

in the NEWS



A seven-part series co-written by Trent alumnus and 2006 honorary degree recipient

Don Tapscott, and Anthony D. Williams appeared in *The Globe and Mail* from December 26 to January 2. The series was related to Mr. Tapscott's and Mr. Williams' new book, entitled *Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything*, which was released on Tuesday, January 2.

In the Friday, December 29 edition of *The National Post*, Trent pre-history instructor Michael Gregg and his work with the Preserve Archaeological Sites of Toronto (PAST) Coalition to protect the historical sites buried under Toronto's waterfront were featured.

On Wednesday, December 20 the Trent International Program and Blair Watts, an international student from Australia, were featured on a *CHEX Newswatch* feature on preparing for Christmas. In the same segment Amy Twomey, the first recipient of the John Wadland Scholarship was also highlighted.

Claude Bolton, the head coach of Trent's varsity soccer program, was quoted in an article entitled "Coaching, Then and Now," which appeared in the Thursday, December 28 edition of *Peterborough This Week*. Trent biology professor



James Schaefer wrote an opinion piece on the growing rift between economy and ecology in *The Peterborough Examiner* on Tuesday, January 2. ☞



Prof. Jim Conley

15th Annual Humanities Research Day CELEBRATING INNOVATION AND NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Stars, Cars, Arcades and Sacrilege – vast and conflicting as the title is, it accurately described the breadth and depth of research presented at the 15th annual Humanities Research Day held on December 13, 2006. As in previous years, the event offered a unique "first look" into the pioneering humanities research underway at Trent University.

Professors and graduate students alike took the podium in a day-long series of engaging presentations. Reflecting Trent's strength as a truly interdisciplinary university, this year's event was especially remarkable as it showcased a number of scientists and social scientists who are also involved in humanities research. A total of nine Trent professors and master's students presented their current research, demonstrating how their work deepens our understanding of the world around us.

"We are at a vital stage in Canadian universities to remind ourselves of the profound importance of humanities research," commented Prof. James Parker, associate vice president of research. "The humanities literally define who we are, how we live and shape our historical context. These are the topics that influence discussions at all levels: during diplomatic summits, around the water cooler and at dinner parties. Humanities research puts the ideas out there

for consumption and redefines society's idea of itself."

In his presentation, "The Magical and the Mundane: Looking at Automobile Advertisements," sociology professor Jim Conley explored the binary opposites at play in our society as viewed through car culture. Prof. Conley drew intriguing conclusions that showed how ideas such as fantasy vs. functionality,

excitement and risk vs. safety, and status vs. economy reflect the changing cultural codes of our times.

Women's Studies professor Ilya Parkins gave a fascinating overview about her research into early fashion design and what it reveals about the social status of women, femininity and temporality (i.e. newness). She noted the ephemeral character of fashion as it developed in the early twentieth century can be seen as a powerful antidote to the pervading static image of women at that time, who society tended to perceive as placid, essential and unchanging. Fashion became the embodiment of a new feminine ideal, suggesting a sense of "knowing" and "being in the modern world." She suggests that the rapidity with which fashion introduced new trends was important in debunking the fixing of a rigid "essence" for women. As one



Sarah Kardash



Prof. Edward Berry

of the only scholars examining fashion as a subject of academic inquiry, Prof. Parkins and her forthcoming book on the perceptions of women as expressed by early French couturiers promises to break new ground not just for Trent University but for humanities research in general.

Professor Edward Berry enlightened the audience with his creative examination of persuasive language in legal settings as employed by famous social justice leaders such as Nelson Mandela, Gandhi and Martin Luther King. In another presentation, master's student Sarah Kardash boldly argued that a bi-national democratic

state as discussed in Frantz Fanon's *Wretched of the Earth* offers a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. From the Indigenous Studies Department, Prof. Neal McLeod provided valuable insights into the importance of Cree narrative imagination as a way of understanding alternative perspectives and interpretations on historical events and today's legacy of colonialism.

Rounding out the day were several thought-provoking literary and cultural studies presentations. Emily Brontë's careful attention to dates and times when writing *Wuthering Heights* was revealed by physics professor Peter Dawson thanks to his meticulous research into astronomical references used



Prof. Ilya Parkins

in her novel. English professor Lewis MacLeod explored the concept of "sacrilege" as employed in contemporary novels. In a refreshingly innovative approach to methodological discussions, cultural studies professor Magdalena Kazubowski-

Houston explored the advantages and challenges of a performative approach to academic research. Her presentation was drawn from her participatory theatre work conducted in Poland. The focus of the day's final presentation by Prof.

