

# focus trent



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## in the news

Ken Cassavoy, marine archaeologist and a Trent University research associate, was the subject of nationwide news coverage



in April. He made headlines with his plan to unearth a shipwreck on the shores of Lake Huron at Southampton this month. The shipwreck is believed to be the oldest ever discovered on the Great Lakes.



Trent University alumnus **Yann Martel** was in the news in April, having been awarded the prestigious German Book Prize for his novel *Life of Pi*. Mr. Martel was the only Canadian author shortlisted for the prize. The award was announced by the Saskatoon Public Library, where Mr. Martel is writer in residence until June 30, 2004.

*The Globe and Mail* on April 15 featured an article on renowned artist **Doris McCarthy** headlined "Portrait of a happy artist." Ms. McCarthy received an honorary degree from Trent University in 2002.

CBC's *The National* featured a segment on Trent University alumnus **James Orbinski** and his return to Rwanda 10 years after the genocide. Dr. Orbinski is one of the founding members of Doctors Without Borders, and provided medical assistance to the suffering during the genocide.

## beyond grey hair & wrinkles

IN STUDYING AGING WOMEN, Trent University's Dr. Sally Chivers went beyond grey hair and wrinkles. In fact, she looked beyond the aging body altogether, and realized there's more than meets the eye.

"If you only talk about the body, you end up playing into misconceptions promoted by popular culture," says Prof. Chivers, who joined Trent's Canadian Studies department in 2003.

Having read Margaret Laurence's *The Stone Angel* and Hiromi Goto's *Chorus of Mushrooms*, Prof. Chivers believed that literary representations of aging were, in fact, more encouraging than what popular images of aging faces would have us believe.

"Those representations give us a better idea of what aging is all about," says Prof. Chivers. "They show the potential for rethinking and reimagining late life."

So as her Ph.D. candidacy project at Montreal's McGill University, she began the research for a dissertation comparing and contrasting Canadian fiction by women about women. Three years after completing the dissertation and two post-doctoral fellowships later, the project became a book – *From Old Woman to Older Women: Contemporary Culture and Women's Narratives*.

Coincidentally, Prof. Chivers received the first copy of this, her first book, last fall – the day she was oriented as a new Trent faculty member. Intended for academic audiences, the book explores what Prof. Chivers calls "constructive" representations of aging. She says she worked to avoid the replication of stereotypes and negative or narrow positive depictions.

"The book mixes ideas that the body does change with the fact that there is a lot of good and a lot of creativity that can come out of that," says Prof. Chivers, who says her interest in aging was sparked after her

first reading of *The Stone Angel*. "I was really interested in the book when I was a teenager; it changed the way I thought about aging. I thought, 'there's more going on inside this person than meets the eye'."

From *Old Woman to Older Women* is divided into three sections based on where women live when they can no longer live alone, including with family, in a nursing home and as part of a community of elderly women. Prof. Chivers' research was diverse and included talking to her long-living grandmother as well as a look at feminist writing on motherhood. Nursing textbooks were used in her exploration of nursing home care in Canada while narrative theory was the basis for research on interdependence.

The research for *From Old Woman to Older Women* gradually steered Prof. Chivers toward a new area of study, as she was invited to make a presentation based on her book at a women's studies conference focused on women and girls with disabilities. Now, her research is focused on the meeting of the physical, the social and the cultural, as she examines "the problem body" within the realm of disability studies – an emerging discipline. Her next project will focus on Canadian cultural representations of disability, including the commemoration of Terry Fox and the way the media dealt with the cases of Tracy Latimer and Sue Rodriguez.

Related to this research, Prof. Chivers will be teaching a course that will provide an introduction to disability



"If you only talk about the body, you end up playing into misconceptions promoted by popular culture." Dr. Sally Chivers

studies, in September 2004. 'Dynamics of Difference: Gender, Disability and Canadian Cultural Representations' will be Trent's first course offering in this developing discipline and will include Canadian case studies, among them, a look at the Alberta Eugenics Board in operation from 1929 to 1972. This summer, Prof. Chivers will participate in the Summer Research Institute 'Disability Studies and the Legacies of Eugenics' at the Einstein Forum at the University of Potsdam in Germany. Many technologies used during the Second World War were promoted by medical practitioners and perfected through prior use on people with disabilities in Germany, explains Prof. Chivers.

