNEY FITZSIMONS is the first to say it's not "Indiana Jones work," but his architectural drawings of the remains at Azoria, East Crete, are helping to unlock the mystery that is urbanization in the Mediterranean in the first millennium B.C.

Prof. Fitzsimons, new to the Department of Ancient History and Classics at Trent in 2004, is the architect on the Azoria Project, an excavation of the Early Iron Age town Azoria (ca. 1200-

480 B.C.) on the island of Crete in the Greek Aegean. The purpose of the excavation, which began in 2002, is to recover evidence to be used in the reconstruction of the site's social, political, economic and religious organization.

In his role as architect, Prof. Fitzsimons painstakingly draws architectural remains, stone by stone, for ten weeks every summer.

"The daily grind is a bit tedious, but as the summer progresses,

each week sees you putting more and more of your individual drawings together, and as you do, and as your overall impression of the site improves, all the work becomes worthwhile," says Prof. Fitzsimons. "By the end of the summer, you've got this fantastic image staring back at you, a wonderful pay-off for the daily grind of heat, sweat and tedium," adding his love of architecture and mythology have converged in his career. "By drawing each individual stone, you get a much better impression of both how these structures were pieced together and how each structure relates to the overall plan of the site as a whole."

Prof. Fitzsimons has drawn the walls of the andreion, where the elite once dined, as well as the prytaneion, which was once a meeting place for the aristocrats. He says Azoria was at one time an entire town, and is today integral to the investigation of the nature of urbanism and the growth of the polis, or city state.

"We're interested in how people got from the scattered villages

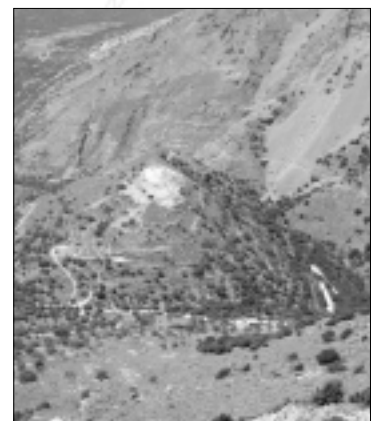
of the 12th through 8th centuries, to the congregated urban settlements of the 7th century and beyond. We're investigating what mechanisms were at play and exploring the nature of the growth of the urban complex – its physical, political and social characteristics."

And this summer, he will involve as many as 10 Trent students in the investigation as part of the Department of Ancient History and Classics Summer Field School at Azoria from May to July. The students will have the opportunity to work as assistants to field archaeologists and specialists such as surveyors, architects, illustrators, palaeobotanists, zooarchaeologists, biological anthropologists and geomorphologists. The students will spend half their time in their field and the other half in the study centre, says Prof. Fitzsimons.

"This is an incredible opportunity for the students to gain insight into the methods of and obstacles to a modern archaeological excavation, to work and interact with specialists not only from

our project, but from a number of excavations being conducted in the area, and to see first-hand the archaeological and artefactual remains that they have been discussing in class," he adds. "Moreover, by spending seven weeks on Crete, they get an excellent opportunity to participate in the modern Greek landscape and learn about various aspects of village life in modern Greece."

Meanwhile, Prof. Fitzsimons is also completing his Ph.D. at the University of Cincinnati. The focus of his studies is the development of monumental architecture and its association with the emergence of palatial civilization. At Trent, he teaches the courses *Elementary Greek*, *Greek Myths & Mythology*, *Introduction to Classical Archaeology & Art History* and *The Ancient City*. ☺



Azoria



# Ashley expertise

FOR THE FIRST time ever, Trent University has appointed two Ashley Fellows for 2005/06 – Dr. Timothy McGee, a recently retired University of Toronto professor who specializes in the music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and Dr. Randy Stoecker, a University of Toledo professor who focuses on community-based education.

Equally strong nominations and sufficient funds within the fellowship fund saw Trent's Ashley Fellowship Committee decide to have two fellows next year, said Prof. David Newhouse, committee chair. "We believed having two fellows would give more exposure to the Ashley Fellowship program as well as advance the academic mission of the University," he added.