Yves Thomas of the modern languages and literatures department was 19th Century Paris. Prof. Thomas shed new light on Paris's controversial urban transformation during the 1860s at the hands of city planner Baron Georges Haussmann as portrayed by Walter Benjamin in his book *Arcades Project*.

As the event concluded, there was little doubt that humanities research remains a vital component of the Trent experience for faculty and students. There was also little doubt that through their valuable research contributions, Trent professors are passionately committed to helping us to better understand our world. ☞

"The humanities literally define who we are, how we live and shape our historical context."

– Prof. James Parker

PROVINCIAL AWARD TO ADVANCE TRENT PROFESSOR'S GROUNDBREAKING RESEARCH

Trent University biology professor Marguerite Xenopoulos received some exciting news recently when she learned that she had won a prestigious Early Researcher Award from the Ministry of Research and Innovation.

Valued at \$150,000, Professor Xenopoulos is only the third faculty member from Trent to win this provincial award (formerly the Premier's Research Excellence Award) aimed at supporting talented researchers who are within the first five years of their independent academic research career.

"I am really excited about this award for many reasons," says Prof. Xenopoulos. "This grant will significantly advance my research into the effects of human activities on freshwater ecosystems by enabling me to hire graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to support the fieldwork and data analysis components of this project."

The main focus of Prof. Xenopoulos' research is to assess the ecological and biogeochemical effects of global change stressors in freshwater lakes and rivers on species ranging from bacteria to fish. This project is a continuation of research she began in 2001 as a member of the United



Prof. Marguerite Xenopoulos

Nations' Millennium Ecosystems Assessment team of scientists. Her role in this international assessment was to examine the global impact of climate change and water consumption on freshwater ecosystems.

The study concluded that by 2070, water availability in almost

half of the 300 investigated rivers would decrease up to 80% and that the loss of local fish species in some affected rivers would reach up to 75%. However these forecasts are considered underestimates because the effects of other human pressures on the environment were not included in the study.

With the Early Researcher Award, Prof. Xenopoulos can now build on her earlier findings to include other human stressors such as land use and dams. The data she collects in this new research project will provide a better sense of how to conserve freshwater ecosystems by developing a more complete understanding of human impact on these environments.


"Every major river in the world has a dam on it," explains Prof. Xenopoulos. "When people raise and lower water levels to accommodate commercial and recreational use, this destroys fish habitat and reduces biodiversity." The next step, she continues, "is to identify the range of healthy water levels for rivers and lakes so human uses, such as hydroelectric stations, can operate without causing extensive harm to the environment."

Much of Prof. Xenopoulos' research measuring the effects of changing water levels and land use will be conducted across the province.

"It surprises most people when they learn that fish, muskels and crayfish are more at risk

of extinction than larger mammals and birds," notes Prof. Xenopoulos. "Less than one per cent of the world's water is suitable for human use; therefore it is critical we understand the complexities of freshwater ecosystems since the survival of so many species is dependent on them."

Prof. Xenopoulos says her findings will help develop better management practices and policies in numerous applications, such as agriculture, water quality, energy, and biodiversity conservation. Her research has already been cited by the European Commission's environmental policy division to argue that conservation strategies aimed at reducing global water consumption are as important as international efforts to minimize global warming.

Reflected in this award is Trent's growing international reputation as a centre of excellence in water quality research. Thanks to the provincial government's strong support of Prof. Xenopoulos, the impact of research conducted at Trent will continue to reach around the globe. 

"Less than 1% of the world's water is suitable for human use; therefore it is critical we understand the complexities of freshwater ecosystems since the survival of so many species is dependent on them."

– Prof. Marguerite Xenopoulos

A CLASH OF IDEAS: BRINGING POLITICS TO THE CLASSROOM

Since he started teaching at Trent University in September, the Honourable Andy Mitchell, the former MP for Parry Sound-Muskoka, has a "new respect" for his former university professors. In his new role, Mr. Mitchell is quickly learning about the variety of tasks involved in the art of teaching and from developing the reading lists to leading classroom discussion, he loves it all.

"My time in class, the time in prep, I have thoroughly enjoyed all of it so far. It would be wrong to characterize it as anything but fun for me," he says.

