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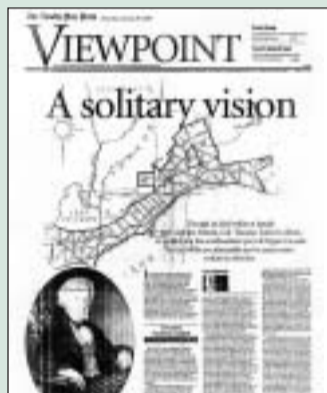


trent

Your connection to news at
Canada's Outstanding Small University

in the news

Professor Julia Harrison was interviewed by Erica Ritter on CBC's Ontario Morning program on April 15. Prof. Harrison discussed her new book, *Being a Tourist: Finding Meaning in Pleasure Travel*. (see pg. 2)



Geography Professor Alan Brunger wrote an article for the *London Free Press* that appeared on Saturday, March 29. The cover story of the Viewpoint section, Prof. Brunger's piece was entitled "A solitary vision" and addressed Col. Thomas Talbot's efforts to develop southwestern Upper Canada in the 1800s.

On Saturday, April 19, the Books section of the *Globe and Mail* carried a review of *Planet Earth: Poems Selected and New*, the recently released volume of new and collected works by P.K. Page. This book was launched at a large conference at Trent University last fall called *Extraordinary Presence: The Worlds of P.K. Page*.



The *Peterborough Examiner* ran an article about World Tai Chi and QuiGong day on April 14, featuring a photo with Trent staff member Jean Kirk front and centre. Ms. Kirk works in the microforms room in the Bata Library.

arctic explorations

Trent University researcher Gord Balch has developed a passion for the Arctic. Dedicated to the work of an innovative pilot project he has been involved with since June, 2002, Dr. Balch is excited about breaking new ground in Arctic contaminant research.

The project was initiated by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Canada, in response to the concerns of Inuit hunters about the increasing prevalence of abnormalities in harvested wildlife. Hunters believe these abnormalities could be related to exposure to chemical contaminants. The WWF is specifically concerned with levels of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), mercury and newer types of contaminants such as brominated flame retardants, which are known to exist in wildlife such as Arctic char, ringed seals and belugas. These animals are harvested as "country foods" in Inuit communities, a term used to describe traditional foods taken from the land. The WWF recognized the need to expand their research team and contacted Chris Metcalfe, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at Trent University, and his research associate Dr. Balch. With an international reputation for cutting-edge water quality and contaminant research, Trent was a natural choice for this type of project.

"No one knows the long-term toxicological impacts of these compounds on Arctic wildlife," explains Dr. Balch. "One of the most appealing aspects of this project is our partnership with Inuit hunters who are involved in sample collection, identification of abnormalities in wildlife and, more importantly, project development. Our aim is to work with northern communities. By taking

this approach, we are hoping to combine the Inuit's traditional knowledge with scientific investigation in order to assess the current health status of selected Arctic species. Their knowledge of the land and wildlife is a great asset when trying to identify subtle changes to wildlife and, hopefully, we from the south can bring a greater understanding of the types of data scientists require. Our long-term goal is that, over time, Arctic communities will see the value in this partnership and research, and will want to take increased ownership. My hope is that this will help to bring empowerment to the communities and increase their capacity to manage their own affairs in regard to wildlife and contaminant issues."



Dr. Gord Balch of the Environmental and Resource Science Program.

it is known, is being conducted in the communities of Pangnirtung on south Baffin Island, and Coral Harbour and Arviat on Hudson Bay. This project, says Dr. Balch, has three main components. One is to establish a pilot program involving Inuit hunters as "front line workers" who will help assess the current health status of selected wildlife. A second aspect to the project is the dissemination of information to Arctic communities in a culturally relevant way. Some methods include hosting workshops to raise awareness of the research that is underway, as well as radio phone-in broadcasts where residents can ask questions about contaminants and



Photos from Pangnirtung, Baffin Island.



wildlife health issues. A third goal of the program is to advance the science of the research involved by filling in knowledge gaps. This could involve collaborative work with other labs at Trent.

