

focus trent

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in the news

Prof. Eric Helleiner, Canada Research Chair in International Political Economy at Trent, was interviewed for the last of a five-part series on CBC Radio's *Ideas* titled "The Legacy". The interview aired on March 23 as part of the series "Markets and Society" – an examination of the ideas of Karl Polanyi. Prof. Helleiner discussed in part, the re-emergence of a liberal global economy in the post-1945 years.

Prof. Jennifer Clapp, International Development Studies chair, was interviewed for an article in the on-line publication *The Grassroots Review*. She discussed the global food system in the context of the March 11 Food and Rural Development: Global and Local Perspectives conference that took place at Trent.



Alumnus-in-residence Bruce Kennedy '66 was interviewed by Dave Seglins on CBC Radio's *Ontario Morning* on March 24. He discussed how life at Trent had changed since the sixties.



English Literature Professors James Neufeld, Gordon Johnston and Michael Peterman spoke to the *Toronto Star's* Obituary Writer Catherine Dunphy about the late Professor Emeritus Gordon Roper. The article headlined "He helped bring CanLit to the world" appeared in *Lifelines* on March 28. ☺

still healing – three decades later

DR. VAN NGUYEN-MARSHALL'S six-year-old daughter has a hard time believing her mother didn't play on the monkey bars as a child.

Growing up in Saigon, Vietnam, during the war, Prof. Nguyen-Marshall's childhood contrasts her daughter's. She lived in a poor, intensely urban area, in a country at war – no playgrounds.

"While I wasn't exposed to war, I knew about the war," says Prof. Nguyen-Marshall, who joined Trent University's Department of History in 2003. "When you are born in a war and grow up in a war, you accept that war is the norm."

Today, Prof. Nguyen-Marshall teaches Trent's fourth-year course on the Vietnam War, and this month, takes the time to reflect on its consequences three decades later. April 30, 2005 marks the 30th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

**"When you are born in a war and grow up in a war, you accept that war is the norm."
– Prof. Nguyen-Marshall**

While Prof. Nguyen-Marshall's research focuses on poverty and relief in French Colonial Vietnam, she says study of the war is integral to the study of Vietnamese history. As well, she is personally drawn to, as well as repulsed by, the details of the war. Prof. Nguyen-Marshall, her seven siblings, parents and grandmother came to Canada via a U.S. refugee camp when she was eight years old.

"We were lucky to be able to come," she says.

But 30 years later, there remains a rift between Vietnamese populations in North America and the Vietnamese State. The two sides are divided

by the outcome of the war, Prof. Nguyen-Marshall explains.

"The Vietnamese overseas and the Vietnamese State have not come to terms with what happened...The Vietnamese overseas say the end of the war was 'the fall of Saigon,' while the Vietnamese State says it was 'the liberation of Saigon'."

Meanwhile in Vietnam, babies continue to be born with severe deformities as a result of Agent Orange, and landmines continue to explode in Vietnam, Laos and

Cambodia. Many of Prof. Nguyen-Marshall's students have written their final papers on the aftermath of the war and she believes it is important for them to realize its long-term effects.