The Ashley Fellowship is funded by a bequest from the late Professor C.A. Ashley, longtime friend of Trent University and an enthusiastic proponent of the role that informal contacts of college life can play in the academic pursuits of the University. The Ashley Fellow is therefore a visiting scholar who is a resident guest in one of Trent's five residential Colleges. The 2004/05 Ashley Fellow was Tama Turanga Huata from Aotearoa, New Zealand.



Prof. Timothy McGee

Prof. McGee will be hosted at Trent by Lady Eaton College and was principally nominated by Prof. Roy Hagman, chair of Trent's Modern Languages and Literatures department. A professor for 30 years at the University of Toronto, Prof. McGee has long been Canada's leading specialist in the music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and a noted authority on the music of Canada.

"Timothy McGee will bring to Trent a lifetime of experience teaching the history, appreciation and performance of European music, both in lectures and in hands-on demonstrations," says Prof. Hagman. "A great variety of

*Trent University's 2005/06 Ashley Fellows focus on the music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and community-based research*



Prof. Randy Stoecker

musical activities is being prepared for the period of his fellowship next year, which will be publicized both within Trent and in the larger Peterborough area."

"I am honoured to have received the Ashley Fellowship and look forward to the opportunity to interact with the students and faculty at Trent," says Prof. McGee. "It is a privilege to be associated with such a vibrant university, and I am enthusiastic about the possibility of exchanging ideas on both formal and informal occasions."

Prof. Stoecker will be hosted at Trent by Traill College and was nominated by Prof. Tom

Whillans, chair of Trent's Environmental and Resource Studies program, representing a number of Trent community members. Prof. Stoecker is a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Toledo and has emerged as one of a few widely respected experts on community-based research.

"Trent is poised at the forefront of an emergent university movement and is seeking ways of expanding the dialogue about innovative and best practices in community-based education," says Prof. Whillans. "Dr. Stoecker's fellowship will serve this end."

Prof. Stoecker will be working with the Trent Centre for Community-Based Education (TCCBE) and an array of academic departments. His fellowship is timely given the TCCBE's recently received \$965,000 grant to pursue plans for new programs and services.

"I am deeply honored and thrilled to be selected as an Ashley Fellow," says Prof. Stoecker. "The Trent Centre (for Community-Based Education) seems to have developed a very energetic and sustainable model and I want to learn more about that." ☺

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 15:** March Break Open House for prospective students. Please RSVP to [liaison@trentu.ca](mailto:liaison@trentu.ca) or call 1-888-739-8885 for more details, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. (Also March 16).

**March 15:** Senate Meeting, 2 p.m., AJM Smith Room, Bata Library.

**March 16:** Sociology Honours Information Session, 2 p.m. in Otonabee College Room 171.

**March 18:** March Break Tour Day for prospective students. Please RSVP to [liaison@trentu.ca](mailto:liaison@trentu.ca) or call 1-888-739-8885 for more details, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tours leave the Wenjack Theatre Foyer in Otonabee College.

**March 23:** Athletic Awards Ceremony, 7 p.m. Advance ticket purchase required. Call 748-1257 for information.

**March 24:** K.E. Kidd Lecture, Dr. Joan Vastokas, Professor Emerita, Trent University will speak on "Ojibwa Pictography: The Rise of Social Complexity and the Origins of Writing," 2 p.m., Otonabee College Room 109.

**April 8:** Classes end. ☺

# monkeys in the Amazon

LEARNING ABOUT BIOMASS energy was anything but boring, as grade six R.F. Downey Public School students turned into corn, cows, a manure spreader and a holding tank for a role playing exercise exploring the conversion of manure into energy.

Meanwhile, grade four students became monkeys in the Amazon, forced to readapt as their habitat was stripped away by humans, all the while learning the things they could do to lessen the impact of such activity.

The activities, part of the March 4 Environmental Science

Workshop Day for grade 4, 5 and 6 students from R.F. Downey, were organized by some of Trent University's aspiring teachers – those enrolled in a course that teaches them how to teach environmental science.