"These potential collaborations involve using samples archived from the NWHHP to look at issues surrounding methyl mercury, with Holger Hintelmann (Trent professor and researcher), and aspects of modeling contaminant uptake as the chemicals travel through the guts of seals with Brendan Hickie," explains Dr. Balch. "I have also talked with Paul Wilson about the possibility of using forensics (DNA) capabilities to monitor



A map locating the three communities involved in Dr. Balch's World Wildlife Fund study.

various wildlife diseases in the north. Mr. Wilson is already using DNA to monitor the effects of climate change on pole bears."

All of these Trent links offer opportunities for students and

faculty to examine this issue in a meaningful and tangible way, and to produce research data that will have a direct impact on the lives of people living in Pangnirtung, Arviat and Coral Harbour. Dr. Balch believes this important project will have lasting implications for residents and will shed light on environmental contamination across the nation.

The funding for the project ends in June, 2004, and Mr. Balch is keen to continue this research beyond that point in time. He feels a long-term study is necessary to make significant progress on these issues. As a result, Dr. Balch is actively raising awareness about the project among fellow researchers, and hopes to generate financial support for ongoing work.

"We need to produce baseline data that can be used as a benchmark should future conditions change in the Arctic, through increases in contaminant levels or other stressors, such as global climate change," emphasizes Dr. Balch. ☺

a being tourist

The “travel bug” is a powerful entity. Once bitten, it becomes difficult for travellers to imagine life without some component of journey and adventure.

Trent University Professor Julia Harrison is fascinated with the issue of travel, tourism and the reasons why people seek out experiences abroad. She feels that thoughts and experiences about travel reveal much about human nature and the need to connect with others.

“I started my Ph.D. research asking the question of how Native Hawaiian culture was represented to tourists,” explains Prof. Harrison. “I soon realized there was very little literature on the reasons people travel, or any analysis of the tourist.”

It quickly became clear to Prof. Harrison that tourists don’t want to talk about their travels while they are on holiday. Instead, they are eager to discuss their experiences *after* they return home.

“I wanted to study upper middle class tourists, people who travel a lot,” explains Prof. Harrison, adding, as background: “I did a lot of travelling myself as a young person and wondered sometimes about why I was

doing it. Every year in Calgary – where I was a museum curator for 12 years – we had a lot of tourists in the summer and I was very intrigued by what experiences people were looking for.”

In the mid 1990s Prof. Harrison placed an ad in the *Globe and Mail*, reaching out to people interested in discussing their travel experiences. Over 100 readers responded, and were mailed an extensive survey. Fifty-two completed surveys were returned, and Prof. Harrison proceeded to conduct lengthy interviews with over 30 individuals.

“I kept in contact with these individuals until 1998. They would send me postcards and copies of their travel journals, and we continued to meet and discuss their trips,” says Prof. Harrison.

As she began to sift through all of the qualitative information she had gathered, Prof. Harrison discovered some common themes. While she is firm in the opinion that there is no “generic” tourist, she was able to confirm that many people travel for four reasons:

1. as an opportunity for intimacy and connection
2. as an expression of a personal



aesthetic
3. as a way to understand “home” and, relatedly, Canada
4. as a way to personalize the global landscape.

Prof. Harrison writes: “As much contemporary social theory informs us, any separation of the political, social, economic and moral realities of the touree and the tourist is simplistic, if not foolish and naïve. The entire nature of the touristic experience emphasizes the entanglement of

the local and private with the global and public. The touristic experience is far from neutral, even though it is highly ambiguous and often contradictory.”

Prof. Harrison’s research also delves into the impact of tourism on local economies, and the social responsibility of travellers to continue supporting various tourist economies. She investigates the explosion of travel in the second half of the 20th century, and explores evocative

themes, such as the idea of the journey, the metaphor of voyage, the idiom of exploration and the separation of home and away.

The culmination of Prof. Harrison’s research is a brand new book, published by UBC Press, called *Being A Tourist: Finding Meaning in Pleasure Travel*. Available at the Trent University bookstore, this is a fascinating read for anyone who enjoys travelling. ☺



-serving the need

The Special Needs Office at Trent is a place that can make or break the academic careers of many students. Learning disabilities, physical disabilities and various other factors affect numerous students, impairing their academic success if the proper assistance doesn’t fall into place.