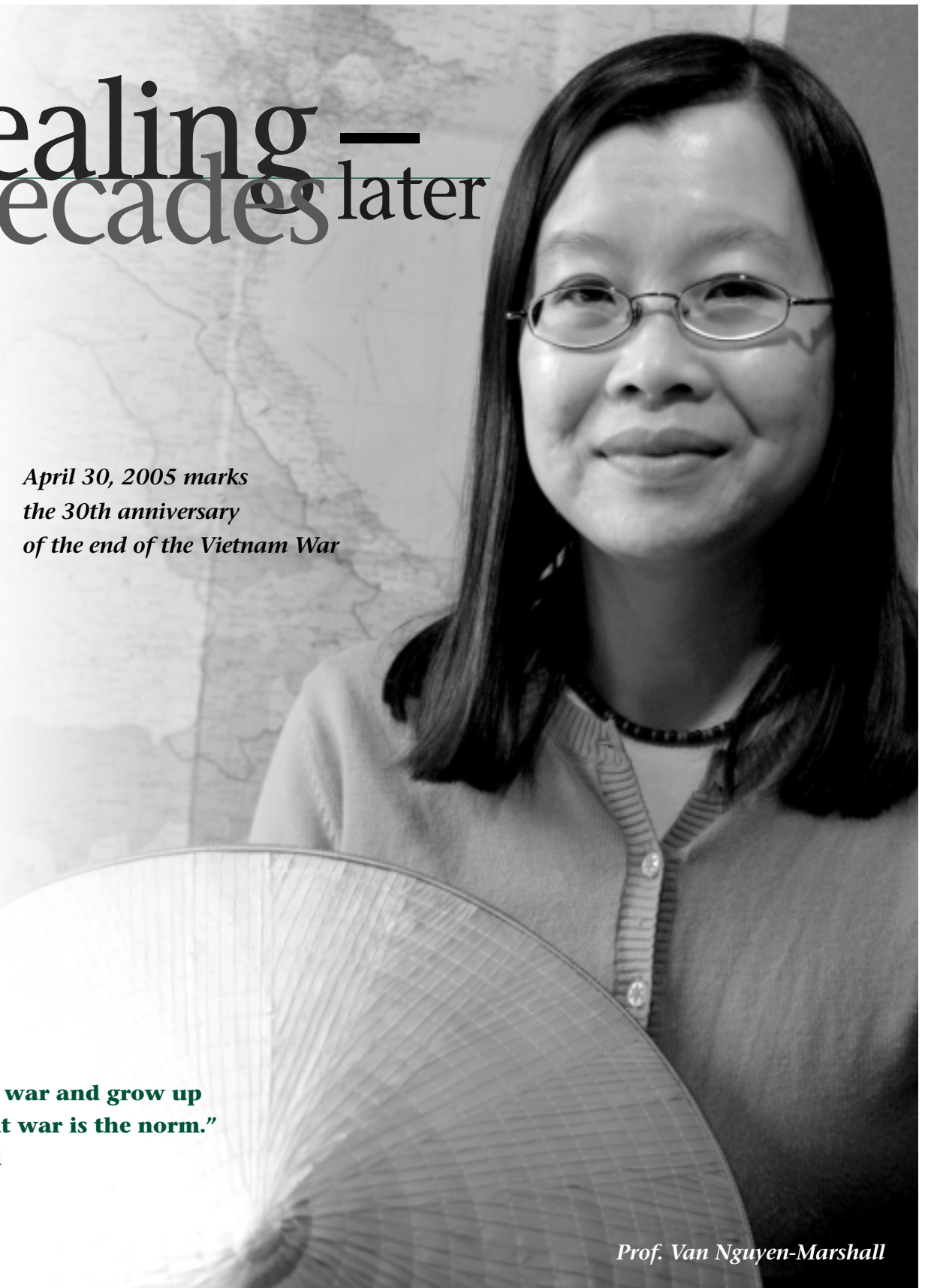
"It (the war) still has an impact on peoples' lives today...It makes us pause to think about the enormously long impact of war. Yes, it ends on a certain day or year, but it goes on in many ways," she says.

Prof. Nguyen-Marshall is working to organize an academic

panel whose members will discuss the aftermath of the Vietnam war at the Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference this fall at York University. At the same conference there will be a roundtable retrospective of the war.

For further information, Prof. Nguyen-Marshall can be reached via vannguyenmarshall@trentu.ca. ☺

Prof. Van Nguyen-Marshall





First responders Seth Rietkoetter and Shannon Gasser practice up on teammate Patrick McColm.

THE TRENT COMMUNITY is in good hands when it comes to emergency first response; a team of 28 trained student volunteers on call 24 hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, whose members can get anywhere on campus in a maximum of seven minutes. It's been an exciting year for the team, from its successes at February's National Conference of Campus Emergency Responders (NCCER), to its recent upgrade in standard of care.