After deciding to leave the world of elected politics behind in the spring of 2006, Mr. Mitchell approached Trent's Department of Political Studies to inquire about developing and teaching a course on the link between public policy and politics. The result is the fourth-year course entitled "Contemporary Canadian Problems: Understanding

Government," which explores the development of public policy, how it plays out in Canadian society, and how media and politics impact that development. Eighteen students are enrolled in the course and Mr. Mitchell has been impressed by each and every one.

"I haven't been on a university campus in a formal way in ten years and it is great to see the enthusiasm and the quality of young men and women who inhabit this place," he says. "I have been very impressed with the individuals in the class. They are keen learners and have taught me a thing or two as well."

"When politics is at its best, it is a clash and discussion of ideas, grounded in thought and debate. University is similar – here it is about ideas, the debate of ideas, and the development of ideas."
– Andy Mitchell

The exchange of ideas in the classroom is one of the elements Mr. Mitchell enjoys the most in his

new role. He also sites exchanging ideas as one of the comparative factors between teaching and politics, saying: "When politics is at its best, it is a clash and discussion of ideas, grounded in thought and debate. University is similar – here it is about ideas, the debate of ideas, and the development of ideas."

When asked how he came to pursue a career in teaching after more than 12 years in politics, Mr. Mitchell describes it as a natural progression. He views the transition as an opportunity to take what he has learned and apply it to a new field.

"I have been given many opportunities during my political career – opportunities to be exposed to and learn from a variety of things. I feel it is important to convey this experience to younger people, to give them the opportunity to hear different perspectives, think about them and respond to them. In a small way, this is an opportunity for me to give back a little of what I have learned," he explains.

As for how he came to choose Trent for exploring this



Hon. Andy Mitchell

new career path, Mr. Mitchell says that, although he did not have a formal relationship with the University prior to this, the choice just made sense.

"Trent is a fine institution that attracts folks from across the country, and deservedly so," he says. "Trent encourages critical thinking, which, to me, is key to university life. It is also a place that allows for the growth of people's minds and their thoughts – it is a great environment for

teaching and learning."

In addition to his role at Trent, Mr. Mitchell has also recently taken on a few other new responsibilities. In September 2006, he became the new president and CEO of the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation (GPA EDC) and in November 2006, he became a father again for the fifth time. 

TRENT INFLUENCES

Alumnus Jeramy Dodds Wins National Poetry Award

AWARD WINNING POET



Jeramy Dodds

For emerging poet and Trent alumnus Jeramy Dodds, the day he found out he had won the Bronwen Wallace Memorial Award will be a day he won't soon forget.

"The call came as a nice surprise, especially when they wished me 'happy birthday' after telling me I'd won," he recounted. "The Writers' Trust knew my birth date due to the age requirement of the award. It was an amusing coincidence."

Valued at \$1,000, the annual Bronwen Wallace Memorial Award is granted by the Writers' Trust of Canada to a promising poet under the age of 35 for an unpublished collection of their work. Founded by Margaret Atwood, Pierre Berton, Graeme Gibson, David Young and Trent University's former Chancellor, the late Margaret Laurence, the Writers' Trust of Canada is dedicated to fostering a national literature by supporting Canada's finest writing talents.

A panel of Canada's leading contemporary poets selected Mr. Dodds's collection of ten poems entitled *Planning Your Seascape* from a competitive field of 66 submissions from across the country. Jurors Alison Pick, Michael Crummey and Don McKay praised Mr. Dodds's innovative use of language, saying,

"His poems are most notable for an inventiveness that couples lyricism and constant surprise, perfectly fashioned metaphors with a nose for the compelling and idiosyncratic turn of phrase."

A graduate of Trent's Departments of Anthropology and English, Mr. Dodds noted that "Trent's influence was huge" in shaping his poetry career. "The professors at Trent introduced me to a whole body of work that I otherwise wouldn't have discovered for a long time." In fact, he attributes Prof. Margaret Steffler

and her Canadian poetry class as a great source of inspiration and since being a student in her class, Prof. Steffler has become a good friend who avidly supported Mr. Dodds's writing. He also credits the invaluable influence and encouragements of Trent professor Gordon Johnston and fellow Trent students Gabe Foreman and Joshua Trotter in helping him hone his writing skills.

