

in the NEWS

The October 26, 2005 edition of the *Peterborough Examiner* featured a front page article on Trent University being named Research University of the Year in the undergraduate category.

Trent Alumnus **Craig Davidson** was interviewed in the October 26, 2005 edition of the *Toronto Star*. Mr. Davidson has just published his first book, *Rust and Bone*. He was participating in the 26th International Festival of Authors that week.

Trent alumna **Jaime McKenna** was featured in the October 26, 2005 edition of the *Globe & Mail*. The article focused on Ms. McKenna's role as the valedictorian of the 2005 Certified Management Accountant convocation.

Turf & Recreation

Trent University's new artificial turf athletics field was featured in the September/October 2005 edition of *Turf & Recreation*, considered Canada's turf and grounds maintenance authority.

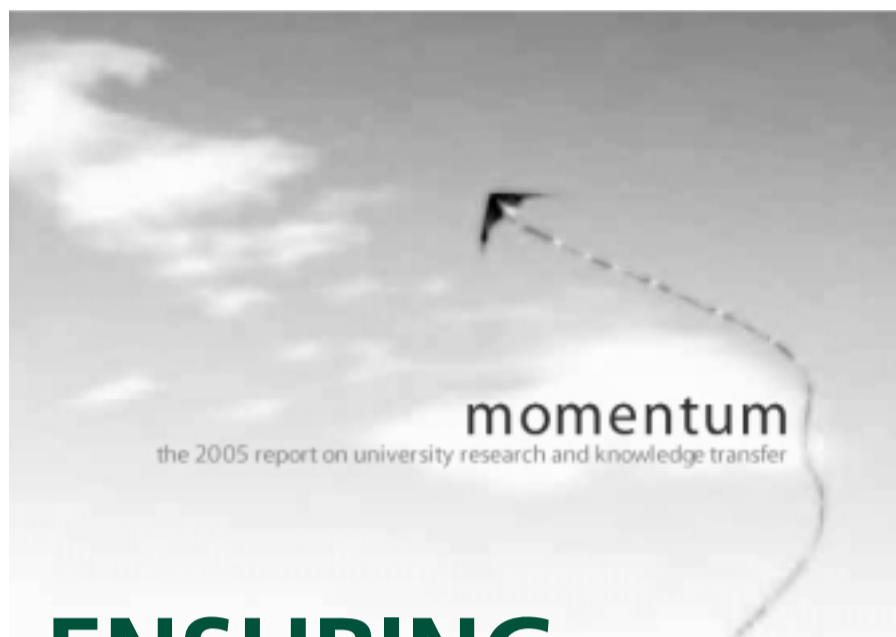
Booker Prize-winning author and Trent alumnus **Yann Martel** was the subject of an article in the October 14, 2005 edition of the *National Post*. Mr. Martel's book *Life of Pi* will be published as a new, illustrated version.

Dr. Dimitry Anastakis, a History professor at Trent, wrote an article for the October 2005 *Walrus* (vol. 2, no. 8) about the House of Commons debate on same sex marriage. Prof. Anastakis also co-wrote an August 21, 2005 *Toronto Star* article, "The Auto Pact and Its Babies."

Trent University was mentioned a number of times in the October 2005 *Saturday Night* article about cultural studies, titled "Trivial Pursuit." ©

"Canadians have told us they want to know more about the groundbreaking research happening on university campuses and this report will help highlight universities' research, commercialization and knowledge transfer efforts across this country."

Claire Morris,
AUCC President



MOMENTUM: ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY AND HIGH QUALITY RESEARCH

The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) is aiming for accountability with the October 25, 2005 launch of its first periodic public report, *Momentum: 2005 Report on University Research and Knowledge Transfer*.

"This report will be important to Canadians across the country," said Trent University president and AUCC chair Bonnie Patterson. "It provides a comprehensive account of recent federal investments in university research. It also demonstrates to Canadians that they are indeed getting value for the investments our country is making into university research."

Prof. Patterson delivered these remarks at the National Press Club just prior to the launch of *Momentum* at an AUCC meeting in Ottawa.

The report describes the collective progress of Canadian universities toward the research and commercialization performance targets and the societal benefits from these efforts.

Momentum finds that Canadian universities are on track to double financial support for campus research and to triple their gross income from commercializing discoveries by 2010. *Momentum*

also finds that university research and knowledge transfer contributed \$50 billion to the Canadian economy in 2004.