At Trent that type of assistance is readily available, and 335 students accessed the Special Needs Office during the 2002/03 academic year. This number is up 20 per cent from the 2001/02 academic year, and Special Needs Co-

ordinator Eunice Lund-Lucas is pleased with how her department has handled the increased demand.

“We had a terrific year. We brought on two new staff members and so were able to continue all of the supports we had established with our LD pilot project, and we were able to respond to significant increases in demand for service,” says Ms. Lund-Lucas.

The primary services accessed by students were exam support (up 40 per cent this year), note-

taking in classes, and access to adaptive technologies.

“From my perspective, we provide an essential academic support service,” continues Ms. Lund-Lucas. “With the proper staffing in place to provide these supports, we are graduating students with special needs at the same rate as their non-disabled peers. We have levelled the playing field for most of these students.”

The students who use the services of Special Needs are often the program’s strongest advocates. One student reflected on her positive experiences this year in a note she sent to Special Needs staff: “For the first time I was able to write an exam without feeling overwhelmed. The Special Needs staff created a distraction-free atmosphere that encouraged me to stay focussed and concentrate during my exams. Not only did they provide me with a comfortable environment, but extra time was also extended to me, which helped relieve any pressures or stress associated with time restraints. I appreciate the help and support the Special Needs staff provides me, along with their words of encouragement and motivation.”

Any student in need of Special Needs assistance is encouraged to contact the Special Needs office directly at 748-1281. The office is located in the bottom of the Bata Library. ☺

DNA forensics camp

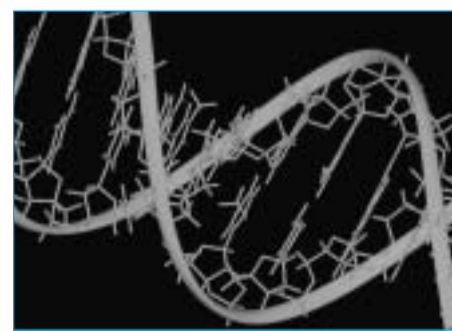
A DNA Forensics Summer Camp at Trent University is one of 27 new Canadian science and youth initiatives to be funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC).

“Grassroot activities that harness the creativity and enthusiasm of young Canadians are key to developing the scientific talent we need to become one of the

top five countries in the world in research and development,” said Allan Rock, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), which makes the awards through its annual Promoscience competition.

Trent’s DNA Forensics Camp, which will take place this summer, will provide high school students with an opportunity to learn about DNA technology, forensic science and related social issues.

Students will be presented with mock crime scenes or case modules. While investigating these scenarios, students will have access to equipment for DNA analysis and will work alongside law enforcement professionals. The cases and crime scenes will be based on murders, poaching, paternity questions, genetically modified food and other DNA-



based possibilities. Students will be encouraged to research the basics of DNA structure and forensic science

while having fun solving a simulated case. The camp will conclude with mock trials in which students will present their evidence.

One-week DNA Forensic Camp sessions will be held from July 14 to August 29 this summer at Trent University. ☺

truly canadian

The *Journal of Canadian Studies* (JCS) is almost as old as Trent University itself, and maintains a respected position among Canadian scholars and academics.

Founded in 1966, the JCS grew out of the vision of T.H.B. Symons, Trent's founding president, chair of the Symons Commission on Canadian Studies, and author of *To Know Ourselves* (1976). The journal aims to publish the best possible information about Canadian history, culture and society, and to serve as a vehicle for solid, original research about Canada.

"This is one of the things Trent is specifically known for in the academic community," says Trent Professor Stephen Bocking, current JCS editor. "It's amazing the reputation the journal has gained over the years."

Prof. Bocking is close to the

end of a three-year term as JCS editor, and has thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "I've had the chance to learn more about how Canada is studied by academics across the country, from so

many disciplines and perspectives," he says. "It has helped me situate my own discipline – environmental history – in a broader context and I've had the chance to interact with hundreds of



interesting academics."