Taking advantage of Trent's study abroad program, Mr. Dodds spent a year in Iceland where he met several Icelandic poets

during poetry readings who connected him to the poetry scenes of Finland and Latvia. After graduation, Mr. Dodds went back to Europe to do a reading tour of his work across Sweden, Denmark and Finland. Since then, his poetry has appeared in numerous literary publications, including *The Fiddlehead*, *Arc Poetry* and *Queen Street Quarterly*. When not writing poetry, Mr. Dodds makes good use of his anthropology background as a field archaeologist with Northeastern Archaeological Associates.

Currently, Mr. Dodds is working on an experimental form of poetry that employs the music of Glenn Gould. Using an artistic process of his own invention, Mr. Dodds listens to Glenn Gould's piano concertos in order to create tablatures drawn from his interpretation of the music. He then translates each tablature into a noun, adjective, verb, etc., letting the music frame his poetry. "Using a filtering process to write poems is becoming more popular, and is very intriguing to me," Mr. Dodds said.

Mr. Dodds has also completed a manuscript based on his award-winning poems, and is waiting to hear back from the publisher. With so much success to his credit at such a young age, there is much anticipation that the best of Mr. Dodds is yet to come. ✎

Père Joseph and the bush cord

His hiatuses bloom on the kitchen's sill.
His shirt snaps like tiny animals falling
through branches. In stride with the clock's
hypnotics, his throat chops a glass of water
down.

He tugs a stoneboat, with his palomino team
to the birch lot's edge where silence
shipwrecks on silence.

Where deadfall tangos with live trees.
Like botflies on cowbacks, bird shadows
fleck the rye. Tomorrow he'll pen and shear
the last-but-not-leasts. And all winter sing
I'll not go missing on that river.

A selection from the award-winning
Planning Your Seascape by Jeramy Dodds

THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Trent Ph.D. student Erin Rees balances academics with athletics

For Erin Rees, a Ph.D. graduate student in the Watershed Ecosystems program at Trent University and an avid athlete, life is all about balance. In fact, according to Ms. Rees, balancing her academic work with her love of sport is what helps keeps her "sane."

"Some people think I am crazy for doing so much, but it is a huge release for me," explains Ms. Rees who enjoys running, cycling, and white water canoeing, to name just a few of the sports in which she is involved. "The activity helps me mentally rest and gives me physical release. If I don't do it, I am not as effective at work."

Growing up in the country near the small town of Bradford, Ontario, Ms. Rees has always loved the outdoors. She started running with her mom at the age of nine and hasn't looked back, taking advantage of her natural athletic ability to try any sport she has access to.

"Wherever I live, I jump into the sport that people are

doing," Ms. Rees says with a laugh. "I have a lot of energy to burn."

That energy especially comes in handy when your activities of choice require a lot of endurance. While completing her master's degree in Scotland, she took up rock climbing and hill running to give herself an added challenge and since coming to Trent in 2003 to begin her Ph.D., she has experimented with duathlons – a 10 kilometre run, followed by a 40 kilometre cycle and finished with an additional five kilometre run. In July 2006, Ms. Rees competed in the Duathlon World Championships in Newfoundland after qualifying at the nationals the previous year in Ottawa.

Recently, Ms. Rees has returned to her first love of running. She competed in the Tucson Marathon in December and after an impressive finishing time of 3 hours and 22 minutes and placing twelfth out of 144 female competitors she has qualified to run the renowned

Boston Marathon in April. It is a goal of which Ms. Rees is proud.

When asked to explain why she enjoys undertaking so many different physical activities, Ms. Rees replies: "I like to switch it up and keep it fresh. I like the challenge of learning a new sport and learning about the technique and the training involved. I like to understand things and know how they work."

It is this desire to understand the inner workings of things that has led Ms. Rees through her distinguished academic career.

Completing her undergraduate degree in biology and geography at Queen's University and her master's in Geographic Information Science at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, Ms. Rees is now using her Ph.D. degree program to explore the mechanisms that influence the spread of raccoon rabies. As a Spatial Ecological Modeller, Ms. Rees is helping to develop a computer simulation to explore how rabies would spread among the raccoon



populations in Ontario if the increase in cases from the United States shifts north.

"We investigate how landscape features and various habitats direct the flow of the disease," Ms. Rees explains. "If we are aware of how the disease is concentrated, we can set up more effective counter measures, like targeted vaccine drops."

Ms. Rees conducts her research in the new DNA Building at Trent University where she appreciates the state-of-the-art lab equipment as well as the collaborations with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

(OMNR). She also enjoys the research flexibility of the Trent Ph.D. program and describes working with her team of fellow researchers as "really stimulating and exciting."