The report delivers on a promise made by the AUCC on behalf of universities to demonstrate, in regular reports, the solid returns on university research investments made by the federal government and other partners. As well, the reports will continue to relay the results achieved by universities in meeting their targets.

"Canada's universities are committed to being accountable and to ensuring that Canadians hear about the benefits of investments in university research,"

Last year, Trent brought in \$10,574,000 in sponsored research income. That translates to about \$48,300 for each of Trent's 219 full-time faculty members or \$42,296 each for Trent's 250 graduate students.

said AUCC President Claire Morris. "Canadians have told us they want to know more about the groundbreaking research

happening on university campuses and this report will help highlight universities' research, commercialization and knowledge transfer efforts across this country."

In her speech, Prof. Patterson commented on the impact of research and development on society.

"At universities across Canada, we have seen research bring discoveries that improve our health and quality of life, create new products and processes, increase our productivity and competitiveness and help us become better stewards of the precious ecosystem in which we live," she said.

"There is a growing recognition, here and abroad, that a country's capacity for research and innovation is inexorably linked to the economic prosperity and the well-being of its citizens."

Prof. Patterson also pointed out that it is not just



Trent President and AUCC Chair Bonnie Patterson

larger universities that engage in groundbreaking research.

"Smaller liberal arts and science-based institutions such as (Trent University) also have an important role to play in the research equation – and we have excelled."

Trent ranked first for Quality Education in Canadian undergraduate universities in 2003 and 2004 by the *Globe and Mail's National Report Card*. As well, Trent was first in Canada three years in a row (2003-05) for research in a Canadian undergraduate university in the *National Post's National Report Card on University Research*.

Continued on page 2.

STUDYING MEMORY LOSS IN TYPE 2 DIABETES

In today's world of expanding waistlines, fast food diets and no time or motivation to exercise, Type 2 diabetes has struck with a vengeance.

In Canada alone, 60,000 new cases of Type 2 diabetes are diagnosed each year with 25,000 people dying each year from its related complications including cardiovascular disease and kidney disease.

Although Type 2 diabetes is similar to the often genetically inherited Type 1 or juvenile diabetes, Type 2 is a largely preventable disease, its onset often due to lifestyle choices such as inactivity, smoking or a high-fat diet.

"This is a major health problem: 200 million people world wide suffer from diabetes," said Dr. Gordon Winocur, a Trent Psychology Professor and Senior Scientist with the Rotman Research Institute at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto.

Prof. Winocur has researched the cognitive complications of Type 2 diabetes that include memory loss and even dementia similar to that seen in Alzheimer's disease. He and a team of six other researchers recently conducted a study on this, using Zucker rats which have a genetic mutation that causes animal insulin resistance. As a result, some of these animals develop the rat equivalent of diabetes.

Insulin is needed to pass glucose, an important nutrient, to cells. In insulin resistant animals, the glucose stays in the blood stream instead of entering the cells. As the cells starve from the lack of glucose, the animals eat constantly to curb their hunger.

"In studying the cognitive profiles of individuals with Type 2 diabetes, we can do a more comprehensive study if we can ask questions in an animal model. The Zucker rat model affords us the opportunity to look at those cognitive abilities," he said.

Within Prof. Winocur's study, in which the behavioural work was completed at Trent, some of the Zucker rats were genetically insulin resistant to mimic Type 2 diabetes while another strain of Zucker rats was not.

Prof. Winocur had the rats complete tasks that measured learning and related cognitive functions associated with the frontal lobes of the brain.

The memory function of the hippocampus – known to be crucial for memory processes – was also measured.

"By testing the animals we were able to determine: one – if there were any cognitive changes in the insulin-resistant rats; two – if those changes affected both areas of the brain; or, three – if the changes were specific to either area," said Prof. Winocur.

According to the results, both groups of animals scored normally in learning basic tasks but the insulin resistant rats were severely impaired in remembering specific information to perform memory-related functions.

"What we're finding is that in the early stages of diabetes, the cognitive impairment is limited

to memory function that is controlled by the hippocampus. Memory loss of this nature is the first sign of dementia and it could be a precursor to vascular dementia or Alzheimer's."