"So disability is also an important focus for scholars of eugenics, who tend to focus

more on race," she adds.

Funded by DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service – 13 scholars from the United States, Canada, Germany and Australia, with expertise in disability studies, German culture, and/or disability history will participate in the research institute. The scholars will visit two psychiatric institutions – Bernberg and Hadamar – which were sites of medically-sanctioned killings during the war; there, they will study archival materials.

"The thinking behind Nazi eugenic practices was present and even formulated in North America," says Prof. Chivers. "Canadians, especially in Alberta, played an important role...I will offer a Canadian perspective to the institute and certainly my research and teaching will benefit from a stronger historical and theoretical background." 🌱

# a donation rooted in hope

*Morton Family donation creates a legacy of learning*

THEIR MOTIVATIONS ARE MANY, though each is entrenched in opportunity and hope.

With an affinity for Trent University, its former chancellor – the late Peter Gzowski – and an attentiveness to Native Studies, David Morton and Patricia Owens Morton of Peterborough, in April 2004, made a generous donation that is without question, a legacy of learning.

The Mortons' \$250,000 donation will fund two initiatives at Trent University: the construction of the Morton Owens Lecture Hall in the First Peoples House of Learning at the new Peter Gzowski College, and an endowed scholarship to support a Native Studies graduate student.

The donation was announced April 29 at a ceremony at the new college. This was a homecoming for Patricia Owens Morton, professor emerita, who retired from Trent after 26 years of service in 2002. Prof. Morton is the author of numerous published historical essays and the book *Disfigured Images: The Historical Assault on African American Women*. She is also an accomplished editor, notably of *Discovering the Woman in Slavery: Emancipating Perspectives on the American Past*.

David Morton is a retired president and CEO of Quaker Oats Canada Limited and is recognized as a leader within the food industry and in many capacities within the Peterborough community. In 2002, Mr. Morton received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Trent University; he has also taught courses for Trent's Business Administration program.

"I have always had a great admiration for Trent University... its goals, its dreams and its values... much of which I have learned first hand through Patricia's long involvement at Trent as a professor," said Mr. Morton. "Of course, like millions of other Canadians, I also had tremendous respect and affection for the late Peter Gzowski who was a great Canadian, a great human being and, I am proud to say, a cherished friend."

Peter always expressed his great affection for Trent both publicly and privately, and consequently, it is very gratifying for Patricia and me to be able to both assist Trent and at the same time honour Peter Gzowski by playing a part in establishing a College in his name at the University he loved so much."

Located in the First Peoples House of Learning, the new Morton Owens Lecture Hall will include the Nishinaabe name 'Bguasendamowin' (bgwa/sen/da/mo/win), meaning literally "the art of hoping." The 135-seat hall is over 2,300 square feet



President Bonnie Patterson expresses her thanks to David Morton and Patricia Owens Morton.

in size and is pre-wired for the adaptation of new projection and computer technology to be used in the delivery of lectures.

Included in the gift is \$100,000 to establish the

Morton Scholarship to be awarded to a deserving student in the Native Studies graduate program. The annual interest from this endowed gift will be doubly matched by the Ontario

Graduate Scholarship program, creating an annual \$15,000 scholarship in perpetuity.

"It is exciting to see the special association of the College with Native Studies,

which exemplifies Peter Gzowski's vision of a Canada enriched by a diversity of peoples and cultures," said Prof. Morton. "The establishment of a graduate scholarship in Native Studies also reflects our conviction that because history has by no means been kind or fair to First Nations peoples it is important that they be provided with real opportunities and hope. For that reason too, we feel that it is appropriate that the new Lecture Hall's naming be inclusive of the Nishinaabe word for 'hope': Bguasendamowin."

