



TRENT Celebrates

40TH CONVOCATION



CONVOCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- 40th Convocation
- Largest graduating class in Trent's history
- Over 2,150 undergraduate degrees granted during five ceremonies
- 49 graduate degrees granted – 11 Ph.D.s and 37 Masters degrees
- First-ever graduates of Trent-Fleming Forensic Science B.Sc. program and Canadian Studies Ph.D. program
- Dr. Roberta Bondar, Trent University's ninth chancellor, presided over her fifth convocation
- Largest-ever graduating classes in Nursing (109 graduates) and Business Administration (110 graduates)



"I'm so happy today, it's all about broadening your horizons to the future." Juliet Okundaye, B.Sc., Nursing, Mississauga



"Convocation was a magically special day for me. Trent does it right. Students are number one and you feel so proud to be celebrating this special day with my family, friends and colleagues. I'm honoured to be now be able to say that I'm a Trent alumna!" Sherry Booth, B.Sc., Trent's Manager of Planned Giving and Leadership Gifts



"This is an important day for me. I'm the first in my family to get a degree...The last four years will go down in the books as my favourite." David Moses, B.A., Honours, Toronto



"I feel like I'm graduating, too. I've been coming to pick him up at Christmas and at the end of the session for so many years now. I'm super happy and super proud of him!" Mai-Liis Tammemagi, sister to Rein Tammemagi, B.Sc., Honours, Toronto



"Trent is a great school to be a part of. I'm pleased that the school's name is attached to my degree." Mike Martone, B.Ed., Sault Ste. Marie (right) (former member of the Peterborough Petes)



2007 Ph.D. Grads



"As humans, we need these rites of passage, we need others to recognize our accomplishments to make it real." Jenny Scott, B.A., Honours, Elizabethville



Identical twins Jenny and Julia Flagler





Dr. Ron Fourney

Dr. Ron Fourney is a leading pioneer in the development and application of DNA forensic science both in the Canadian justice system and around the world. For his groundbreaking work in major police investigations and founding role in the Trent-Fleming B.Sc. Forensic Science program, Trent conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on Dr. Fourney.

In his address to the graduating class, Dr. Fourney noted that their future success will be forged on their professional ethics and integrity. In closing, he eloquently reminded graduates that as they go forward in their careers and relationships, similar to DNA, "every contact leaves a trace. It is now time to place your mark on your future."

Dr. Rosemary Speirs

An honorary Doctor of Laws degree was bestowed upon retired *Toronto Star* journalist Dr. Rosemary Speirs for leadership in advancing the

SIX Pre-Eminent CANADIANS RECEIVE Honorary DEGREES

representation of women at all levels of government in Canada and for her important work to protect the natural environment.

In her address, Dr. Speirs urged the graduating class to take action as young voters to address climate change and the need for greater protection of the environment. "Graduates," she said, "we need your energy and you can't get out there soon enough." An ardent believer in the power of gender equality, she concluded by saying, "with mixed representation at the tables, we would have a better chance to right our world."



Jim Balsillie

For his contributions to society as a highly successful entrepreneur, and exceptional volunteer and philanthropic leader, Trent conferred an honorary Doctor of Laws degree



upon Jim Balsillie. A native of Peterborough, Mr. Balsillie is the co-CEO of Research In Motion, a Canadian-based company best known as the developer of the BlackBerry.

Mr. Balsillie inspired the graduating class with his address in which he emphasized to the graduates that they only have one job in life – to listen to their inner selves. "The path to your deeper, special self is through gratitude and thankfulness," he explained. "If you stay true to yourself, your path will seem effortless and obvious and true. Learn how to find that deeper part of you and trust that it will guide you."

Stuart McLean

Trent bestowed an honorary Doctor of Letters degree upon Stuart McLean for his distinguished contributions as an author, broadcaster and teacher. Renowned for his work as host of the radio show *The*

Vinyl Cafe, Mr. McLean is a best-selling author, award-winning journalist, internationally popular humourist and accomplished academic.