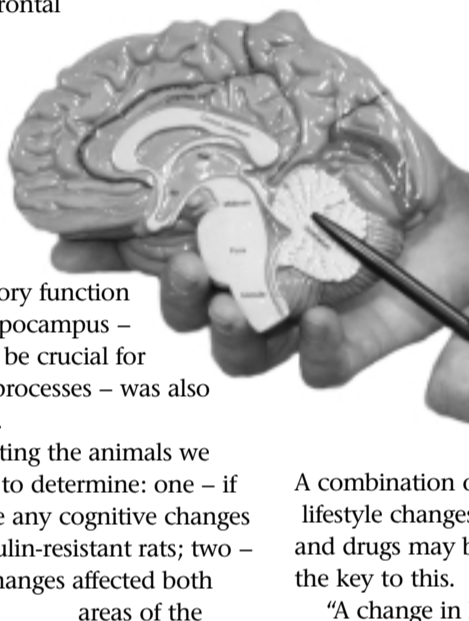
Following the behavioural study, the rat brains were shipped to the University of South Carolina's School of Medicine. Collaborators there uncovered a specific receptor – Glut 4 – in the hippocampus that may malfunction with the onset of diabetes.

An important next step is to continue to develop treatments to reduce, and even prevent memory loss and delay the onset of dementia.

A combination of lifestyle changes and drugs may be the key to this.

"A change in lifestyle can significantly reduce the risk of diabetes becoming worse," said Prof. Winocur. "If you neglect your diet, are inactive or smoke, there is a real danger of developing these serious secondary diseases."

Prof. Winocur also suggested activities to help stimulate the brain. This includes memory skills training, developing strategies for solving cognitive tasks and even everyday activities such as reading and crossword puzzles. Something as simple as viewing the glass half-full helps as well.



"Research has shown that older people who are optimistic about their future, have a much less rapid rate of cognitive decline."

Prof. Gordon Winocur

Prof. Gordon Winocur

"Research has shown that older people who are optimistic about their future, have a much less rapid rate of cognitive decline," he said.

Prof. Winocur's study, *Memory Impairment in Obese Zucker Rats: An Investigation of Cognitive Function in an Animal Model of Insulin Resistance and Obesity* appeared in the October issue of *Behavioral Neuroscience*, which is

published by the American Psychological Association.

Prof. Winocur's collaborators include Drs. Carol Greenwood, University of Toronto, Bruce McEwen, Rockefeller University and Lawrence Reagan, Gerardo Piroli, Claudia Grillo and Leah Reznikov, University of South Carolina. ☺

momentum continued

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada



Association des universités et collèges du Canada

"Trent chemists, environmental scientists, botanists, biologists, geologists and anthropologists are working side-by-side to investigate trace metals in lakes, mercury pollution and the release of pharmaceuticals from waste water treatment facilities," she said.

Trent's Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre is currently collecting detailed genetic information on

a variety of species of animals and plants for the effective management of the ecosystems.

"Led by Dr. Bradley White, a Canada Research Chair holder, the centre is involved in a unique partnership with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources to produce DNA profiling databases of a number of species including black bears, deer, moose and wolves," said Prof. Patterson.

"With this critical capacity in DNA research at Trent, a new community partnership has emerged that resulted in the construction of a new DNA Cluster facility that will serve as a beacon for research excellence, wealth generation, partnerships and commercialization."

Last year, Trent brought in \$10,574,000 in sponsored research income, which includes government and non-government

sources. That translates to about \$48,300 for each of Trent's 219 full-time faculty members or \$42,296 each for Trent's 250 graduate students.

With its latest accolade, 2005 Research University of the Year under its belt, Trent continues to excel in all areas of research because of an emphasis on not just one subject but 11.

"We have a lot of research going on in quite a lot of areas,"

said Dr. James Parker, vice president academic research in an interview with the *Peterborough Examiner*. "If we only specialized in one area we wouldn't be top spot."

Cooperation between disciplines also helps, said Prof. Parker. ☺

Momentum is available at www.aucc.ca.

ENHANCING ACCESS TO EDUCATION AT TRENT UNIVERSITY

UPCOMING events

Focusing on what matters to students and enhancing access to Trent University's programs and courses are at the top of **Karen Maki's** list as she settles into her new role as assistant to the Associate Dean at Julian Blackburn College and manager of Continuing Education.

Her philosophy on education stems from a chance encounter with a full-time teacher and mother who was a student at the University of Guelph. At the time, Ms. Maki was a student as well.

"The woman, frustrated and near tears, asked why the university was making it so hard for her to be a student there," said Ms. Maki, who was also working full-time while completing her masters.