The advantages of completing her graduate work at Trent University don't stop at the doors of her labs however. Ms. Rees also has access to 12 on-campus nature areas and several hiking and cycling trails. It is an environment that Ms. Rees agrees is ideal for all students who, like herself, find physical activity to be a perfect match for academic excellence. ✎



Ph.D. graduate student Erin Rees

Trent Alumnus Don Tapscott Publishes New Book

With the launch of his newest book, *Wikinomics: How Mass Collaboration Changes Everything*, Trent alumnus Don Tapscott has solidified his position as one of the world's leading authorities on business strategies.

Released on January 2, *Wikinomics*, which Mr. Tapscott co-authored with Anthony D. Williams, is described as a "survival kit" for anyone who wants to understand the major forces that are revolutionizing business today. As the first book to describe the rising paradigm of emerging business collaborations, *Wikinomics* explains how to prosper in a world where new communications technologies are democratizing the creation of value and shows how the masses of people can participate in the economy like never before.

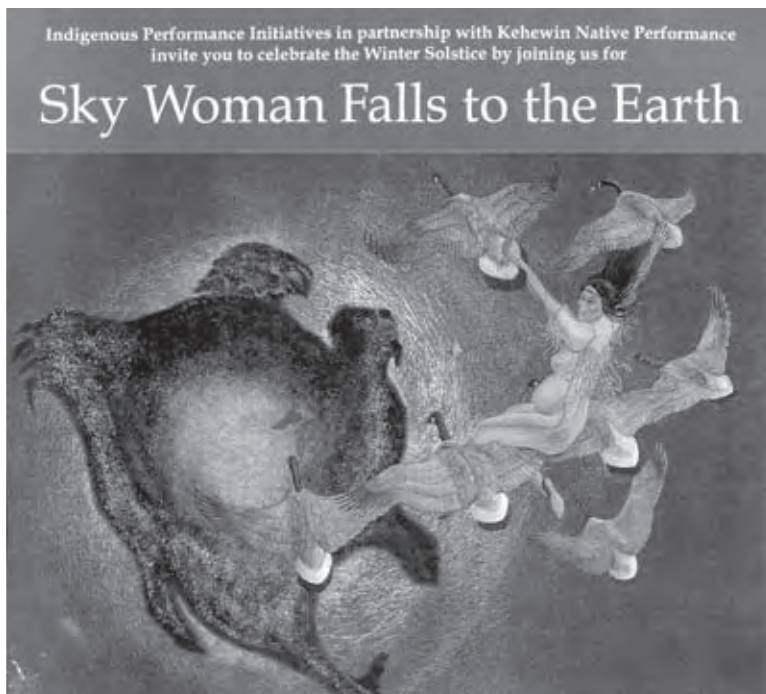
Mr. Tapscott is the chief executive of the international think tank New Paradigm and is the author of ten widely read books about information technology in business and society, including *Paradigm Shift*, *Growing Up Digital* and *The Naked Corporation*.

Along with his wife, Ana Lopes, Mr. Tapscott established the Tapscott-Lopes Business and Society Lecture fund to bring prominent speakers to the Trent community on an annual basis. On Friday, January 19, Mr. Tapscott and Ms. Lopes will be on campus to greet internationally renowned environmentalist David Suzuki, the speaker for this year's lecture.

First Recipient of John Wadland Scholarship Announced

Less than a year after being formally announced, the John Wadland Graduate Scholarship, one of the largest endowments for graduate-level Canadian Studies in the country and created in honour of long-time Trent Canadian Studies professor John Wadland, is already making a significant difference in the academic life of one Ph.D. student.

Funded through an endowed gift of \$250,000 from three anonymous donors, the John Wadland Graduate Scholarship was created to support graduate students intending to make a commitment to the field of Canadian Studies. As an endowed fund, the principle is invested and



the interest is used to support the scholarship. As the first recipient of the award, Trent University graduate student Amy Twomey received \$10,000 over several years to pursue a Ph.D. in Canadian Studies studying the impact of globalization on Canadian cultural policy.

Trent Students Rally to Support Food Drive

When Otonabee College student don Brendan Benson organized this year's canned food drive on campus, he did not realize how enthusiastically Trent students would respond. When the food drive was completed, nearly 1,200 canned goods were donated by Trent students to support the Emergency Student Food Cupboard.

