

focus

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trent

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Canada's Outstanding Small University

in the news



The work of two Trent University researchers was profiled in the

May/June issue of *Canadian Geographic*. "Smog Sleuth" featured Professor Tom Hutchinson and his studies on the impact of smog on vegetation in central and eastern Ontario. "Unsafe Assumption" featured the findings of Professors Gord Balch and Chris Metcalfe around the risks of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE's) in household items.

The naming of Peter Gzowski College received nationwide media attention with mentions on CBC radio, *The Globe and Mail* and media outlets throughout the region.

The Ontario Today Book Club on CBC radio announced that Trent alumnus Yann Martel's book *Life of Pi* will be the topic of discussion for listeners on Wednesday, June 25th.

Hall adds five mor



Trent employee Bill Bowers made the local news when he was inducted into the sports hall of fame. The article in the Peterborough *Examiner* quoted him as being "totally shocked" when told of the honour.

Trent student Geoffrey Cameron, winner of a Millennium Scholarship, was featured in a special video created by The Association for Universities and Colleges of Canada. The video was shown during a visit from prime minister Jean Chretien.



Dr. Roberta Bondar is invested in her Chancellor's robes. Below, National Ballet veteran

Frank Augustyn listens as his citation is read by Prof. James Neufeld.



It was a glorious day on Friday, May 30th when 1,120 undergraduate and graduate students

crossed the podium at Trent University's 36th convocation ceremony. The sun shone and a gentle breeze cooled graduands and spectators alike. And the spirit of dance was in the air.

One might have imagined that Frank Augustyn would dance across the stage as he received his honorary degree, but Dr. Robert Bondar? ... Well, dance she did. As Dr. Bondar was divested of her Ph.D. regalia to the tune of Irving Berlin's "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails," she danced to the tune, much to the delight of the crowd.

After being installed as Trent University's ninth chancellor, Dr. Bondar addressed the gathering and quoted her predecessor's words about the north: "Experience and imagination have merged, the two norths have become one, and that is the land itself," she quoted Peter Gzowski as saying. Dr. Bondar continued the thought saying, "It's arts and science that have merged, right here (at Trent). The two have become one, the two norths, the two worlds. All our world is totally inseparable. And so we have the wonderful opportunity at Trent to combine all these things and have students who can progress through and take cours-

es in art and courses in science and soon

they understand that they're evolving with the world. Because you, here on the stage, are moving the world forward."

Dr. Bondar made a point of mentioning the love of the north that she and Peter Gzowski had in common. At an event prior to convocation, Dr. Bondar presented one of three original photographs of the arctic that she plans to donate to the University, the first being one that reminded her of students crossing the stage at convocation. "Sirmilik Hoodoos" is a striking image of Sirmilik National Park just off of Baffin Island in Nunavut. Dr. Bondar plans to present one framed work in the series during each year of her chancellorship at Trent University.

The theme of dance came back at the afternoon convocation ceremony when Frank Augustyn, renowned dancer, teacher, and author received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree,

preceded by a citation by Professor James

Neufeld. Mr. Augustyn addressed the graduands with a profound message of compassion. "I've lived my life as an artist, a dancer, and a teacher, and continue to question where I fit in this global reality - Just as you are now," he said. "Keep believing, donate free time to help others in need and continue to grow ... You are our future. Go out and do - as people, as artists, as the future of Canada and the world. We can change the world."

Of the students graduation, 1,068 received undergraduate degrees and 49 received Masters degrees and three received Ph.D.'s. This issue of Focus Trent is dedicated to all of them, our new Chancellor, honorary degree and award recipients. ☺



Prof. David Page



Prof. John Topic

symons teaching award

“Professor Page is passionate about what he teaches and it is impossible to miss such passion. His enthusiasm is contagious and inspiring,” said one submission in support of Prof. Page’s nomination for the 2003 Symons Teaching Award. Arguably the most prestigious faculty award at the University, the Symons Teaching Award is presented each year to a faculty member who displays exemplary teaching, as well as concern for students.

Professor Page’s enthusiasm for teaching combines with his love of Roman History and Latin to make him an unforgettable influence in students’ lives. He continually strives to instill his passion in his students, and his flexible teaching style brings his course material to life. He constantly rethinks his presentation techniques, so that his students may fully appreciate the value of history. “Teaching is just like acting, but the play is different every day,” he says. “You must do what it takes to make it memorable.”