Mr. McLean captivated the audience during his address with a personal story about his intentions to attend Trent as a younger man. "I feel a great kinship with Trent as I almost came here to study myself some 30 years ago... until today, Trent for me has been the road not taken."



Reflecting on his decision and the process of making choices, Mr. McLean analogized that "life is like a carnival or sideshow, and the most successful way to navigate it is to wander from booth to booth, and to enjoy as many of them as you can."



The Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain and G. Wallace F. McCain

Joint honorary Doctor of Laws degrees were conferred upon the Honourable Margaret Norrie McCain and G. Wallace F. McCain for their significant contributions to the arts, education, charities and business communities through their extraordinary careers and volunteer activities over many years.

Mrs. McCain has played a major role in many early child development policy and program initiatives in Canada. In 1994, she was appointed the first woman Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick. Mr. G. Wallace F. McCain is one of Atlantic Canada's most successful entrepreneurs. As co-founder of McCain Foods Limited, Mr. McCain built a small frozen french fries business into an internationally successful frozen food empire.

"Nothing in life is ever accomplished without the courage to take risks," stated Mrs. McCain when addressing convocation. She emphasized the critical need for all Canadians to start fixing the environmental problems we face today, and encouraged the graduating class by saying "you do have the power to be a difference-maker." ✎

HONOURING FACULTY and STAFF



Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching

Trent University's most prestigious teaching honour, the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching, was awarded to **Dr. Ivana Elbl**, associate professor in Trent's Department of History. This was the 30th Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching to be conferred.

Professor Elbl came to Trent as a part-time instructor in 1987 and began teaching full-time in the Department of History in 1994. She has served as head of Otonabee

College and has been nominated for several prestigious awards, including TV Ontario's Best Lecturer in 2006, which she was co-nominated alongside her husband, Prof. Martin M. Elbl. Nomination letters referred to Prof. Elbl's "personality, flair, and passion," her "happy and captivating nature," abundant good humour, and her sincerely encouraging attitude towards her students.

Distinguished Research Award

Dr. Chris Metcalfe, professor of Environmental and Resource Science/Studies, was presented with the 2007 Distinguished Research Award, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in research and scholarship. Prof. Metcalfe has been teaching at Trent since 1984. He has played an important role in raising the profile of the environmental sciences at Trent, and has personally contributed to the development of many



of the University's state-of-the-art facilities, including the Environmental Sciences Building and the Worsfold Water Quality Centre. His focus in research and teaching has been on determining the environmental fate and toxic effects of organic contaminants in the aquatic environment.

Eminent Service Award

The Eminent Service Award, which recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the University, was presented to **Dr. David Morrison** and **Ms. Dianne Choate**.



Dianne Choate retired from Trent in December 2006 after over 35 years of service.

Since arriving at Trent in 1967, Prof. Morrison has distinguished himself by serving in a multiplicity of different capacities, including: co-founder and chair of the International Development Studies program; president of the Trent University Faculty Association; dean of arts and science; acting president; interim vice-president (academic); and director of Trent's CIDA-funded program in Mexico and Ecuador. Prof. Morrison has also enjoyed much academic success as a leading international development researcher.



After beginning her career as Secretary to the Registrar, she moved to the University Secretariat where she started as an administrative assistant before working up to assistant university secretary and finally secretary of senate – a role she served in for 17 years. Throughout this time, she was involved with or assisted in 75 convocation ceremonies.

Apart from remarkable work contributions, Ms. Choate was also instrumental in facilitating contributions of local historical papers to the Trent Archives from members of her family. ✎

Great Learning Experiences

Symons Medal winner **Julian Atfield** came to Trent from the small Ontario town of Deep River. The physics major was looking for a university with a small-town feel and close, collegial atmosphere. He found all that and more at Trent.

Throughout his four years at Trent, the Bachelor of Science graduate took advantage of all the University had to offer. He also balanced his academics with a variety of activities, including acting as a member of the Trent Physics Club and playing intramural soccer.