The food drive culminated on December 8 with an afternoon of music in Champlain College's Great Hall. Over 70 students attended the event, bringing food donations in lieu of admission. This was the third annual and most successful "Canned Tunes" food drive to date.

Trent Hosts Sky Woman Falls to the Earth

In celebration of the Winter Solstice Indigenous Performance Initiatives and Kehewin Native Performance, in association with the Indigenous Studies Department at Trent University, proudly presented *Sky Woman Falls to the Earth*, the traditional creation story of the Haudenosaunee people told through storytelling and modern dance. *Sky Woman Falls to the Earth* was first performed to the delight of international audiences at the Aboriginal Experiences site in Ottawa throughout the summer of 2006. The performance tells the story of a young woman about to give birth, who falls through a hole in the sky, and it

is up to the smallest of animals to save her and secure a future for her child and generations to come. The popular performance was held in the First Peoples Performance Space in Enweyng at Trent University in mid-December. Prof. Marrie Mumford, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Arts and Literature at Trent was the artistic producer.

Scholarship Enables Trent Student to Shine

For Trent University student and Lindsay, Ontario native Jenna-Lynn Burns, winning the 2005/06 Board of Governors Leadership Scholarship represented more than removing the financial barriers to her post-secondary education. It meant that she could continue following her passion – volunteering with non-profit agencies to develop youth leadership programs.

In addition to studying full-time at Trent as a second-year Concurrent Education student, Ms. Burns volunteers with the Boys and Girls Club of Lindsay serving as chairperson for the Provincial Youth Council of Ontario (PYC), and sits on an advisory committee with the Ministry of Health to assist with strategic planning concerning health issues of children and

youth. Ms. Burns is also working in partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada to plan a large-scale national youth conference slated to take place in Alberta in November 2007.

The Board of Governors Scholarship is just one example of the numerous scholarships, bursaries and awards offered at Trent. As a tangible way of helping students, these options are among the most popular for donors and now with the creation of the provincial government's Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program, it's even easier for donors to help students. Any donation to a qualifying endowed bursary or award will be matched dollar for dollar by the province. For donors wishing to establish their own named bursary, a gift of \$6,250 will be matched by the province, bringing the total endowment to \$12,500. Each year, this would then generate \$500 in interest to support a student in financial need. Further information about the OTSS program is available by visiting <http://www.trentu.ca/givingtotrent/currentprojects.php>.

Trent's Mitten Tree Overfloweth!

The generosity of the Trent community created a spectacle with this year's successful "Mitten Tree" drive, organized by the Athletics Department.

Trent students, faculty and staff were encouraged to knit mittens, gloves, scarves, toques and winter clothing items to support the Salvation Army Hamper Program. The tree on which to hang the knitwear was donated by Trent staff member Carl McKeiver. Knitters and non-knitters alike participated, crafting a total of 139 warm winter essentials to be distributed by the Salvation Army to children in need. The annual drive was so successful that all the donations quickly filled every branch of the tree. An extra display area had to be set up for the overflow. ☺



UPCOMING events

www.trentu.ca

January 18: Trent Aboriginal Learning and Knowledge Seminar (TALKS): Music and Medicine featuring The Unity Singers and Elder Doug Williams. 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Gathering Space, First Peoples House of Learning/Gzowski College room 102. All are welcome.

January 18: Rooke Lecture Series, "The Public Response to *The Diviners*," panel discussion with Jean Cole, Leonard Conolly, Sylvia Sutherland, and Fred Tromly. Peterborough Public Library, 7:30 p.m. All are welcome.

January 19: Tapscott-Lopes Business and Society Lecture featuring renowned environmentalist David Suzuki. "The Challenge of the 21st Century: Finding Our Place on Earth," 6:30 p.m., Wenjack Theatre. Free, ticketed event.

January 23: 5th Annual Health Studies Day 2007, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Junior Common Room, Scott House, Trill College.

January 26: Philosophy Colloquium with Prof. Karyn Freedman, University of Guelph. Champlain College Council Chamber, 4:00 p.m.

January 31: Summer Job and Volunteer Fair, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Peter Gzowski College Atrium. All students encouraged to attend.

January 31: Nomination deadline for Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching, Distinguished Teaching Award for Educational Leadership and Instructional Innovation, and Distinguished Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching Assistance. Online nominations at www.trentu.ca/academic/idc/.

February 2: Application deadline for Peter Gzowski CBC Radio Internship. ☺

Vol. 6, Issue 5 *Focus Trent* is published by the Marketing and 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.