This leading gift to the University is a prelude to the launch of a nation-wide fundraising campaign to help support the construction of the new Peter Gzowski College and the First Peoples House of Learning slated for official opening on October 16, 2004.

"The University has been fortunate to have the Mortons' ongoing support and Prof. Morton's expertise as a member of our faculty," said President and Vice-Chancellor Bonnie Patterson, adding their generous gift will go a long way to support the college project in Peter Gzowski's name and the needs of our students. 🍀

## culturally significant spaces

ON THE EAST BANK OF TRENT University's campus over the last few months, construction crews have engaged in a particularly significant process. They've been applying the stucco-like surface to the exterior of the new Peter Gzowski College and First Peoples House of Learning – under construction since summer 2002.

The colour that was spread across each side of the building is among the design elements representative, and in celebration of, Aboriginal learning and knowledge. The hues of the building, including the ochre-coloured cladding, are derived from the four colours of the medicine wheel: yellow, red, black and white.

The top three floors of the building are clad in ochre – a yellow-type tone. Yellow, which is the colour of the east, represents the rising sun, the dawn of a new day and new beginnings, hope. Meanwhile, other elements of the structure, including the First Peoples Gathering Space, are significant in their colour. The gathering space is clad in weathered steel, which will turn red as it rusts – red is the colour of the south and represents youth, energy and celebration. The steel cladding was chosen to honour the legacy of the Mohawk/Iroquoian steelworkers

in this territory, while the shape of the structure honours the Anishnaabe/Ojibway peoples of this area.

Even the black trim and grey metal of the building are symbolic. Black is the colour of the west, representing growth and maturity while the grey metal represents the white of the medicine wheel – the colour of the north symbolizing spirit and wisdom.

The integrated college will house a 250-bed residence, the departments of Business Administration, Economics, Mathematics, Native Studies and the Office of Research and Graduate Studies. Numerous teaching spaces and the First

Peoples House of Learning consisting of a performance space, gathering space, gallery space, lecture hall, and an outdoor ceremonial space will make up the more than 78,000 square-foot (net) space.

The overall design of the building – developed by Dunlop Two Row in association with Erik Wilke Architect – was based on an extensive vision statement developed by the First Peoples House design committee. This statement sees the building as honouring the land, creating a respectful community and acting as a beacon. In fact, the building itself has been given an Ojibway name, Enweying, meaning *The*

*Way We Speak Together*.

Among numerous representative design elements, the ground floor of the building is open to create a sense of sitting gently on the land. The First Peoples House of Learning is also a "distributed space" – consisting of six distinct elements spread throughout the building. The idea behind the distributed space is to reflect the distribution of Aboriginal Peoples throughout the country and that all Aboriginal Peoples are not in one place. The distributed space is also intended to ensure that the encounter with Aboriginality is everywhere and unexpected, as it is in Canada. 🍀



Peter Gzowski College in the final stages of construction on the east bank of the Symons Campus.

# where the World learns together

*A look at how the Trent International Program reaches out to students around the world.*

TRENT HAS THE ENVIABLE REPUTATION, among Canadian peer institutions and schools around the world, as being a special kind of place – a University committed to fostering dialogue and international understanding and a home for an increasingly diverse community of students from all corners of the globe. In the past year, Trent has been home to more than 550 students from 97 countries. And for the first time, the University welcomed students from places as far flung as Burkina Faso, Lesotho, Liberia, Afghanistan, and the Dominican Republic.

Yet, how do these students find out about Trent? What is it about Trent that attracts so many students from abroad?

This is, in part, attributed to the behind-the-scenes work of the Trent International Program (TIP) staff. The international recruitment and admissions team of Trevor Corkum and Elena Koudiakova, in consultation with TIP Director Michael Allcott and ESL Coordinator Tom Harkness, develop plans for yearly student recruitment in all regions of the world. Such plans include the coordination of a rigorous travel schedule, so TIP staff have the opportunity to meet prospective students face to face.