On the academic side, Mr. Atfield broadened his experience by taking on summer jobs with the Trent Physics Department. He worked with Prof. Dave Patton looking at galaxy mergers and with Prof. Ralph Shiell. As a result of his



experimental work helping to set up a laboratory for Prof. Shiell, Mr. Atfield coauthored a paper released in *The Review of Scientific Instruments*. A similar paper will be published in *The Astrophysical Journal*. Overall, Mr. Atfield describes the hands-on learning he has received at Trent as “a great learning experience.”

Next on Mr. Atfield's schedule is a long-anticipated trip to Southeast Asia with his girlfriend this summer. “I really can't wait to go,” he said. “All my life I've wanted to see other landscapes and cultures.”

The Impact of a Good Professor

When **Sarah MacLeod-Beaver** received the news that she had won a Symons Medal, she did her own little happy dance – proud to be recognized for her academic achievements and thrilled to know she would receive the award from Roberta Bondar, Canada's first woman astronaut and Trent's ninth chancellor.

Originally from Alderville First Nation, Ms. MacLeod-Beaver

attended Cobourg District Collegiate Institute East High School in Cobourg, Ontario. She graduated from Trent with an honours degree in sociology. As part of the Queen's-Trent Concurrent Education Program, she is off to Kingston, Ontario in the fall to complete her teaching degree.



Reflecting on her time at Trent, Ms. MacLeod-Beaver said that one of the main highlights of her experience has been having the opportunity to learn from so many outstanding professors. “They fostered within me a desire to critically think about the world around me,” she said. “They also made me feel like what I had to think and say was important, and this was integral to my academic achievement.”

Remembering the Trent Experience

For Symons Medal winner **Geron Bindseil**, deciding on coming to Trent University “was an easy choice. For me, small class sizes, more intimate relationships between students and faculty and a strong focus on the quality of undergraduate teaching were the most attractive elements.”

The physics major from Mt. Albert, Ontario looks back on his Trent experience with great fondness, appreciative of the experiences he has gained from

his professors through various research projects and from his involvement in several extra-curricular activities.

“I believe that extra-curricular activities, be they sports, community service or student associations, are an essential part of the undergraduate experience,” he said. During his time at Trent, Mr. Bindseil was a member of the Trent Association for Baha'i Studies, a student organization with the mandate to study the



teachings, history and philosophy of the Baha'i Faith. He also founded the Trent Physics Club, and served as president of the club in his last two years of study. According to Mr. Bindseil, however, the greatest highlight of his Trent experience was meeting his wife, Nicole, in first year while in residence at Lady Eaton College.

In the fall, Mr. Bindseil will be pursuing graduate studies in medical physics at the University of Western Ontario.

STUDENT



WINNERS

Double Honours

Ph.D. graduate **Donica Belisle** won't soon forget her convocation. During the May 30 ceremony, Ms. Belisle was not only recognized as one of the three first graduates of the Trent-Carleton Ph.D. program in Canadian Studies but also as the recipient of the prestigious Governor General's Gold Medal.

Awarded to the student with the highest academic standing on graduation in the Master's and Doctoral degree programs, the Governor General's Gold Medal is one of the University's top academic prizes. Ms. Belisle was presented with the award in recognition of her work on her Ph.D. dissertation entitled “Rise of Mass Retail: Canadians and Department Stores, 1890 to 1940,” which shows how, why, and with what consequences department stores emerged in Canada. For Ms. Belisle, receiving the award was a true “honour.”

Ms. Belisle completed her undergraduate degree in English and History at Brandon University in Manitoba. Her Master's work was undertaken at Queen's University. She chose Trent for her Ph.D. because of the world-class reputation of



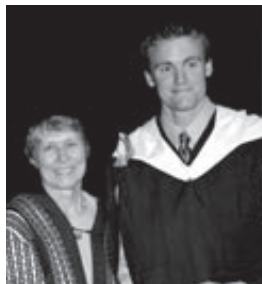
the Canadian Studies faculty, and the interdisciplinary nature of the program. She also chose Trent for the its comfortable atmosphere. “Trent has a warm and supportive scholarly atmosphere and I have enjoyed getting to know many of its faculty, staff, and students,” Ms. Belisle said.