Watching his students develop as academic individuals has been the most rewarding aspect of Professor David Page’s impressive tenure at Trent. Through lecturing and active one-on-one discussions, he makes it a priority to know his students personally – to discover their interests and ideas. His extraordinary talent lies in his ability to excite cre-

ative minds, and to motivate them to absorb new ideas. He feels that it is not really possible to teach, but rather to encourage young minds to teach themselves. His role, he says, is “to guide and facilitate the process.” When his students receive awards, he takes special pride in their success, and is honoured to have played a role in their accomplishments.

He believes that his course material makes a valuable contribution because it embraces an appreciation of culture, history, and language. His Roman History class, for example, illustrates how the problems of Roman society relate to current issues. “We may apply the lessons the Romans learned, or failed to learn, and make discoveries from the contrasts,” he says.

Having been at Trent since its early days, Professor Page is dedicated to preserving the University’s original mission to promote outstanding teaching. He is honoured to receive the Symons Teaching Award, especially since so much emphasis has recently been placed on research.

Says Professor Page: “Eight years ago some of my senior students wanted to nominate me, but since you can only win once, they neglected to do so because Professor Robert Page had already received the award. Now that people have recognized that

I am David Page, I am absolutely thrilled! I am humbled and gratified by this recognition. To be honest, I felt my skills of late were being stretched by a heavy teaching load and long teaching hours. I was beginning to wonder if I was really giving my best. Apparently I was.”

As for his students, he hopes they will take away from Trent the critical skills they’ve developed and honed. He feels that whether or not they remember the specifics of their course material, they may be confident that they can present clearly, distinctively, and persuasively. They are endowed with the ability to make critical assessments, and express their opinions well with evidence and thorough research. Education, he feels, is a conduit through which people learn to be open-minded, good citizens.

With four years to retirement, Professor Page will continue to embrace his love of teaching, remaining steadfastly dedicated to his students, and to Trent as an institution of higher learning.

Professor Page has taught at Trent for 35 years. During his tenure at the University, he has been affiliated with Catherine Parr Traill, Lady Eaton and Otonabee Colleges. He is also a past President of the Ontario Classical Association.

distinguished research award

Professor Topic is “very pleased and honoured” to be this year’s recipient of the Distinguished Research Award. “That my academic colleagues at Trent and internationally find my research valuable is extremely gratifying,” he says. For his contributions to Trent University, the international research community, and fostering public access to archaeological information, Professor Topic is indeed deserving of this recognition.

Professor John Topic has been a member of the Trent University faculty since 1974. During that time, he has held the positions of Director of the Anthropology Graduate Program, Chair of the Department of Anthropology, and Senior Tutor at Peter Robinson College. In addition, Professor Topic has involved a number of Trent students in archaeological research in Peru and Ecuador, and has conducted archival research in Peru, Ecuador, and Spain.

A Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors at the Institute of Andean Research in New York, Professor Topic helps to organize conferences in which colleagues from Latin American countries may share information and exchange ideas. These meetings are widely praised for their ability to strengthen relations among scholars from different countries

and broaden international perspectives.

He has also worked to give back his research findings to the community. Professor Topic and his wife, Theresa, mounted a permanent museum exhibit in Huamachuco, Peru. For their efforts in enhancing the cultural assets of the town through the Museo Municipal Wamachuko, the couple received a Civic Award. He has also written a chapter for a high school textbook and overseen museum exhibits in Canada.

This year, Professor Topic is acknowledged in particular for his research pursuits. Valued for its thoroughness, detail, and rich interpretation, his research in Andean archaeology and ethnohistory is widely cited by his colleagues. He has participated in a number of invited symposia including four at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Center for Pre-Columbian Studies in Washington DC, a weeklong seminar at the School of American Research in Santa Fe, and a symposium at the Sainsbury Research Center for the Study of the Arts in Norwich, England. He has written articles on a number of different themes, including warfare, urbanism, craft production, religion, and administrative structure. His research spans the time period from about 3500 BC to the early part of the Spanish Colonial period.

it was a **very** good year!

convocation 2003

educator in the making

"Trent was a life experience. . . It was about more than getting your degree." So says Kristin Kawamoto, recognized not only as a provincial all-star athlete by Ontario University Athletics and the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association, but also a recipient of the Arthur Cup, the University's most prestigious award for graduates demonstrating outstanding contribution, sportsmanship, participation, and leadership in athletic programs.