Members of the Trent team were quick to take action when it came to mock first-aid scenarios at the 11th annual National Conference of Campus Emergency Responders (NCCER) held at Queen's University. Having practiced for the competition for more than a month, the two Trent teams placed in first and fifth place among 15 other first response teams. The challenge included seven scenarios – among them, second-degree

burns, drug overdoses and a dog attack. The Trent team was also recognized at the conference by the Association of Campus Emergency First Response Teams (ACERT) for its groundbreaking work. Program Coordinator Patrick McColm explains that Trent's team worked this year to increase its visibility and as a result, responded to twice as many calls for service – 139 this academic year, as of April 5,

2005. The team also worked closely with Fleming College's campus response team FAST, helping it develop in its infancy. The Trent team was also recognized for further developing its relationship with campus security and hence, University administration. "I am very impressed with the professionalism and dedication that the Trent First Response Team demonstrates when responding to incidents," says

Louise Fish, manager, Security and Parking. "They work very closely with Campus Security officers to provide a valuable service to all members of the Trent community, including faculty, staff, students and visitors."

Trent also brought home an award created by Queen's, the host team, for the most spirited and welcoming team. In addition, two of the team's executive members were voted onto the ACERT board of directors, which will ensure that Trent will remain active among its peer first response teams. Mr. McColm was voted the new Vice President Communications, and Matt Harris was voted onto the Board of Directors of ACERT.

Back on campus, the team is wrapping up its year. Proudly, 21 of 28 responders are returning to the team next year and all but one of the others is graduating, says Mr. McColm, adding a "sense of duty" unites the responders.

In the fall, the team will increase its standard of care from standard first aid to emergency first responder. This enhanced certification will involved 40 hours of training, as opposed to the previous 16 and will see responders expand the services they provide using more advanced equipment, such as oxygen. First responders have carried a defibrillator for the past two years.

Responders are dispatched approximately five to eight times a week through the Security Office and serve the Symons Campus. The team responds to all medical incidents, ranging from minor injuries to medical emergencies that require paramedics. ☺

a larger look at the world

Biology professor contributes to Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

TRENT UNIVERSITY BIOLOGY professor Dr. Marguerite Xenopoulos was one of more than 1,300 experts from 95 countries who contributed to the landmark Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The study, released last month, reveals that approximately 60 per cent of the ecosystem services that support life on Earth are being degraded or used unsustainably.

Among the degrading ecosystem services are fresh water, capture fisheries, air and water regulation, and the regulation of regional climate, natural hazards and pests, according to the study. Prof. Xenopoulos became involved with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment as part of her post-doctoral research at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana in 2001. Her research generally focuses on aquatic ecology and global change of freshwaters.

"Professor Xenopoulos' work is a great example of Trent

University's strength in the area of environmental and natural resource studies – one of the core parts of the University's strategic research plan," says Dr. James Parker, associate vice-president, Research.

As part of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, Prof. Xenopoulos assessed what could happen to freshwater biodiversity over the next 50 years. She and her colleagues used future forecasts of water availability to measure fish loss, while others in the group studied changes in plants, and coastal and marine fisheries. Prof. Xenopoulos, who came to Trent in 2004, was part of the "scenarios working group" with other social, physical and biological scientists. The working group developed four plausible scenarios of what the world might be like in 2050, under different types of policies. Prof. Xenopoulos was one of only three Canadians in her working group. She attended her last

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment meeting in October in Malaysia.

"The goal of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment was to assess the state of the environment with a focus on what services are provided to humans," says Prof. Xenopoulos. "We asked ourselves 'what is its current state and how will it change?' This is the first international study that examined the status of the Earth's ecosystems and the services they provide for human well-being."

The key to the success of this assessment, she says, is coupling unbiased information with a sound scientific approach.

And while the forecasted decline in natural resources predicted in the study isn't necessarily a surprise to scientists, the degree and the extent of the degradation is, says Prof. Xenopoulos.

"It is only by examining all global stressors together that



Prof. Marguerite Xenopoulos

makers and the public for scientific information concerning the consequences of ecosystem change for human well-being and options for responding to those changes. ☺

the magnitude of the problem can fully be appreciated and viable solutions be formulated."