In the fall, Ms. Belisle will begin a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)-funded Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of British Columbia. Her research will focus on “Consumer Politics: Women and Consumption in Modernizing Canada.”

Balancing Academics and Athletics

For anthropology graduate **Ryan Coghlin**, the news that he had received a prestigious Symons Medal came as a very pleasant surprise.

“I put a great deal of effort into my studies over the past four years, and to be acknowledged for doing so is very encouraging and most welcome,” he said. “The student body at Trent is full of astute, passionate, creative individuals, many of whom could surely have been considered for such an award. To say the very least, it's a great honour to be recognized from among such an adept graduating class.”



Originally from Listowel, Ontario, Mr. Coghlin chose Trent because of the University's extensive New World archeology course offerings. As an outdoor enthusiast, he also fell in love with Trent's campus. “It was a place where I could thrive academically, and certainly enjoy myself in the meantime,” he said.

In addition to being a top student, Mr. Coghlin was also a prized member of the men's varsity volleyball team. He served as co-captain of the team for the past three years, was named team MVP twice, and was recently presented with a University Athletic Award for his contributions to Trent athletics.

Overall, he describes his Trent experience as a “very well balanced one...Trent truly excels at promoting academic exploration

and the broadening of perspective.” Mr. Coghlin's non-academic pursuits were also a highlight: “Regular physical activity was as much a part of my experience at Trent as were scholarly pursuits. The instant camaraderie that goes along with being part of a close-knit varsity team also provided me with an extensive support network of like-minded individuals, and several lasting friendships.”

A Complete List of 2007 Student Medal Winners

The **Governor General's Gold Medal** is awarded to the student with the highest academic standing on graduation in the Master's and Doctoral degree programs. *Awarded to: Donica Belisle*



The **Governor General's Silver Medal** is awarded to the Honours student

with the highest academic standing on graduation in the Bachelor's degree program. *Awarded to: Ian Chute*

The **Symons Medal** is awarded to students in the Honours program who achieve high overall standing on graduation. *Awarded to: Geron Bindseil, Julian Atfield, Sarah MacLeod-Beaver, Ryan Coghlin*

The **Bagnani Medal** is awarded to students in the General program who achieve high overall standing on graduation. *Awarded to: Susan Laidlaw, Heather Gardiner*



Susan Laidlaw



A Match Made at Trent

On September 1, 2007, four years to the day of meeting for the first time during Introductory Seminar Week at Champlain College, biology graduates **Jessica Plourde** and **Steve Marson** will tie the knot. Asked what it was like to go through the whole university experience with a partner, Mr. Marson replied: ““It has been really helpful. Everywhere you go, you have your best friend with you.” After the wedding, the newlyweds will embark on a long-awaited trip to various destinations around the world. When they return, Mr. Marson hopes to pursue a career with Canada’s parks and Ms. Plourde hopes to explore the realm of environmental education.

“My experience with Trent in Oshawa has been magnificent! I thoroughly enjoyed the small classes and great interpersonal relationships. I have had the pleasure of meeting many well-accomplished professors who actually take the time to meet with and get to know their students. I have also had the enjoyment of getting to know fellow Trent students through the Peer Mentoring program and additional Trent events...I would absolutely recommend other students to Trent and Trent in Oshawa! My experience has been unforgettable.”

Amanda Cappon, *Psychology and Sociology*

Dream Place to Live and Study

Since graduating from Trent in January with a degree in Computer Science and Business Administration, **Litao Lian**, an international student from Beijing, China, has been working at SGS Lakefield Research as a data processing technician. According to Mr. Lian, the



job gives him an opportunity to apply the knowledge he gained at Trent and to gain more experience before pursuing a Master’s degree in Computer Science. As for his experience as Trent, Mr. Lian says: “It was my dream place to live and study for four years. It was a free environment to learn from both textbooks and personal talk with professors, who were not only seen as professors, but also as friends.”