From September to March in



Members of CHEC visit a school in Jordan



TIP recruitment officer Trevor Corkum

any given year, TIP staff members are on the road on recruitment trips lasting anywhere from one to three weeks. In 2003-2004, TIP and ESL staff visited more

than 30 countries in Central and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Turkey and the Middle East, Central Asia, Southern and Southeast Asia, and Japan; TIP covered the globe from Uzbekistan to Rokko Island, from Spitsbergen to Subang Jaya. Recruitment activities included visits to international and national schools, conferences with school counselors and international school principals, and education fairs.

With strategic plans in process for targeted recruitment in each world region for the upcoming five-year period, the TIP team aims to reach the broadest area while being as cost-effective as possible. Enter CHEC – or the Canadian Higher Education Committee – a consortium of Canadian

university recruiters active in the international undergraduate field. Under the direction of the Council of Independent Schools, the eight members of CHEC (in addition to Trent, such schools as McGill, Queen's, UBC, York and the University of Toronto) aim to raise the collective profile of the benefits of study in Canada. Such benefits include our high standard of living, lower tuition costs, outstanding natural environment, commitment to multiculturalism, and perceived personal safety for students. By coordinating recruitment schedules and pooling resources, member universities have been able to maximize their impact in a host country.

"The advantages for Trent are multi-faceted," explains Mr. Corkum, Trent's international recruitment officer. "We get the exposure and profile of traveling with the best schools in the country, and yet because of our size and the interdisciplinary nature of our programs, we appeal to a completely different kind of student, someone who is inspired by this interdisciplinary approach and who feels most comfortable in a smaller, more intimate academic setting. Most international students who come to Trent are drawn to us by our size, or by our generous

scholarship program, and most are aware of our reputation as a globally aware and mutually supportive international community."

One of the recent projects organized by the group was a seven-city, six-country tour to the Middle East in January 2004. Eleven Canadian universities visited schools and hosted public events in the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan. In all countries, university officials were met with enthusiastic crowds, and in some cases, high-profile media attention, including news reports in several major English-language newspapers in the area, such as the Jordan Times. The response was due in large part to a growing discomfort among Middle Eastern students with study in the USA. In several stops, public receptions for interested students and their parents were held in conjunction with Canadian embassies. Other events included discussions of scholarship possibilities with local education authorities and workshops in national schools to familiarize counselors and administrators with the application process to Canadian universities. Trent has already seen the direct impact of the tour, with applications from countries like UAE and Oman doubling over last year. CHEC members are already well into planning mode for 2004-2005, with events planned in India, Latin America, and the Eastern Mediterranean. 🌿

## reading into bookstore operations

THE RIGHT BOOKS, IN THE RIGHT place, at the right time; the responsibility of the Trent University Bookstore staff is as simple, and as complex as that.

Reading into the bookstore's overriding objective, it becomes clear that the business of supplying books to students in September is prudently planned throughout the year. In preparation for the double cohort in 2003-2004, a number of developments took place; these and other enhancements will see students with their books in-hand as early as possible again this year, says Barb Reeves, bookstore manager.

On the heels of successfully supplying an unprecedented number of first-year students with their books in September – just over 1,700 – planning is well underway for the fall.

"Year over year, we want to provide the best possible service," says Ms. Reeves, adding that 100 per cent of the textbooks requested on time, were in stock for students last September. "With Trent's new growth, our plan is to be as well staffed and as ready as we were last year."

New this fall, will be a link from My Trent! that will allow students to purchase their books

on-line, as they register for their courses. On-line ordering at My Trent! is complementary to on-line ordering via the bookstore homepage at [www.trentu.ca/bookstore](http://www.trentu.ca/bookstore), explains Ms. Reeves.

Faculty members can also submit their book lists via the World Wide Web at [www.efollett.com](http://www.efollett.com).

To ensure that students spend as little time in line as possible, the bookstore will once again this year, hire between 35 and 40 students to work there during the first few weeks of class. A handful of those students will stay on throughout the year, along with a new full-time textbook clerk.

In March, the bookstore was the first Follett's site in the country to deploy its new point of sale system, which will allow staff members to manage inventory more efficiently.

Speaking of inventory, how does the bookstore staff know, for example, how many first-year psychology textbooks to order?