But don't be too quick to think that Ms. Kawamoto's focus has been entirely athletics. A student of the Queen's-Trent Concurrent Teacher Education program, she is a high achiever academically as well. After adjusting to university life away from home, she met new friends in residence, established a sense of independence and began to branch out, intellectually, socially and athletically.

Both of Ms. Kawamoto's parents are teachers, and Trent's Concurrent Education Program allowed her to follow in their footsteps. She knew teaching was her calling when she heard story after story about how her parents impacted students' lives. "I wanted to make a difference too," she says.

Ms. Kawamoto says that her parents always encouraged her to give nothing less than her best. But she also sets high standards for herself; "If I work as hard as I can and get 75%, I can accept that mark because I gave it my best. If I get 85% and I didn't give it my all, I am disap-



Kristin Kawamoto

pointed because I didn't push harder. My Dad always said 'good enough never is,' and that message resounded in my head every time I wanted to hand in a sub-standard paper . . . naturally, I worked on it some more!" Kristin credits her family, coaches and teammates for her success, and she is grateful for the unwavering generosity of her professors – Deborah Berrill, in particular. "Professor Berrill always makes time for you, and you have her full attention regardless of how busy she is. She has wonderful ideas, and she has made a huge impact on my concept of teaching."

Although she has achieved remarkable academic success, Kristin's first love is volleyball. "Whoopi Goldberg once said in a movie that if you wake up in the morning and all you can think about is singing, you were meant to be a singer. I feel this way all the time about volleyball." Kristin came by her love of the competitiveness and "thinking" aspect of the game honestly – both of her parents coached Mohawk College to Ontario Championships. Kristin coached softball at the Children's Millennium Games in 2000, and enjoyed getting to know the kids and the game itself. "It was a wonderful learning process," she says. "It prepared me well for my teaching career."

She has found more inspiration in her eight-year-old triplet cousins: "I love watching them and figuring out how their minds work. You gain insights and then apply them to teaching formats to make learning interesting and fun." ☺

lasting impressions

Some students leave a lasting impression on the faculty who interact with them. And certain faculty have an enormous impact on the lives of the students they teach. Graduate student Daniel Shaule and Native Studies professor David Newhouse are two such individuals. Mr. Shaule graduated with his Masters degree at this year's convocation and will go on to law school next. But reaching this level of academic success was anything but a foregone conclusion in Mr. Shaule's life.

The youngest of seven children, Daniel Shaule grew up in Toronto. His mother moved to Georgina Island Chippewa Nation when he was 14, but lacking Native status, Daniel could not live on the reserve with his family. "Abandoned at 15, you realize the realities of life. My options were so limited. I quickly discovered that I needed skills to survive," he says. Juggling two jobs between classes, he worked the 4 p.m. – 12 a.m. shift as a security guard, plus 30 hours a week at a retail outlet.

Although Daniel hadn't passed a single grade in elementary school until Grade 8, he was a diligent reader and acquired all of his high school credits. He travelled to Florida, Texas, and New Orleans, working at various jobs to support himself. As he returned to Canada to pursue a college diploma, he heard about the Native Studies Program at Trent University and decided to apply.

Once at Trent, Mr. Shaule struggled to stay motivated. It was at this point that he met a pivotal person in his life, Professor Newhouse. "I was an angry young man when I first came to Trent," says Mr. Shaule, "but David could take it. He let me spin my wheels for a while, but then he helped me to learn and change my life. David made me write about my views (about Native management), and all the while I had to keep reading

about management theories. Eventually, whether I realized it or not, I was opening my mind and developing management skills of my own. He taught me what I needed to know and I didn't even realize it," says Mr. Shaule.

Professor Newhouse recalls meeting Mr. Shaule when he was a "free session student" in the Native Studies diploma program. "He was quite determined," says Prof. Newhouse. "I think I helped him through the difficult points when he got discouraged. He completed his two-year diploma in Native Management and then became interested in the Williams Treaty, a highly contentious treaty signed in 1923."