“My time at Trent was the best four years of my life. I was able to learn and advance my career at school and in the workplace, as well as meet



many wonderful people with various backgrounds. Being at Trent feels like being at home. My time at Trent has helped me develop as a better human being. Overall,

Trent is a great place to develop as a student, professional, and person.”

Adam Crowley, *Business Administration, specialization in Human Resources Management*

Athletic Involvement

“Trent was the only campus I visited and, as soon as I saw it, with the river and the rest of its natural beauty, I knew this was the place for me,” says biology graduate and varsity athlete **Sara Pieper**. Originally from Barrie, Ontario, Ms. Pieper took full advantage of Trent’s award-winning athletics and recreation programs. She was a key member of the women’s varsity rugby team for four years and an avid Campus Rec participant playing hockey, flag-football, soccer and volleyball. For her contributions, Ms. Pieper was awarded the prestigious Arthur Cup in 2007. Looking back on her experience, Ms. Pieper says: “Overall I would not trade my time here for anything and I truly believe that my decision to come to Trent was one of the best I’ve ever made.”



“I chose Trent because of its partnership with Fleming College. In five years I was able to obtain a diploma in Fish and Wildlife Technology and an Honours

Biology degree from Trent. Potential employers actively seek graduates with a combination of practical and theoretical education. Every summer I was able to obtain a position that was directly related to my area of study, and so I am graduating with a good amount of practical experience.”

Joseph Norman, *Biology*

In Thoughtful Pursuit

Geography and environmental science joint major, **Stephanie Lyons**, has known what she wants to do with her life for years. It is the pursuit of that one goal – to work for the United Nations helping people in developing countries gain access to necessities like potable water – that has guided her through many educational experiences. Ms. Lyons came to Trent as a transfer student after first exploring several environmental programs at the college level. It was at Trent, however, that her dream job came closer to becoming a reality as her drive and determination led her to take full advantage of educational opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. In the fall, Ms. Lyons will take another step towards her ultimate career goal when she undertakes her master’s degree in biology in Waterloo.



Taking Lessons Home

Katrin Gendy came to Canada from Kuwait to undertake her undergraduate degree in

Halifax. With the goal of becoming a high school teacher in mind, Ms. Gendy then decided to remain in Canada to complete a Bachelor of Education degree. Her desire to get her teaching degree from a renowned institution that still felt “nice and cozy” led her to Trent. Looking back on her Trent experience, Ms. Gendy says “I think Trent is a great program. I got a lot of experience and I am a different person now – I’m more mature and more confident.” Ms. Gendy will begin her teaching career back home in Egypt.

A NEW



A Well-Rounded Experience

When Business Administration and Canadian Studies graduate **Lindsay Edwards** transferred to Trent from Lambton College, she immediately got involved in several organizations, including the Trent Business Students’ Association and the Career Centre. Ms. Edwards is already applying her experiences to her new position with CMA (Certified Management Accountants) in Toronto where she works as a secondary school programs coordinator. In discussing her Trent experience, Ms. Edwards says: “I had a great experience at Trent. I really received a well-rounded education here.”



“The development of myself over the past four years has really helped to

ground me as an Aboriginal person in Canada... I think that Trent is almost paving a new way regarding the Indigenous Studies program – from the building of the Indigenous Performing Arts program with theatre, dance, and music to other ground breaking courses. These cutting-edge courses will help serve as a model for other programs across Canada.”

Lisa Cromarty, *Indigenous Studies*

Job Ready

Three months before completing his Bachelor of Education degree, **Alan Morin** already had a full-time job lined up with the school board of his choice. “I was surprised and excited...and relieved,” Mr. Morin said, being sure to pay tribute to Trent’s School of Education and Professional Learning for its role in preparing him for his new career. “What makes this program the best is the people. The faculty are amazing. You get a really hands-on experience.” In the fall, Mr. Morin, who also completed his undergraduate degree at Trent, will be teaching with the Peterborough, Victoria, Northumberland and Clarington Catholic District School Board.