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment is an international work program that was designed to meet the needs of decision

students find renewal in Nicaragua

International Development Studies students visit Nicaragua on course field trip

THIRD-YEAR STUDENT Mandy Ashton and 17 others studying international development have seen empowerment in action.

During a February field trip to Nicaragua, the students witnessed success as those who had experienced hardship due to economic and political instability, searched for and found their own solutions. Peasants exchanging ideas on organic farming, people learning to paint murals with cultural purpose and women coming together to support each other in their fight for human rights in sweatshops.

For Ms. Ashton, an International Development Studies and Political Studies major, being able to talk directly to the Nicaraguans was the most meaningful part of the 10-day field trip.

“It was nice rather than simply hearing about it, to actually see it – to be able to talk to the people who are being marginalized and who are using their own means to get out of the struggle,” she says, adding people were eager to share their stories. “People who have experienced the most poverty and the most exclusion are the ones who are the most friendly and open to sharing their experiences.”

The students visited Nicaragua as part of the field course Focus on Nicaragua with Dr. Daniel Powell. The course, which focuses on a different developing country each time it is offered, started in 1993.

Previous field trips have seen students travel to Cuba, Jamaica and Trinidad. A previous Trent trip to Nicaragua in 1987 spurred



Above: Trent student Vincent Heney with a boy in Managua – Nicaragua’s capital.
Left: Prof. Daniel Powell talking to student Lizzie Scace about coffee plants.

this second visit. Prof. Powell explained the country is no longer in a revolutionary situation and believed the comparison between then and now would be interesting.

“This was an opportunity for students who had never been to a developing country to see what it was like,” says Prof. Powell, one of few Spanish-speaking travelers among the 22 students and faculty members. “This is a more experiential type of learning than what the students

would have in books and articles.” The itinerary was packed with visits to an organic farm cooperative, an organic coffee farm and processing plant, cigar factory, rural women’s co-operative and the American-Nicaraguan Chamber of Commerce. Students also visited an organization that works to encourage youth in poorer areas to stay in school, take part in sports and become cultural leaders.

“Even though they may be poor and humble peasants, the

students realized that a great deal of knowledge went into what they were doing – they were hopeful of a better future despite the difficult conditions in the whole of Nicaragua,” says Prof. Powell.

Students were housed with host families for most of the trip, which Prof. Powell said provided informal opportunities to learn through insight into upper-middle-class family life.

The field trip course is an important part of the International

Development Studies curriculum, offering students the chance to learn first-hand about a part of the world they might not otherwise have visited.

“The field trip was an amazing learning experience for all of us,” says Dr. Jennifer Clapp, chair of the program and one of the faculty members who went on the trip. “The students and faculty members who went to Nicaragua were all very appreciative of the unique opportunity they had to participate.” ☺

professor recognized for newest novel

Prof. Sylvie Bérard, winner of the Grand Prix de la science-fiction et du fantastique québécois for *Terre des Autres*

ALONG WITH A FASCINATING story of extreme culture shock, *Terre des Autres* by Dr. Sylvie Bérard, of Trent’s Modern Languages and Literatures department, is also the winner of the Grand Prix de la science-fiction et du fantastique québécois.

Chosen from among 80 authors, Prof. Bérard was recognized for the style and structure of her writing, as well as for her story’s narrative qualities and the various perspectives she acknowledges. Most surprising, says Prof. Bérard, her story about human beings and reptiles conflicting as they learn to cohabit over 100 years, was recognized for its realism.

“They were telling me that I told a good story, which made me very happy, because I realized that I had accomplished what I had set out to do,” she says.

Terre des Autres, is Prof. Bérard’s first independent novel, though she co-authored *Elle meurt à la fin* with Brigitte Caron

in 1994. For more than 15 years however, Prof. Bérard has been writing short stories. In fact, the first chapter of *Terre des Autres* “La Guerre Sans Temps” originated as a 40-page story that was published in the Quebec magazine *Solaris*; it won both the Boreal and Aurora awards for best French Canadian short story. The story was inspired by an illustration by Guy England that would also become the magazine cover.