Once Mr. Shaule began to see the results of his hard work, he realized that after completing the Diploma Program at Trent, one more year would earn him a Bachelor of Arts Degree. An additional year would get him an Honours Degree. One step at a time, he challenged himself to keep going, all the while using the Williams Treaties for inspiration. Mr. Shaule now holds a Master of Arts Degree in Canadian Studies and Native Studies, has obtained a Local Area Network Diploma, and became a Microsoft Certified Professional while working toward his B.A. and M.A. The icing on the cake was recent acceptance into a law program. "I always dreamed of being a lawyer, so being accepted at law school is just beyond my imagination!" Mr. Shaule currently works as an Employment Counsellor for the Miziwe Biik Aboriginal Employment & Training



Daniel Shaule

Centre in Toronto. Next, he hopes to research land claims and treaties for a First Nation, Tribal Council, the Canadian Government, or consulting groups.

Mr. Shaule will continue to support Aboriginal issues and fight for the rights of his people. He read notes from House of Commons meetings when the Indian Acts were revised because, he says, "this is the only way to precipitate change. Some of us have to take a stand." To further educate people, he is planning to write books on the history of Indian Acts and Native self-government.

Now Mr. Shaule finds himself in the role of mentor to others. When he speaks to young people about their futures, his message is simple and clear: "Stay in school. Spend as much time as it takes to make a life change. Be committed. Set a goal – shoot for something – and follow it through." And the cycle continues. ☺

an in her

When the rigours of life in the Hotel and Restaurant business proved dissatisfying, Michael Langford decided it was time to take a risk. With a diploma in Hotel and restaurant Management, he decided to return to university. A mature student with a desire to teach, he's glad he chose Trent.

"I always wanted to be a teacher," he says. Trent fulfilled his destiny, affording him the sense of community and small

city sport, and opposing coaches awarded him a 2002 OUA Rugby All Star nomination. He was Vice President and Assistant Coach of the Trent Rugby Football Club (TRFC) in 2001-02, and was their 2002-03 President. His team mates awarded him the PSB Wilson Award for his outstanding contribution



Michael Langford

"never too late to learn"

group learning he was looking for. Not only did he graduate with an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree in Anthropology, but he also maintained outstanding academic and athletic records throughout his university career.

When not studying, Mr. Langford played on the rugby team at Trent, which had an awesome year, finishing first in its division. He was twice voted 'Best Back,' was a three-time OUA Academic All Star maintaining an 80% average while playing a var-

to TRFC, and he was the 2002-03 male recipient of the Arthur Cup. To what does Mr. Langford attribute his success? "I've had a lot of great professors and coaches who've made had big impact on my life," he says. "So much of what I've learned will make me a better teacher."

This fall, Mr. Langford will attend Teacher's College at the University of Toronto, and when he finishes, he'd like to travel and teach abroad. When he returns to Canada, Michael hopes to teach

Social Science and English at the high school level. And of course, rugby will continue to consume a good portion of his time. He loves sports because "it provides a necessary balance," he says. His involvement on Trent's teams taught him that pursuing excellence in sports encourages you to be the best you can be in all areas of your life.

Asked what message he'd send to anyone contemplating a career change, Michael says that you've got to have courage and believe in yourself; "I'm glad I gave

myself the chance to try something new. Going back to school was risky, but I wanted to do it for myself. I gave up a good paying job and I didn't know at first whether I'd made the right decision. But everyone deserves to be happy, and now that I've made my dream a reality, I'm ecstatic. I'm living proof that it's never too late to learn." ☺

OTILIA KISS, winner of the Otonabee College Excellence Award

From Baia Mare, Romania to Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Otilia Kiss came a long way to realize her dream of completing an Honours in Business Administration.

Having crossed the podium with more than 1,000 other graduates at Trent University's 2003 convocation, she says, "I have a lot of 'thank you' notes to write!" Along the way, Ms. Kiss received assistance from her mother and father, friends, and a very special professor at Trent University, Professor Ivana Elbl.

Back in Romania, Ms. Kiss visited the government office every day for three months, only to be told that her \$5,000 scholarship was insufficient to see her through a year of study abroad. Her parents sold many of their belongings, and ten days before she was to depart for Canada, the



convocation 2003

special prof motivated award-winner



Rosa Barker, 2003 Governor-General's Gold Medal Winner

The Governor General's Gold Medal is awarded to the student with the highest academic standing on graduation in the Master's or Doctoral degree programs. Rosa Barker exemplifies these attributes and, like many award-winners, hers is a story of perseverance.