The elementary school students took away with them messages of environmental responsibility, and appeared to have an amazing time in the process. Workshop topics were also linked to the Ontario Science and Technology Curriculum.

"The day was a great success. I was impressed with the quality of the workshop presentations, and the imaginative ways my students were able to generate interest in their topics," said Professor Michael Fox, who teaches *Environmental Science for Teacher Education*. "It was great to see them use skits, games and other techniques to get the kids involved. The juniors who attended were clearly excited about their experience, and the classroom teachers really enjoyed it as well. Several of the teachers are planning follow-ups to the environmental workshops, and some will be using posters and handouts from the workshops to help them do this. For many of my students, this was the first time they have ever been

*Chandler Eves, a student of Trent's Environmental Science for Teacher Education course with R.F. Downey students at the biomass energy workshop at Camp Kawartha*



Trent student Anna Holmes with grade four "monkeys" from R.F. Downey School

in front of a class of elementary school students, and it was a great learning experience for all."

Workshop topics included Wetlands, Energy Sources, Ecological Footprints, Habitats and Human Communities, Global Warming, Environment and Resources, How Your Choices Can Preserve Habitats, Alternative Energy, Mining and its Effect on the Environment, Monkeys in the Amazon, Pesticides and Biomass Energy.

The students in *Environmental Science for Teacher Education* worked in groups of four and five

to prepare the workshops. In addition, they have prepared teacher packages that will allow the R.F. Downey teachers to review, and follow-up on the material covered in the workshop. This workshop day follows an Environmental Science Exhibition the class conducted at R.F. Downey earlier in the year. Students enrolled in the course include teacher candidates from the Trent-Queen's Concurrent Education Program and aspiring future teachers taking Trent's Education Emphasis Program. ☺





## A Resounding Success

It was likely the hottest ticket in town on February 10. Close to 300 Trent University students, staff and faculty members alike sat down to a feast of South East Asian fare in Champlain College's Great Hall – all in support of tsunami relief.

An array of Trent University student organizations in partnership with the Trent International Program and Aramark, Trent's on-campus foodservice provider, hosted the Flavours of South East Asia fund raising dinner, complete with live music.

The evening's menu consisted of traditional South East Asian food, prepared from recipes provided by Trent's international students. Tandoori chicken, beef curry with potatoes and nasi goreng rice were among the Sri Lankan, Indian, Thai and Indonesian dishes offered as part of the buffet feast. All proceeds will go to support the World University Service of Canada's (WUSC) project in Sri Lanka. WUSC has been educating women and young people in Sri Lanka since 1989, in an effort to develop the country's knowledge and expertise in carpentry, masonry, welding and other building skills that will be crucial to its recovery.

Spearheading the initiative was third-year Business Administration student Adrian Samarasekare from Sri Lanka. He mobilized the support of many student groups and college cabinets in organizing the dinner. "We wanted to connect to, and support, the hardest hit areas of South East Asia by having this dinner," says Mr. Samarasekare. To those who attended the dinner, he said, "Thank you for helping us help people."

## Elders Gathering

Trent University's Native Studies department held the 2005 Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering on February 18, 19 and 20 at Peter Gzowski College and the First Peoples House of Learning, Enweying Building.

Titled "The Role of the Helper," the gathering included traditional and contemporary teachings, a sunrise ceremony, workshops and a Saturday night traditional social with dinner.

Among numerous workshop topics were "Our Medicine Helpers," "Helping: The Creator's Work" and "Finding Your Role."

At the opening ceremonies, organizer and Native Studies Cultural Advisor Vern Douglas explained that the theme was chosen because everyone is at a different stage of being a teacher, a learner and a helper. Elders



**Why Is Anna Still Thinking About University Funding at Age 65?**

**ON GOVERNMENT FUNDING:**  
 "Our current standard of living, and our quality of life, depend on access to the best education in the world."

**The Honourable Bob Rae,**  
 Advisor to the Premier and the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities  
 Postsecondary Review report, Ontario: A Leader in Learning, February 2005

**think**

[www.thinkontario.com](http://www.thinkontario.com) A Strong Ontario Needs Strong Universities.