"It helps inform me in the work I'm doing now to relate to that experience. How can we meet the needs of both the undergraduate full-time students and the non-traditional students? How are we enhancing access and still maintaining quality?"

"You need to make it seamless for students to design the best education for themselves and Trent has some real strengths in that area. For example, Trent has a great record of articulation agreements with community colleges."

Articulation agreements are agreements developed between universities and colleges to allow students to enter the university

with advanced standing. It is a real trend now for students to complete college courses or a diploma before entering university, she said.

"Of course you want to be able to maintain the university's rigour – not dilute it in any way – but at the same time we can be creative and innovative about the ways to enhance the university experience."

Ms. Maki also wants to further the development of distance education at Trent. "The first step is to start thinking around where we want to go in that direction," she said.

Within the Department of Continuing Education, she would like to create a more cohesive and coordinated structure of continuing education activities on campus.

"Continuing Education is in many ways a bridge between the community and the university. We have a great opportunity to expand our teaching and research expertise to the Peterborough community," she said. "It helps establish a profile for the University in the community."

Prior to starting at Trent, Ms. Maki was with the University of Guelph where she was manager of program development in the Office of Open Learning. Within that role she was responsible for developing the portfolio of programs for continuing education and distance education, with a



Karen Maki

focus on health, human services and education.

Her husband, Terry Humphreys, joined Trent's Psychology Department as an assistant professor in summer 2004. Ms. Maki had been commuting to Guelph since then and is now happy to be working closer to home.

"One of the really neat things in coming to Trent is the opportunity for growth, development and expansion," she said. "I'm looking forward to meeting with faculty and departments so we can explore collaborative opportunities. I'm also looking forward to getting integrated into Peterborough and being here full-time." ☺

November 15 & 22: Ashley Fellow Public Lecture Series featuring Timothy McGee, professor emeritus, University of Toronto. Lectures on "How Opera Began" (Nov. 15) and "Musical Style in the Age of Bach" (Nov. 22). Prof. McGee will be accompanied by live musical performances. Lectures begin at 8 p.m. in the Lady Eaton College Dining Hall. Admission is free. For more information, contact LEC at 748-1322.

November 17: Writers Reading Series continues with mystery writer Barbara Fradkin. Admission is free and the reading begins at 8 p.m. at Otonabee College in the Senior Common Room. For more information visit www.trentu.ca/english

November 21: Second Bi-annual Indigenous Research Day from 1:30 to 9 p.m. offers the opportunity for faculty and graduate students at Trent University to come together to share their research. Professor Emeritus Marlene Brant Castellano will be the keynote speaker. For more information, contact Dr. Lynne Davis, Director, Native Studies Ph.D. Program, lydavis@trentu.ca

November 24: Rooke Lecture Series continues with Margaret Steffler's talk, "The Voice of Canadian Girlhood: L.M. Montgomery's Anne." Lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. at the Peterborough Public Library. Admission is free. For more information, visit www.trentu.ca/english

November 25: The Royal Canadian Geographical Society – Fraser Lectureship in Northern Studies presents "Celebrate the Wild Nahanni" at 7:30 p.m., in Gzowski College Lecture Hall, GCS Room 114. Admission is free. For more information, visit http://www.rcgs.org/rcgs/lectures/lectures_05nahanni.asp

November 30: Trent Board of Governors member Peter Brieger will give a talk, "Clear or Stoney: The Markets Not the Lakes" in the Bata Library Film Theatre from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. A reception will follow. Mr. Brieger, a Chartered Accountant, is Chairman, CEO and a Director of GlobeInvest Capital Management Inc. and GlobeInvest Funds Management Inc. and a frequent contributor to *Report on Business Television*. ☺

SETTING THE PACE: ON THE RUN WITH JUTTA MERILAINEN

Merilainen also competes for Trent's cross country team.

"I have to have good time management skills," she says laughing. "When I come to Trent, I do my studying on class breaks – I focus on studying here. I do my running in the late afternoon and then I head home for dinner and help with my kids' homework." She also makes the most of her time by listening to recorded class lectures during her one hour commute time.

"I focus day-by-day and don't stress out," she says. That focus helps keep her calm when life's everyday challenges pop up.

"It puts life in the right perspective. Running and nursing are my passions but family is most important. You need balance in your life."