As he talks about the journal, Prof. Bocking's enthusiasm for the project surfaces immediately. It is obvious that he is committed to Canadian studies and to providing a forum for thoughtful and explorative academic work.

At the turn of the millennium, then-JCS editor Prof. Robert Campbell initiated a complete renewal of the journal. A dynamic series of new covers was created, and the entire year's worth of editorial was shaped to present a comprehensive survey of Canadian studies.

The series was lauded by readers and subscribers all over the globe, and was runner-up that year for the Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement. This was awarded by the Council of Editors of Learned Journals, and involved a pool of more than 100 international journals.

Building on Prof. Campbell's success, Prof. Bocking has designed several unique theme issues during his time as editor. Themes have included topics such as history and the Canadian environment, science and politics

in Canada, and the city and the nation in Canada.

"I've been trying to keep the journal something that creates a buzz because of its content," says Prof. Bocking. "Thirty-three articles have already been submitted for the issue based on the city and the nation in Canada, and that issue will contain work by many of the most significant urban studies scholars in the country."

"It's a different kind of work than teaching and writing. I learn a lot and sometimes I feel like I'm in a one-person tutorial with experts sending in papers for my education," Prof. Bocking smiles.

As his term as editor comes to an end, Prof. Bocking is confident the JCS will continue to thrive. With such a strong history and tradition, it is destined to continue elucidating Canadian culture for a long time to come.

For more information about the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, please visit www.trentu.ca/jcs or call the JCS office (located in Blackburn Hall) at (705) 748-1279. ☺

exploring canadian cultures

For the sixth year in a row, Trent University will host a group of international scholars this summer for its Summer Explorations in Canadian Cultures (SECC) program.

Designed to open up the study of Canada to interested people from around the world, this program has been extremely successful. Each year participants have been satisfied and stimulated by their two-week glimpse into Canadian culture, and this year will be no exception.

"We have some new instructors involved this year, some new graduate students," explains Melanie Sedge, program co-ordinator. "The schedule will be great and will cover a lot of interesting topics."

Last year, 13 people participated in SECC, coming from Cuba, Romania, Norway, China, India, Yugoslavia, the USA and Nova Scotia. Participants ranged from university professors and researchers to public school teachers and lifelong learners.

"It was a very diverse group of people and they all had a wonderful time," comments Ms.

Sedge. "Some wanted to use Trent as a model to introduce Canadian studies at their school."

The 2002 program included several lectures and seminars, a tour of the Petroglyphs Provincial Park, Curve Lake, the Canadian Canoe Museum, downtown Toronto, historic sites in Lakefield, Serpent Mounds Park, Lang

Crary Park, were treated to a Canadian folk music night and a traditional Native feast, and enjoyed a retreat at Trent's Windy Pine property near Haliburton.

From canoeing and hiking to discussing current Canadian political issues, numerous facets of Canadian society were studied and experienced.

SECC was launched by the Canadian Studies Program at Trent, and is now hosted by the Continuing Education unit in Julian Blackburn College, in partnership with the Canadian Studies Program and the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Native Studies. This year, a certificate in Canadian Studies is being offered to anyone who completes the 13-day session.

All parts of the SECC program are open to members of the Trent community, so please feel free to check this year's schedule

(www.trentu.ca/secc) and come out to join in this in-depth program. You will have the opportunity to see why people from around the world want to know more about this diverse country. ☺