Prof. Bérard began adding to that first chapter in 2003, almost one year after its completion, when the U.S. started bombing Iraq. She was angry; and, as she watched the war develop on CNN, she quickly wrote the rest of *Terre des Autres*. While Prof. Bérard says there’s no direct correlation or connection between the war in Iraq and her



story, she describes it as a classical science fiction story, in which “cowboys” want to change and colonize a planet.

“Every chapter explores what happens when two races are at war and when people meet at a special space and time and have no choice but to be together.”

The award consists of \$2,500 and recognition that could lead to translation, stage and film rights. Prof. Bérard, who has received other literary awards, says she is now honoured to count herself among a collection of four prominent female science-fiction authors in Quebec.

“We in Modern Languages and Literatures have always prided ourselves on having creative writers among our faculty,” said Dr. Roy Hagman, department chair. “When one of them achieves recognition of this sort, it raises the interna-



Prof. Sylvie Bérard

tional standing of the department and the University. Prof. Bérard’s accomplishment is a cause of great celebration for us.”

Prof. Bérard first came to Trent in 1998 and after a year at Queen’s University in 1999, returned to teach francophone and Québécois literature. Her Ph.D. and post-doctorate work focused on science fiction. With the support of her current Social Sciences and Humanities

Research Council (SSHRC) grant, Prof. Bérard is studying territory in female Québécois literature and sees her writing and her study of literature as intertwined.

“I always have two documents open on my computer,” says Prof. Bérard. “I go back and forth between writing and studying other writers... Sometimes I feel the need to write a story to exorcise the impression something had on me.” ☺



WUSC Director Barbara Levine and students.

WUSC Director at Trent

The WUSC Trent Local Committee was pleased to welcome Director Barbara Levine to campus in February. In addition to overseeing the implementation of WUSC projects overseas on behalf of CIDA and other funders in the areas of non-formal education and community development, she is also the manager of programs on campus such as the Student Refugee Program. Ms. Levine held a workshop for students interested in the new WUSC/Trent Summer Service Learning Placement in Botswana. Students have now been selected for the program. Ms. Levin also gave a talk about WUSC's International Development activities and its ongoing reaction to the tsunami crisis in Sri Lanka as well as its long-term sustainable development programs in the country.



Craig Kielburger

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International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day and to highlight the diverse range of research being done by faculty both appointed to, and associated with the Women's Studies program at Trent, "Becoming, Thinking, Constructing: Feminist, Gender and Women's Studies Research" was held on March 10.

The event was well attended by students, faculty, members of the wider community and some of Trent's professor emeriti. The WMST program intends to make this an annual event, drawing on the wide range of feminist and gender research done by faculty colleagues at Trent. The WMST program, The Trent Women's Centre, and the Nind Fund sponsored the event.

"Change is Possible"

"Change is possible," was the inspirational message brought forth in Craig Kielburger's address to more than 50 Trent University students on March 10. Mr. Kielburger, who at the age of 12 founded Free the Children, an NGO, asserts that it is his mission to rid the world of child exploitation. He has met some of the most prominent leaders in the world including Mother Theresa and the Dali Lama. To date, Free the Children has built over 400 primary schools in over 35 countries and has shipped over \$3 million, U.S., in medical supplies, as well as supplied school and health kits to children around the world.

In his address, Mr. Kielburger stated that one-third of the staff at Free the Children are Trent University students and/or alumni.

Top Athletes Honoured

Trent University's Department of Athletics and Recreation celebrated both athletic achievements and 40 years of history during the Athletic Awards Ceremony, held at the PSB Wilson Athletic Complex on March 23.

Leath Swierenga and Angela Dafoe were awarded the Arthur Cup, the University's most prestigious award for graduates who have demonstrated outstanding contribution, sportsmanship, participation, and leadership in the athletic programs.