Throughout her childhood, Ms. Barker travelled with her actor parents and their small company, "The Whole Loaf Theatre." Ms. Barker left home at 15, but returned two years later to complete high school. She arrived at Trent University when she was 19, but left after her first year. "I was just not into school

at the time," she says. In the three years that followed, Ms. Barker travelled and held a variety of jobs before returning to Trent full time. She finished her BA in just two years, consistently maintaining an A average and garnering both internal and external scholarships.

Ms. Barker now holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts Degree and graduated with a Master of Arts in the Methodologies Program from Trent, and a partial Ph.D. from SUNY@Buffalo. She will continue her Ph.D. at Queens University in September 2003. For her M.A. work at Trent, Mr. Barker is this year's deserving

recipient of the Governor-General's Gold Medal, having consistently maintained outstanding grades, and having proven her potential for excellence time and again.

When asked what motivated her to continue her studies, Ms. Barker shares that it is her love of African-American literature that has fuelled her journey. Along the way, she questioned her academic pursuits, but came to realize that her passion was worth pursuing. She also credits one professor in particular for her success. Professor Charmaine Eddy, who teaches African-American Literature, and who is the Chair

Pursuit of Honours B.B.A.

papers finally arrived.

From the beginning of her new life at Trent, Ms. Kiss faced significant challenges. With little money to live on, she worked in the Otonabee College Office and at various summer jobs to support herself – all the while maintaining an 80% grade average to retain her scholarship funding. Any financial assistance her parents could provide ran out when her parents lost their jobs and her mother became seriously ill.



An only child thousands of miles from home, Ms. Kiss somehow managed to help by sending \$250 a month to her mother, calling her every week and traveling home as often as she could. Ms. Kiss graduated on May 30, 2003 with an Honours Degree in Business Administration, maintaining an 87 per cent average and a place on the Dean's Honour Roll during each of her four years at Trent. She was also Treasurer and Publicity Director of TISA (Trent International Student Association), a founding member of the Peer Mentor program and a Peer Mentor Liaison. Looking back at the emotional pressure, studies, jobs, and financial worries, all the while learning English, Ms. Kiss says, "I don't know how I did it," she says. "I still can't believe I weathered this storm."

Ms. Kiss is especially grateful to Professor Ivana Elbl, principal of Otonabee College during that time, for her continued support and friendship. "In Romania, you can't approach teachers," she says. "It took me a while to comprehend how helpful and friendly everyone was, including my professors. Ivana Elbl, in particular, greatly influenced my life. Hopefully I can someday repay her ... she was like a second mother to me."

While an M.B.A. is on the horizon, Ms. Kiss has set her a more immediate priority: to establish a career in marketing and promotions in Canada.

"I don't give up," she says. "If I really want something, I won't let anything stand in my way. There were many times when I questioned what I was doing, but I had to keep going to make a better life for myself and my Mom." ©

of the Women's Studies Department at Trent, "had a remarkable impact on my future," she says. It was Professor Eddy's unfailing support and mentorship that encouraged Ms. Barker to return to university for her M.A., and later her Ph.D., which specializes in race, feminist theory and post-colonial literature.

For two years, Ms. Barker taught Women's Studies at Trent as a teaching assistant. She then taught Composition 101 in the United States at SUNY (a state University in Buffalo). She found the experience challenging, and it impelled her to return to Canada and to Women's Studies, where,

she says, "women have a desire to break down the walls." Trent was also Ms. Barker's indoctrination into active political involvement surrounding women's issues. "There was, and still is, too much neo-conservatism and apathy in Canada," she says.

In addition to her obvious academic achievements, Rosa is an accomplished violinist, specializing in traditional Eastern European and Irish folk music. On occasion, she teaches violin and works as a musician for theatre companies. ©



Lisa Lucchese, 2003 Symons Medal Winner

medal reflects years of hard work

Lisa Lucchese recently discovered a letter that she submitted to Trent's Committee on Admissions in July 1992. In that letter, Ms. Lucchese explained that she didn't go to university when she finished high school because she wanted to get married, establish a career, and become a mother. She wrote that although she never regretted the choices she made, she always felt that her dream of a university education was left behind. She then asked to be admitted to the Part-Time Studies Program at Trent University to realize her aspirations.