The bookstore's "forecast" method employs data from three sources – estimated enrollment provided by faculty members, actual enrollment provided by the Registrar's Office on a weekly basis, and historical data from the previous three years. Every

course is analyzed individually, says Ms. Reeves, and generally speaking, inventory purchases have been maintained at 90 per cent of faculty estimates. First-year textbooks are an exception and have been ordered at 100 per cent of forecast in the last two years.

Students themselves can buy and sell used books – something that is extremely successful at Trent due to the size of Follett's network of stores, says Ms. Reeves. In the 2003-2004 academic year, more than \$128,000 was paid out to students for their used books. Meanwhile, used books are sold to students for up to 25 per cent off, which has resulted in savings to them, of more than \$126,000.

Also starting this fall, Ms. Reeves is excited to announce that the bookstore will be awarding a \$2,000 scholarship annually. She will be working



Trent University Bookstore manager Barb Reeves.

with students to define the terms of the scholarship. This one-stop shop is also now offering at 25 per cent discount for alumni and 10 per cent in some parts of the

store for Walkhome Program volunteers.

For further information on the bookstore, visit [www.trentu.ca/bookstore](http://www.trentu.ca/bookstore). 🌿



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## Retirees Help Students

More than 20 Trent University retirees came back to campus in April; to volunteer with the Disability Services Office (DSO) and the 247 special-needs students who were writing exams. With more than 800 exams in 218 courses to proctor



– an increased number due to the double cohort – the DSO looked to retired staff and faculty members for assistance, says Manager Eunice Lund-Lucas, adding they received an overwhelmingly positive response to the opportunity.

The 21 volunteers, who participated in a March orientation session, proctored one exam each, which took an average of three or four hours, between April 7 and 24. They met the students, handed out exams, stayed with the students while they wrote, and finished up by collecting the exams and handing them in.

Students with disabilities, who require accommodation to allow them to put forward their optimum performance, arrange to write their exams with the DSO. Most of these students require extra time or a distraction-reduced environment, explains Ms. Lund-Lucas.

Together with the volunteers, and incredible support from faculty members, the work of the DSO is helping this particular group of students be academically successful.

## Trent Contributes to Local Economy

A report estimates that Trent University's economic impact to Peterborough and the surrounding region was \$204.5 million in 2002-2003.

The report, produced by Christopher Michael, coordinator of institutional research at Trent, was presented at a meeting of the University's Board of Governors on Friday, April 30, 2004. It states that the University's economic impact on the surrounding area will likely increase considerably next year as official openings take place for both the Chemical

Sciences Building and Peter Gzowski College. The economic impact statement takes into account about 40 per cent of the construction work that has occurred on the Symons Campus.

Trent University spent \$57.4 million on operating expenditures in 2002-2003.

Faculty, staff and students make more than \$30 million in purchases in the regional economy.

In fall 2003, full and part-time students, both on and off-campus, numbered 7,348. On-campus students contribute an average of \$3,250 to the local economy over the eight-month academic year, while off-campus students contribute an average of \$8,000. In 2003, a total of 5,948 off-campus students spent approximately \$48 million in Peterborough and the surrounding region on items such as telephone, rent, cable, clothing, food, and entertainment. Off-campus students account for 46.5 per cent of Trent University's impact on the local economy.

## Trent Partners with Shad International



Trent University and Shad International have entered into new partnership to deliver a residential summer experience at the University starting in July 2005.

"The Shad Valley program encourages students to push their limits and dream of previously unimagined possibilities," says Pat St. John, Shad International President. "Students are introduced to areas of science, business, engineering and technology at a level which most high school students simply do not have access to." St. John adds, "Trent University continues to demonstrate a powerful vision for academic excellence and unwavering support for tomorrow's leaders. We are thrilled to have Trent joining the Shad Valley community."

Bonnie Patterson, President and Vice-Chancellor of Trent University praised the new partnership. "Shad's proven track record for providing outstanding academic programs that develop individual students and their entrepreneurial skills is complemented by Trent's national reputation for quality teaching and our business administration and science programs. The University is very pleased to participate in the Shad Valley Program which will expose Canadian and international secondary school students to the Trent experience and to programs on university campuses across Canada."