Ms. Merilainen finished 10th with a time of 18:56 at the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) Cross Country

Championships (5K) on October 29, 2005 in Kingston. At the same time, she was also named to the OUA All-Star team.

Ms. Merilainen started running in 2000 as a way to combine exercise and stress relief. She has run "one or two" marathons a year since then, and won her latest race on October 2, 2005 in Picton. But she insists her running is not about winning. She runs to constantly challenge herself and doesn't focus on the competitive side of racing, she says.

Ms. Merilainen took up the shorter distance cross country running while she was a student at Loyalist College in Belleville.

"I was asking around (at Loyalist) for running partners and I was asked to join the cross country

team," she said. Last year she was number one in Ontario and second in Canada on the college cross country circuit.

Ms. Merilainen finds the shorter cross country distance of 5 km challenging. "With a marathon there's lots of time to warm up. With a short distance you go all out right away. But it's good to challenge yourself and it's something new for me," she says.

Ms. Merilainen transferred from Loyalist's Nursing program to Trent in September 2005.

"I chose nursing because as I matured and became a mother, I felt it was easy to combine it into my life. I'm also a military wife and there's always a need for nurses no matter where we go."

Ms. Merilainen is originally from Finland. She met her Canadian-born husband in Finland and



Jutta Merilainen

Jutta Merilainen is always on the run.

The third-year Trent University Nursing student is a mother of four – her children ranging in age from three to 12 years. She also commutes to Peterborough each day from Trenton where her husband Allan is a pilot with the Royal Canadian Air Force, based at CFB Trenton.

And if that doesn't keep her busy enough, the 33-year-old Ms.

came back with him to Canada 13 years ago, in 1992. She says she couldn't accomplish her goals without him.

"My husband Allan is my biggest supporter. If I didn't have his support in all of this it wouldn't work." ☺



Trent University Raises \$60,775 for the United Way

Ghouls ruled during the announcement on October 31, 2005 that the Trent community raised **\$60,775** for the 2005 United Way Campaign.

The unveiling of the grand total, part of the annual Halloween Costume Challenge at Blackburn Hall, surpassed this year's campaign goal of \$53,000 by more than \$7,000.

Costume prizes were awarded at the event. The top individual costume prize went to **Jamie Trombley**, who dressed up as Red Green. The Registrar's Office took top group costume prize while the Student Affairs and Housing Office won for best office decoration with their saloon theme that featured cowboys, saloon girls and two real horses transported to campus just for the event.

Thanks to all those who supported this year's United Way Campaign!

United Way Gift Basket Donations

Trent University's 2005 United Way Campaign was bolstered by a special donation.

Each year themed gift baskets are raffled off as part of the United Way Campaign.

Among the 28 creative baskets donated this year were three provided by the outside contractors working on the DNA Building construction – two tool baskets and a kitchen basket complete with an electric wok, set of knives and a cookbook. Combined with baskets donated from departments throughout the University, it was an extraordinary show of support for both Trent and the United Way.

Fred Pulfer Wins CUPE Teaching Award

Fred Pulfer, a professor with Trent University's School of Education and Professional Learning and the Mathematics Department, is the fifth winner of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) 3908-1 Teaching Award.

The Award, which recognizes part-time teachers' outstanding contributions and deep commitment to teaching and learning at Trent, was presented at the CUPE Local's Annual General Meeting on October 25, 2005.

Prof. Pulfer teaches at both Durham and Peterborough campuses and said he was, "delighted to even be nominated for this award." He thanked his colleagues, staff and students for creating a positive work atmosphere and helping to shape his courses over the years.



The Teaching Award is valued at \$600. Any member of the Trent University part-time faculty can be nominated by their colleagues, students or support staff to receive this annual award.

Physics Department Academic Prize Winners

The Department of Physics handed out its academic prizes for the 2004/05 school year at a Physics and Chemistry seminar on October 5, 2005.

- **Felicia Magpantay** won the Department of Physics Prize and the Lodge Physics Scholarship, which is named for the department's founding chair and is awarded to the student with the highest average in 100-level Physics courses.
- **Geron Bindseil** won the Lodge Physics Scholarship for the highest average in 200-level Physics courses while **Tam Nahn** was awarded the Lodge Physics Scholarship for 300-level Physics courses.
- **Johnathan Braeckman** won the Ronald G. Johnson Prize in Quantum Mechanics. This prize was established by Prof. Johnson's students and colleagues in recognition of his more than 30 years of teaching Physics. It is awarded annually to the student with

the highest academic achievement in the fourth-year Quantum Mechanics course.