And so it began. Eleven years ago, in the Fall of 1992, Ms. Lucchese launched her academic career. She embraced this new experience with verve, enjoying the classes, peer discussions, reading, and the entire learning process. Her achievements are all the more remarkable when we discover that while pursuing her academic goals, Ms. Lucchese held a job in Project Accounting and maintained a nurturing family environment for her husband and two young sons – Matthew

(age 10) and Sam (age 3).

"I had a lot of support," she says. "My family listened to my essays, and my husband and children drove me to classes without complaining. My boys have grown up knowing that their Mom juggled education, work and family, but never at their expense ... in fact, they think that everyone's Mom goes to school!"

And now, after a long but fulfilling adventure, Ms. Lucchese is finally graduating. "To receive the Bagnani Medal is an incredible and unexpected honour. This Award marks not only the end of my academic journey, but also the trip itself," Ms. Lucchese says. She is grateful to the wonderful professors who inspired her with their passion, and who shared a glimpse into a world of opportunities. She also feels privileged to have met a diverse group of students who fostered new ideas and ways of looking at life.

While Ms. Lucchese spent many late nights putting in a lot of hard work, her Trent experience was a memorable one. She always knew that she would

accomplish her dream of receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree, but she didn't expect to discover that every new piece of knowledge would spark an insatiable need to know more. And so as this chapter of her education comes to a close, Ms. Lucchese strikes out on a quest to learn more.

As for her future, Ms. Lucchese will let her passion for literacy guide her next steps. "I'm not certain where my path will lead, but I would like to teach or become a librarian," she says. "I would be thrilled to motivate children by introducing them to the fascinating world of the written word." True to form, Ms. Lucchese is already fulfilling her destiny: she spends much of her time sharing with children the life-long joy of reading and writing.

As she embarks on new adventures, Ms. Lucchese offers this inspirational message: "It doesn't matter if your goals take one year, eleven years, or a whole lifetime to accomplish – pursuing your dreams will ensure a remarkable and worthwhile journey." ©

Trent's in their OWN words: medal winners



"I'm a naturally curious person, and I really like to know things - whether it's how Shakespeare uses fire imagery in Romeo and Juliet, or how temperature and acid rain affect fish populations. Trent provided the unique opportunity to cultivate my curiosity in several disciplines through a joint major in English and Environmental Science. I benefited from intriguing experiences through various projects I participated in, like designing a reading course on popular science writing, studying trace metals in beluga teeth, working as a Teaching Assistant for the Chemistry Department, and acting as a volunteer programmer for Trent Radio.

There's no secret formula to explain my academic success, except that I've always chosen projects that are challenging and stimulating on several levels. They keep me enthusiastic and motivated, and as a result, I produce work I can be proud of."

MICHELLE PICARD-AITKEN, B.Sc. (HON), SYMONS MEDAL WINNER



"I discovered my love for the sciences at a very young age. When that first ladybug crawled across my finger, I knew that the study of life and living processes would be the focus of my education.

I set my goal to become a veterinarian at the age of six. Even as a child, I knew that a university education was in my future. I worked hard to maintain high academic standing and to gain applied experience, knowing that my efforts would make my dream a reality.

My tremendously supportive family, professors, colleagues, and members of the Windsor and Peterborough communities helped me to remain focused on my goal. And my passion for my career choice kept me motivated despite setbacks along the way. Now that I have graduated from Trent, I stay motivated by continuing to set goals for personal and professional development, and I still draw from the valuable skills I learned at Trent - both in and out of the classroom."

JENNIFER ROSSMANN, B.Sc. (HONS), SYMONS MEDAL WINNER



"Achieving your university degree is a challenge, but it's not a challenge you have to face alone. What makes this time so exciting is being surrounded by many fascinating people with different backgrounds, all with something to share. The motivation to work hard comes from recognizing this amazing chance to learn from them, and using the knowledge that you gain to reach your potential to make a difference in your community."

ANDREA ETMANSKIE, B.B.A. (HONS), SYMONS MEDAL WINNER



"At Trent University ... not only did I acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for academic success, I also learned more about myself - who I am as a person, my strengths and weaknesses, my beliefs and values, what I stand for, and what I will not stand for. I have discovered more about the world, and my new skills have assisted me in making informed decisions about important issues and events. I have learned the importance of tolerance and understanding, and the value of the people in my life who inspire and support me. My university education helped me to become the person I aspired to be."