A New Perspective

For English graduate and concurrent education student, **David Waito**, the experience of writing his honours thesis has perhaps changed the course of his career. Looking back on



the project, in which he studied J.R.R. Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*, Mr. Waito says: “Tackling this project

was perhaps the best decision I made at Trent. I enjoyed absolutely every minute of it.” Still ultimately interested in the teaching profession, Mr. Waito plans to pursue graduate school after completing his teaching certificate in hopes of one day becoming a university professor.

On the Fast Track to Success

With a strong interest in child development and a desire to pursue a career in academics, **Faith Benvenuti** made a decision to apply to the psychology program at Trent in Oshawa two years ago. After taking classes year-round since then Ms. Benvenuti recently completed her honours psychology degree. In the fall, she will continue her academic journey in the Master’s in School Psychology program at Mount St. Vincent University in Nova Scotia.



"Politics Junkie" Finds Home at Trent

Self-proclaimed "politics junkie," **Devon Paul**, came to Trent from Toronto hoping to gain new experiences and "adjust" his perspectives. "I wanted to go to school outside of Toronto because I would have skewed view of the world if I lived in country's biggest city for my whole life," Mr. Paul explains. With a joint Politics/



Ancient Greek and Roman Studies degree in hand, Mr. Paul moves on to law school in the fall to pursue a career in environmental law. "The environment is something that is getting worse, not better, in our world," Mr. Paul says. "I am hoping to make a difference and have impact. I feel I am going to be needed."



Summer of Travel

With a summer of backpacking across Europe ahead, Peterborough native **Geoff Clark** leaves Trent well equipped to take on any future challenges. Mr. Clark graduated with an honours B.Sc. degree in geography with an emphasis in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) – a joint program with Fleming College. When he returns from his travels, Mr. Clark intends to take a year off before pursuing graduate studies at Memorial University in Newfoundland, on his way to becoming a university professor.

her future students. "I love the experience of watching people learn," she says. "It's exciting to see others get excited about learning."

Finding Future Direction

When asked about her future career plans, sociology and Canadian Studies graduate **Sharon Aubie** responds quickly "I am going to fix the health care system." It is a decision Ms. Aubie came to during a first-year course at Trent when she was given an assignment to write an analysis of a health care document. "It came to root of what I was looking for in my academic studies," says Ms. Aubie, who will apply her Trent education to a Master's degree in Public Policy and Administration at Carleton University in the fall before embarking on a career as a policy analyst.



Pursuit of Education Proves Addictive

After completing the Law and Security and Police Foundations programs at Durham College, **Dennis Molinaro** decided to explore a different career path. Following his interests in history and teaching, the Oshawa native looked into the History degree program at Trent in Oshawa and he hasn't looked back. Upon being exposed to university life and having recently graduated with an honours degree in History, Mr. Molinaro, who now calls himself an "academic gypsy," has made the decision to take his academic career to the next level. "I want to go all the way," he says, explaining that he plans to first pursue a Master's degree followed by his Ph.D. in order to teach at the university level.



attending Trent. It is a decision she has never regretted as she spent four years taking advantage of all that Trent had to offer from becoming involved in campus events to participating in the Study Abroad program and spending a year at Western Washington University in the States. Ms. Austria is currently working in Amsterdam as a summer intern with the International Campaign for Tibet. After that, she be heading off to graduate school to pursue her interest in immigration studies.

"I had a great time at Trent; I got everything I wanted to get, and more, out of my four years of university. I even surprised myself by undertaking an honour's thesis project in my fourth year – something I never thought I would do. It ended up being one of the best things I could have done, making my last year at Trent a lot more enjoyable, and a highlight of my university experience."

Laura Hansen, *Environmental and Resource Science and Biology*

"I have really enjoyed my time with the School of Education. The faculty was amazing. Each member had such a wealth of knowledge and so many great gifts to instill upon us. I really enjoyed my classes and felt inspired by many of my profs to go out into the education system and share the gifts that had bestowed upon us. The atmosphere in the school of education itself was inspirational and I can't wait to get out into the world and make a difference."