- **Julian Atfield** won the Breuklaar Prize in Laboratory Physics. This award was created in recognition of Physics Senior Demonstrator John Breukelaar's many years of service. It is awarded annually to the student with the highest academic standard in senior Physics laboratory courses.

Native Studies Chair Serves on Expert Panel



Dr. David Newhouse, chair of Trent University's Native Studies Department, will serve on an expert panel charged with providing support in developing a report on the progress of Aboriginal socio-economic development.

The panel, announced on October 12, 2005, will support the National Aboriginal Economic Development Board. The work will also result in the identification of benchmarks to measure this progress relative to the broader Canadian population.

"This kind of research and published data is long-needed," said Marty Klyne, Chairperson of the Board, making the announcement at the 2005 Aboriginal Business Summit in Toronto. "I am very pleased that a panel of this calibre has agreed to work with the Board to guide this initiative."

Other panellists include: Dr. Ernie Stokes, executive director of the Centre for Spatial Economics; Prof. Blair Stonechild, professor of Indigenous Studies at the First Nations University of Canada; Prof. Cora Voyageur, associate professor of Sociology at the University of Calgary; and, Dr. Fred Wien, professor at Dalhousie University.

Short Fiction Contest Winner Announced

The winner of Trent University's Continuing Education Literary Short Fiction Writing Contest is **Robert Mills** of Peterborough with his story "The Train."

The Continuing Education Department held the writing contest this fall to celebrate the launch of their new Certificate Program in Creative Writing.

In addition to having his story published in the *Examiner*, Mr. Mills will be admitted to the Certificate Program in Creative Writing and enrolled at no cost in the course Reading Like a Writer.

WUSC Recognizes Trent Community for Its Contributions

Trent alumnus **Paul Davidson**, executive director of World University Service Canada (WUSC), recognized the Trent community for its contributions to the development work WUSC does overseas, during a campus visit October 18.

Mr. Davidson met with international student **Adrian Samarasekare** to personally thank him for his leadership in Trent's fundraising efforts following the devastating tsunami that struck Southeast Asia last winter.

"This money helped 500 people complete their education (in Sri Lanka). It's a huge contribution these students have made and these students are rising to the challenge again," he said referring to fundraising efforts underway for victims of the recent earthquake in South Asia.



While on campus, Mr. Davidson hosted an information session on the Trent/WUSC Summer Service-Learning Placement in Botswana Africa. He also spoke at a World Affairs Colloquium hosted by the Trent International Students' Association in conjunction with Trent's WUSC committee and the Trent Central Students' Association.



Vol. 4, Issue 3 *Focus Trent* is published by the Communications Office at Trent University on the second Thursday of each month, from September through June. E-mail: focustrent@trentu.ca. *Focus Trent* copy submissions are due at the end of this month for placement in the next issue. Distributed in accordance with Canada Post Mail Sales Agreement #40064326.

Trent Alumni Win Quiz Challenge

Trent Alumni fended off some tough competition, anchoring the winning quiz team in the Network Canada Challenge held September 28, 2005 at Canada House, Trafalgar Square in London, England.

The quiz was part of the Network Canada Alumni Evening. The winning team consisted of Trent graduates **Kimberley Kabatoff**, **Nicholas Lyndale**, **Jane Robb** and **Simon Whittle** as well as Serge Levert-Chiasson and Latitia Scarr of the University of Ottawa and Simon De Jardin of Wilfrid Laurier University.

There was a large turnout from universities across Canada. The Trent Alumni team won the competition by five points, with a team from the University of British Columbia placing second.

The prize was a large trophy filled to the brim with chocolates.

Network Canada is a professional and social group for Canadians in London, England. The organization offers networking and socializing opportunities as well as resources to assist with the transition of moving to and from the United Kingdom.

Model United Nations at Trent University

High school students from Peterborough, Guelph and Ottawa descended on Trent University October 27-30 to participate in the seventh annual Trent International Model United Nations Experience (TIME).

Delegates attended council sessions, participated in crisis scenarios and hosted mock press conferences. The proceedings were enhanced by TIME staff posing as lobbyists from non-governmental organizations, corporations and interest groups.

The Trent Model United Nations Society, a student organization, coordinates TIME each year. ☺