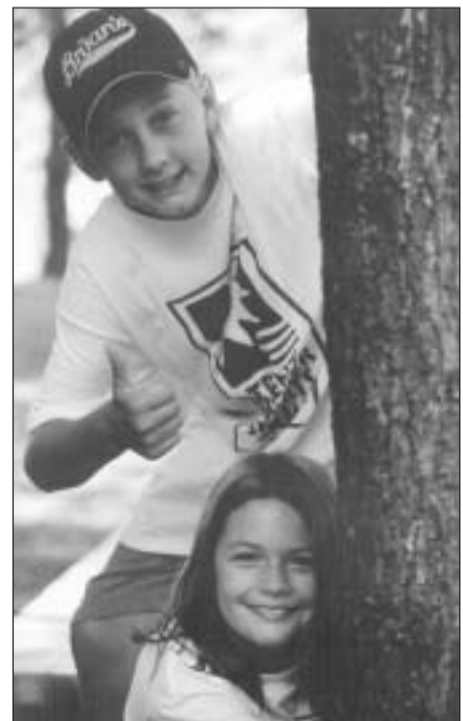


Pioneer Village, Victoria Hall in Cobourg, the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve, Trent Radio and the 4th Line Theatre. The group took part in Canada Day festivities, saw a concert at Del

The Athletics Complex will be a busy place over the summer months. Specialized programs will begin, children will congregate on campus for the annual Summer Sports Camp, and varsity athletes will participate in training sessions. Even though the academic year has ended, there is no shortage of fitness enthusiasm at Trent.

"This year we will have just over 660 children from the community participate in our popular Sports Camp program," comments Sports Camp Director Bruce Emmerton, adding this is the eleventh Sports Camp season.

Highlights of this year's program include a half-day Introsport program for beginning campers, JONA (Junior Outdoor and Nature Adventures), Multisport, Explorers (an intro-



ductory leadership program) and Adventuresport for campers aged 13 – 15.

Dozens of sports will be explored throughout the camp sessions. All sessions run for two weeks, and there are still some spots available.

For more information please

call the Athletics and Recreation office at 748-1257. Staff and faculty have the option this year of paying Sports Camp fees through payroll deductions.

As well, community members are reminded that the full athletic facilities remain

open for members during the summer months, and membership information can also be obtained by calling 748-1257. ☺



Science Fair a Huge Success

The 33rd annual Peterborough Regional Science Fair, held at Trent University on Tuesday, April 8, transformed campus science labs into amphitheatres of creativity and ingenuity. 513 students participated in this year's fair, representing 27 local schools. Students from kindergarten to OAC were involved, and projects covered a dazzling array of topics.

At 2:30 p.m. all participants were able to take part in group activities. Students from kindergarten to grade eight were invited to see a dynamic science show in the Wenjack Theatre, and high school students toured cutting-edge research labs on campus, such as the DNA lab, the wind tunnel and electron microscope labs.

Celebrating Student Excellence

As the 2002/03 academic year draws to a close, some Trent University students have been recognized for outstanding achievements.

Student Tanya Roberts-Davis has been awarded the annual prize from Soroptomist International of Peterborough. The \$250 prize is awarded to an outstanding student in the Women's Studies Program at Trent, and Ms. Roberts-Davis was nominated by associate professor Margaret Hobbs and professor Charmaine Eddy for exemplary academic achievement and involvement in social justice projects.

Student Dawn McIlmoyle, a 30-year-old single mother of two sons (age 8 and 5), won the Soroptomist's Women of Opportunity Award. The \$750 prize was established in 1972 and helps women heads of household

obtain the skills and education necessary to improve their employment status and standard of living. Ms. McIlmoyle is in the second year of a four-year Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

The Trent Central Student Association has awarded three students with "Trent Student Awards of Excellence." Kim Fielding, Candace Shaw and Geoff Cameron were chosen based on student participation and leadership in various fields of activity, both in the Trent and Peterborough communities. The fields of activity specifically taken into account were politics (student and community), academics, social, drama, art, volunteerism and athletics.

Honouring Heritage

Trent Professor Tom Whillans was one of two local people who received an award from the Ontario Heritage Foundation on Monday, March 31. Honoured for outstanding work as a volunteer in both natural and cultural preservation, Prof. Whillans was recognized along with local resident Dr. Don Curtis.

Prof. Whillans has led the way in shoreline preservation along the Trent Severn Waterway, through the Trent Severn Shoreline Naturalization Project. This project was started in 1996 and was designed to educate landowners about natural alternatives for shoreline stabilization. The awards were given to Dr. Curtis and Dr. Whillans by Bill Byrick, a member of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the director of Athletics and Recreation at Trent University.