In presenting the Arthur Cup, Director of Athletics Bill Byrick commended both Swierenga and Dafoe for recognizing the importance of an active lifestyle, and the benefits of combining athletic and academic pursuits at Trent.

For the list of award winners, visit <http://www.trentu.ca/news/sports/>

Travel Awards

The Trent International Program has selected the recipients for its 10 exchange bursaries. Each award is worth \$500 and will support formal exchanges and departmental year abroad programs.

Congratulation to the recipients.

- Angela Longhurst • Diana Whellams
- Joanna Garland • Nadege Compaore
- Vincent Heney • Katherine MacArthur
- Lan Anh Thi Ha • Stephanie Laing
- Sam Grey • Megan Whitfield



Trent Student Wins at Chemistry Conference

The 33rd annual Southwestern Ontario Undergraduate Student Chemistry Conference (SOUCC) was held at the St. George Campus of the University of Toronto on Saturday, March 19, 2005. Undergraduate students from 11 Ontario universities presented 98 abstracts as either talks or posters in six sub-divisions of chemistry. The participants from Trent University this year were students Danelle Driscoll, Alanna Grant, Adam Guppy, Cristen Hucaluk, Istok Nahtigal, Kevin Scotland, and Anita Tang, and faculty members, Drs. Steven Rafferty, Andrew Vreugdenhill, and Janet Yee. Dr. Vreugdenhill was the chair for the judging of the Poster Session.

One of the highlights of the event was the plenary talk by Dr. John Polanyi, a 1986 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, where he discussed the privileges and responsibilities associated with

COU Awareness Campaign

Following the release of the Bob Rae report on postsecondary education, the Council of Ontario Universities has initiated the 'Think Ontario' information campaign to educate the public about the importance of a properly funded university system. Mr. Rae's report, "Ontario: A Leader in Learning," was released in February and contained an array of far-reaching recommendations.

A central theme of COU's ongoing campaign is to inform the public and elected officials that Ontario ranks last among Canada's provinces for provincial funding for universities per capita. Through its advocacy strategy, COU seeks to ensure that Mr. Rae's recommendations regarding accessibility and quality are supported with new investments in this spring's provincial budget.

Through COU, a new 'Think Ontario' Web site was created to provide information about the challenges facing Ontario's universities and how individuals can advocate for more funding. The Web site includes facts about underfunding, provides information about how citizens can contact their MPPs and invites readers to sign an open letter to the Premier. Members of the university community are encouraged to visit this Web site and offer their support.

For more information about funding Ontario's universities and how you can assist in securing the future for Ontario's universities visit: www.thinkontario.com



"... Being a Scientist." Adam Guppy was chosen as one of the students who sat and spoke with Dr. Polanyi at the Head Table during the banquet held at Victoria College Alumni Hall at the end of the conference. Also at the banquet, Alanna Grant was announced as the Third Prize Winner in the Biochemistry and Bio-organic Chemistry Session for her oral presentation entitled, "Expression and Characterization of a Recombinant *Giardia* TATA-binding protein," with Drs. Steven Rafferty and Janet Yee as her thesis advisors. Trent students have won at least one prize at every SOUSCC meeting they have participated in for the past nine years.



"Anishinaabe Maanjiidwin"

On March 31 and April 1, 2005, the Native Studies Department at Trent University presented an evening of student dance and theatrical investigation at the First Peoples House of Learning performance space in Peter Gzowski College, Enweyng Building. The program, under the direction of Prof. Marrie Mumford, Canada

Research Chair and Daystar/Rosalie Jones, visiting professor and guest artist from New York State, celebrated the research and practice of Indigenous performance.



Newfound Friendships

Trent University students have left an imprint on their primary school penpals – on their T-shirts, that is. The penpals celebrated another successful year on Friday, April 1. Together they designed and hand printed T-shirts with paint, played games and sang songs at Trent University's Peter Gzowski College at Argyle Street. A record number of primary schoolchildren were matched with Trent University students this year. This year's program kicked off in September.

Classes from Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board schools were paired with Trent penpals – undergraduate arts and science students as well as teacher candidates in Trent's Bachelor of Education program. ☺