Shad provides outstanding senior high school students with a chance to learn about the disciplines that will give them an edge in the competitive, knowledge-based world of tomorrow.

In operation since 1981, this award-winning international program joins entrepreneurship with science, engineering and technology.

## CFI Funding For Computer Cluster



Trent University Assistant Professor William Atkinson has been awarded a \$19,675 grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation's (CFI) New Opportunities Fund for the purchase and installation of a high performance computer cluster.

The cluster will be housed in the Physics department at Trent University and is intended to be complementary to existing regional facilities. Trent's cluster will be used as a platform for developing new scientific software and training students.

"High performance computing has always meant big money, and supercomputers used to be quite rare. In the last few years, it has become possible to build supercomputers by connecting lots of small desktop machines together into 'clusters.' Instead of millions of dollars, high performance computing now costs tens of thousands of dollars," explains Prof. Atkinson.

"This is a pretty exciting development. It has made high-performance computing affordable for your average physicist. All kinds of problems that were too complicated to address five years ago, can suddenly be answered."

Prof. Atkinson explains that ultimately, his goal will be to take the software developed at Trent and run it on a large regional supercomputer, such as the High Performance Computing Virtual Laboratory (HPCVL). Eastern Ontario has one of the larger high-performance computers in Canada; the HPCVL is administered by Queen's University, Carleton University, Royal Military College and the University of Ottawa.

Prof. Atkinson joined Trent in September 2003 from Southern Illinois University. The cluster will enable him to continue his vigorous research program in materials simulation and modelling.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created in 1997 by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the ability of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and other non-profit institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that will benefit Canadians.

With CFI funding approved, the University will pursue a matching grant from the provincial funding agency, Ontario Innovation Trust.

## Board Approves Balanced Budget

Trent University's Board of Governor's has approved a \$70,179,000 operating budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year – its fifth consecutive balanced budget.

Highlights of the budget include:

- 16 'net' new Peterborough tenure track faculty appointments
- 10 new research fellowships
- 13 new staff, full-time equivalents, half of which will be permanent increases
- \$438,000 for facilities renewal and \$370,000 for deferred maintenance spending on capital infrastructure maintenance or improvements
- \$262,000 investment in information technology (networking and workstations)
- additional operating costs of over \$1.1 million for new academic space in the Peter Gzowski College at Symons and Argyle sites as well as the new Chemical Sciences Building
- principal and interest payments on the projected Superbuild Project funding gap are included

at an annual payment rate of \$300,000

- a balanced operating budget in 2004-2005 with contributions of \$364,000 and \$551,000 to the operating budget's accumulated deficit in 2004.

## Trent Skier to World University Games

Though fourth-year biology student Stephen Hart will graduate this spring, he won't be



taking the summer off. Instead, he sees running, rollerskiing and strength training in his future.

These workouts will help to prepare him for the upcoming World University Games in Innsbruck, Austria, in January 2005. Mr. Hart has been chosen as one of six male cross-country skiers to represent Canada.

Mr. Hart was chosen for the team by Canadian Interuniversity Sport based on his performance throughout the season. He had a successful season and recently received five athletic awards at Trent University's Department of Athletics and Recreation's 35th annual Athletic Awards Ceremony. This Peterborough native was named the most valuable member of the Nordic Skiing and Cross Country Running teams, was recognized as an OUA All-Star and Athlete of the Week, and received a University Athletic Award.

## Enriched Learning at Mini-Program



Grade seven and eight students from across the region had an opportunity to attend a three-day Enrichment Mini-Program offered through Trent's Conference Centre. The program was held during the weeks of May 3 and 10 with hundreds of students experiencing a variety of learning opportunities. Some of the programs on offer were: Japanese in a Day; The Idea of a Hero; DNA Profiling; Greek and Roman Archaeology; and many others. More information on Enrichment at Trent is available at [www.trentu.ca/conference/enrichment](http://www.trentu.ca/conference/enrichment).