REBECCA REAY, B.A. (HONS), GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SILVER MEDAL WINNER



"My academic success and my (sometimes controversial) political activism at Trent are driven by the same interest in social change. They both emerge from my commitment to social justice. University is an important space for critically rethinking and remaking the world ... for challenging the status quo and working for social change. This means, for me, endlessly pushing the boundaries of what I think I know and how I see the world, even when it means taking an unpopular stance or challenging authority. It is through the ongoing struggle for justice that new hopes and possibilities emerge. I've always believed that a more just world is possible and it's worth fighting for."

SARAH LAMBLE, B.A. (HONS), SYMONS MEDAL WINNER



Conductor Extraordinaire

Who's behind the magical day that is convocation? A team in the University Secretariat, led by convocation expert Dianne Choate, puts many months and a lot of elbow grease into this special day for everyone at Trent University. From programs and parking to music and medals, Ms. Choate, together with Brenda Blackburn, Cris Sad, and more than 150 volunteers, quietly orchestrates the detail of this enormous event - even holds her breath for good weather - so that students, their families, faculty and staff can revel in the joyous atmosphere that overtakes the campus each year.

professor emeritus and eminent service awards

Professor Joan Vastokas received the Professor Emeritus Award, an honorary title bestowed upon eligible faculty members and professional librarians upon full retirement from the University, and Linda Slavin was the recipient of Trent's Eminent Service Award at convocation on May 30th.



Prof. Joan Vastokas

A member of the Department of Anthropology, Professor Vastokas has been at Trent University for 33 years. She is the first person in the world to obtain a Ph.D. in Aboriginal Art of the Americas (1966). At Trent University, she has taught archaeology, cultural anthropology, art history, and objects of folk and popular culture as symbolic, functional enti-

ties in human life. Through her teaching experiences, Professor Vastokas has influenced participation in politics through Native Art, and has worked hard to emphasize it as an important area of scholarship. She is also a strong supporter of the Peterborough Petroglyphs, and she works tirelessly to increase awareness of their Canadian aboriginal origins.

Professor Vastokas plans to continue research and teaching in her "retirement," and to visit Greece, China, Japan, and India. "I don't see my retirement as an ending, but

rather a graduation from one stage to another. I'll be able to explore all of my interests, including aboriginal art history and prehistoric art in diverse parts of the world, and high Arctic circumpolar and North American peoples," she says. "I'll finally have the time to pursue the great interests of my life."

Ms. Slavin was in Ecuador when she found out she would receive the Eminent Service Award for her outstanding leadership, expertise, and commitment to international development initiatives, and to peace and social justice issues in the community. And she was quick to share the glory of the moment. "Because the INSTRUCT program is facilitated by so many people, this award is a shared accomplishment," she says. "All of the people I've worked with are equally deserving of this recognition, especially those partners in Mexico and Ecuador. I also thank Trent and the International Program for their tremendous support."

A dedicated advocate for social justice and equity, Ms. Slavin has been a member of the Trent International Program, and has been Project Manager for INSTRUCT (Inter-American Networking for Studies and Training in Natural Resource Usage for Community Transformation) over the past six years. "INSTRUCT has fostered different ways of thinking and working on water and recycling issues, youth education, and

small-scale economic development," says Ms. Slavin.

Building bridges between community partners, she organized six "Roots of Our Future" conferences at Trent, and two "Sharing Equity" conferences, all of which involved students in the issues facing developing countries.

Among her many achievements, Ms. Slavin takes great pride in her Development Education Award from CIDA and the fact that she was a co-founder of the local Person's Day Breakfast.

Ms. Slavin is currently Chair of the Peterborough Coalition for Social Justice, and is an active member of Kawartha Ploughshares.



Linda Slavin

convocation 2003





Peter Gzowski College

On May 21, Trent University announced that it would name its newest college after the University's eighth chancellor, Canada's beloved broadcaster, author and journalist, Peter Gzowski. The announcement took place at a Toronto dinner hosted by Trent University and RBC Financial Group where several of Mr. Gzowski's friends and colleagues were in atten-

dance. A fund has been established in support of the development of Peter Gzowski College.