Anna has always appreciated the importance of a good education. But as a cancer survivor, Anna now has a heightened appreciation for the researchers, doctors, nurses, and community service workers who improve her life.

Think about all the people with university degrees on whom you and your family rely every day: engineers, doctors, nurses, business owners, teachers, cultural arts professionals, and more. Our universities influence all aspects of the quality of life we've come to enjoy in Ontario. Yet this very standard is now at risk for all of us.

**Operating grants to Ontario universities have dropped by 25% per student over the past decade and are the lowest in Canada.\***  
 \*Source: Council of Ontario Universities

There is an urgent need for our government to increase funding for Ontario universities. Why? We need more trained medical and community service professionals, more business leaders, and more skilled specialists and generalists. We need to increase our universities' capacity for research. Government funding of our universities directly affects everyone working and living in Ontario. It's a fact we cannot ignore.

**What can be done?**  
 The Ontario government recently commissioned a review on the design and funding of Ontario's postsecondary education system. The report is now available at [www.raereview.on.ca](http://www.raereview.on.ca). Budget allocations will be determined in the coming weeks.

**Let your voice be heard! Call or write your local MPP today and visit us online at [www.thinkontario.com](http://www.thinkontario.com) to express your view.**

Your opinion can influence the outcome of the upcoming budget. Act today, and help us keep Ontario thinking!

**THE UNIVERSITIES OF ONTARIO**

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 Nipissing University • University of Ontario Institute of Technology • University of Ottawa • Queen's University • Ryerson University • University of Toronto  
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**Funding of Ontario universities affects all of us.**

and Traditional People focused their workshops on the theme and each brought a unique perspective. Elder and Professor Edna Manitowabi opened by saying that the "good teachings" she has received at the last 30 or so elders gatherings have helped her spirit grow.

As part of the Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering, the

opening ceremonies for the First Peoples House of Learning took place on February 19. This is the first yearly Elders and Traditional Peoples Gathering to take place in the new building that officially opened in October 2004.

Invited Elders and Traditional People included Ernie Benedict, Kathy Bird, Dorothy Cameron, Jacqui Lavalley, Sylvia Maracle,

Mark Phillips, Merritt Taylor, Winston Taylor and Michael Thrasher.

This event was made possible by the volunteer commitment of Trent student volunteers and the generous support of the area's First Nations communities and organizations.

## March Break Open House

Opportunities to talk to professors, find out about residence and tour the campus are all part of March Break at Trent University. The March Break Open House on March 15 and 16 will see prospective students and their families come to campus to learn about the University, its 27 academic departments, state-of-the-art facilities, array of academic programs and wealth of student services.

For the hundreds of visitors to Trent, faculty, staff members and students will be on hand to provide tours and share their perspectives on the Trent University experience – high quality programs, faculty who connect with students and a campus of unparalleled beauty. New to this year's Open House agenda is the Student Voice Forum, from 1:30 - 2:15 p.m. both days in the Athletic Complex. Prospective students will have the opportunity to hear from a panel of current students on an array of topics including athletics, residence, student government and study abroad.

Each day is scheduled to kick off with an Information Forum and Academic Fair in the Athletics Complex at 9 a.m. Please RSVP to [liaison@trentu.ca](mailto:liaison@trentu.ca) or call 1-888-739-8885 or visit <http://www.trentu.ca/openhouse/> for more information.

## Honorary Degree Recipients Announced

The president has announced the outstanding Canadians who will receive honorary degrees at convocation ceremonies on June 2 and 3, 2005.

- **June 2, 2005 Morning Ceremony**  
 Mrs. Erica Cherney, Peterborough businesswoman, volunteer, honorary member and former chair of Trent's Board of Governors

- **June 2, 2005 Afternoon Ceremony**  
 Mr. Jake Eberts, film producer, founder of Allied Filmmakers

- **June 3, 2005 Morning Ceremony**  
 Ms. Mary Simon, Canada's former Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, former Chancellor of Trent University

- **June 3, 2005 Afternoon Ceremony**  
 General Romeo Dallaire, ret., former head of the UN Peacekeeping Force in Uganda and Rwanda ☺

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