Build2000

A Build 2000 open house in early April was well attended, despite a raging snowstorm. Staff were on hand to explain how projects were progressing, and participants were able to tour the site fence line while being updated on recent work.



Registrar becomes OURA president

Trent University is pleased to announce that Registrar Susan Salusbury is now the president of the Ontario University Registrars' Association (OURA).

OURA is a professional organization that provides registrar's staff in Ontario with a forum to discuss common issues of concern, including admissions, registration, systems, scholarship and awards, secondary school liaison and graduate studies. OURA also provides policy advice to government ministries and the Council of Ontario Universities, and organizes professional development opportunities for OURA members. All Ontario universities are members are OURA.

Ms. Salusbury served as vice president of the organization this past year, and is pleased to step into the role of president.



Librarian Re-appointed

Vice President (Academic) Graham Taylor has announced that the Board of Governors has approved the reappointment of



Tom Eadie as University Librarian for a three-year term, from July 1, 2003 to

June 30, 2006.

Mr. Eadie was recommended for reappointment following an intensive review committee process involving consultation with library staff, faculty and students. In his second term, Mr. Eadie will focus on double cohort

issues that affect library services; the development of new collections in support of the nursing and education programs; and the renewal of library collections, overall.

Top teachers and researchers

The 2002/03 recipients of two prestigious Trent University awards have been announced.

Professor David Page has received the Symons Teaching Award, presented annually to a faculty member who displays exemplary teaching and concern for students. A member of the Department of Ancient History & Classics, Prof. Page has been at Trent University for 35 years.

Professor John Topic, of the Department of Anthropology, has won the Trent University Distinguished Research Award. His nomination was strongly supported by academic colleagues at Trent, across Canada, and internationally. Prof. Topic studies South American archaeology, and has worked on sites in Peru and Ecuador that date from 3500 BC to the colonial period. Prof. Topic has been part of the Trent faculty since 1974.

Both the Symons Teaching Award and the Trent University Distinguished Research Award will be presented at convocation on May 30, 2003.

Chemistry Students Shine

Trent chemistry undergraduates won two awards, plus an honourable mention, at the annual Southwestern Ontario Undergraduate Chemistry Conference (SOUSCC), held March 22 at McMaster University.

Pam Brittain won second prize in the analytical session for her research on "Optimization of ASE parameters for extraction of arsenic from terrestrial plant samples," with Prof. Holger Hintelmann as her thesis supervisor. Kyle Pilatzke won third prize for his work

entitled "Inclusion of late transition metal nanoparticles produced by laser ablation in organic functionalized silica glass materials by the sol gel process," with Prof. Andrew Vreugdenhil.

Ankelly Armstrong received an honourable mention for her research, "Investigating the repressor function of the 5'

untranslated region of the *Giardia lamblia* Histone H4 gene," with Prof. Janet Yee.

In addition to the award winners, Trent's student contingent at the annual conference included Michael Owen, Kerry Presley, Kristen Hatcher, Jennifer Rossmann, Lindsay Smiley and Sunday Abiria. Judges commented on the high calibre of all research projects submitted by Trent.

TACTIC Server Wins First Prize

Peter Northrop, of Trent's Interactive Learning Centre, has been working with two teams of students from the Applied Projects course at Fleming College in Peterborough since last September to upgrade the TACTIC workgroup's Web server and Web site.

Initially, the group had planned to purchase a server "off the shelf" from a major manufacturer. However, about a month into the project, the students brought forward a well-researched proposal to buy individual components and build the server themselves.

"The risks in this approach were considerably greater," Mr. Northrop comments, "but it enabled us to acquire more features and computing power than would otherwise have been the case."

The server, which employs an AMD Athlon processor, high-speed memory, RAID storage technology and the Debian Linux operating system, was one of 33 entries in Fleming College's annual Technology Showcase on April 15, sponsored by Bell Canada. It was awarded first prize in the academic class, recognizing the students' creative abilities, thoroughness of thought and application, technical skills and teamwork. Soon, the new server and Web site will be active at www.tactic.trentu.ca.



L to R: Ankelly Armstrong, Pam Brittain and Kyle Pilatzke.