Mr. Gzowski's partner Gillian Howard said that he would have been delighted at the notion of having such a presence on the Trent campus he loved so much. "Peter used to say that coming up the long drive leading to Trent's beautiful campus on the Otonabee River felt like 'coming home' and I



know that he would be deeply touched by the

gesture in today's announcement," she said. "It is especially appropriate that his name should be carried on a facility that includes the First Peoples House of Learning as the aboriginal interests of the University were very close to his heart."

prestigious teaching award to math prof

Mathematics Professor David Poole was one of six professors in Ontario to receive a teaching award from the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). "I am particularly proud to have initiated Mathematics 280, a course for preservice elementary school teachers," says Prof. Poole. "Many of these students are initially very apprehensive about mathematics. It is very rewarding to help them overcome their negative feelings about the subject and learn to appreciate it." Prof. Poole's commitment to excellence in teaching extends beyond the classroom walls. He has initiated many enrichment activities for mathe-



tics students at Trent and has been involved in outreach programs in local schools.

Economics Prizes Awarded

The Department of Economics reports that the William B. Common, Q.C. L.L.D. Memorial Prize was awarded to Ms. Inna Ivanova. The prize is awarded annually to the student achieving the highest academic standing in first-year (Canadian) Macroeconomics. Mr. Joel Feldman received the Department of Economics Prize for achieving the highest academic standing in first-year Microeconomics.

Education and Professional Learning. The award was presented at the CCAE's annual conference in London, Ontario this month.

Romanowski Medal to Chemistry Prof.

Professor Peter Dillon was among twelve Canadians recently recognized by The Royal Society of Canada for their extraordinary contributions to the humanities, pure and applied sciences.

Professor Dillon has been awarded the Miroslaw Romanowski Medal for making significant contributions in the field of environmental science. Professor Dillon is one of a handful of Canadians to earn this distinction over the past two decades. The Romanowski medal is not presented every year; but rather is awarded only if there is an outstanding candidate. The award includes funding to support a lecture tour at universities around Canada.

reaping NSERC Awards

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) announced \$398,000 in new grants for Trent University researchers. Professor Dennis Murray received \$30,000 for his research into Parasitism and predation risk in two sympatric lagomorphs; Prof. Paul Wilson was awarded \$18,000 for his work in estimating male-based dispersal and gene flow in mammal species using Y-chromosome loci; Prof. Ray March was given a grant of \$31,300 for Mass spectrometry of naturally-occurring environmental contaminants; Prof. Steven Rafferty received \$39,000 to investigate the characterization of the oxygenase domains of mammalian nitric oxide synthase isotypes; Prof. Andrew Vreugenhil's work on Nanofeatured active hybrid materials was awarded \$20,000; Prof. Peter Dillon was awarded \$201,600 for his research endeavours in Trent's Water Quality Centre; Prof. Dirk Wallschläger

was granted \$19,800 to further his research into arsenic and selenium hydrogeochemistry in subtoxic milieus; Prof. Marcus Pivato was the recipient of \$10,000 for his work with asymptotic randomization in cellular automata; Prof. Jeff Bowman's research linking movement of individuals with population-level responses to habitat fragmentation was awarded \$9,000.

Thinking on her feet

Trent security officer Georgette MacKenzie received an award for preventing a theft on campus. In a tight squeeze with the inability to use her cell phone, she pulled the fire alarm, alerting authorities and leading to the arrest of seven individuals who were charged with robbery.

Trent takes home Gold at CCAE

Trent University's Communications Office won a gold medal for "Best New Idea: Creativity on a Shoestring" in the The Canadian Council for the Advancement of Education's 2003 Prix D'Excellence competition. Trent won for its lunchbag giveaway, a promotional item created for the opening of the new School School of

Perennial Publishing!

Trent University's beautiful gardens just got a little more renown. The book *Great Gardens to Visit: A Guide to Ontario's Outstanding Private Gardens* by Patricia Singer featured Trent's gardens after speaking with Kerry Taylor, who tends the gardens, and Janice Matthews. Page 172 of the guide mentions the great variety of perennials, ornamental grasses, shrubs and spring bulbs. Self guided tours of the gardens take place throughout the warmer months of the year. Pamphlets are available at the security office at 748-1328.



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