Michelle Totz, *Bachelor of Education*

Second Chance

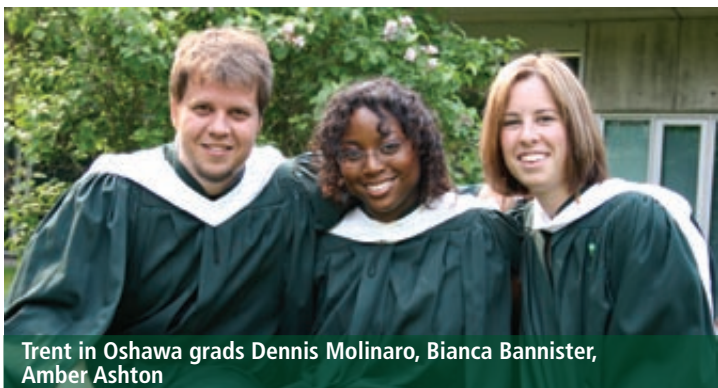
After personal issues forced **Megan Cotton-Kinch** to withdraw from the University of Toronto several years ago, she was unsure she would ever have another chance to pursue her dream of attaining a university degree. Ms. Cotton-Kinch took a job as a computer manager with the government but still thought often of her educational aspirations. Living in Oshawa, she later applied to Trent in Oshawa and was accepted. Starting out on a part-time basis and eventually moving to full-time, Ms. Cotton-Kinch was impressed with the flexibility of the program and the supportive faculty and staff. Recently, she realized her academic dream by graduating from Trent with a degree in history and anthropology. Filled with a new passion for learning, she will begin a Master's degree in anthropology at York University in the fall.

Joining the Global Community

"It chose me!" explained graduate **Jennilee Austria** when asked why she decided to attend Trent University. After discovering how interesting Trent's Global Studies program was during an orientation session at her home high school in Sarnia, Ontario, Ms. Austria shifted her plans to go to journalism school in favour of

The Path of Happiness

When psychology and sociology graduate **Heather Johnston** was first looking at universities she came for a tour at Trent and "something just clicked." Now, four years later with a Trent degree in hand, Ms. Johnston is hoping to make a career out of helping other people find that same connection. Throughout her time at Trent, Ms. Johnston was involved in several University recruitment events, including the March Break Open House and the New Student Orientation program. In her new role as liaison officer, and first point of contact for many prospective Trent students, Ms. Johnston hopes to put others on the "same path of happiness" she found here.



Trent in Oshawa grads Dennis Molinaro, Bianca Bannister, Amber Ashton

"My experience at Trent has been nothing short of an incredible opportunity. Especially being on the Oshawa campus, it is nice to be able to connect with students, faculty and administration on a first-name basis and in turn, make connections with people that will last long after my degree is complete."

Amber Ashton, *History and English, emphasis in Education*

"My experience at Trent in Oshawa has been the most enriching and fulfilling of my life so far. When I look back on everything that I have learned and accomplished in my four years at Trent I am astounded by all of the progress I have made personally and academically. I am no longer worried about my place in society, instead, I feel prepared to take on the world equipped with all of the knowledge and confidence I have gained from my time at Trent."

Bianca Bannister, *English Literature, minor in Women's Studies*

Learning New Things

As a future teacher, recent graduate **Kate Dowker** appreciated the fact that at Trent, "you always found people willing to teach you new things." And as a student, Ms. Dowker was always eager to learn, especially from her professors and fellow students. When this sociology major completes her concurrent education degree at Queen's next year, she hopes to pass along that same love of learning to

With Education Comes Responsibility

Growing up and working in developing countries provided international student **Ricardo Tranjan** with a unique perspective when he came to Canada to pursue a degree in International Development Studies at Trent. "I feel a personal obligation to take the theoretical knowledge I have learned here and apply it to make a difference," the recent graduate says. Furthermore, the Sao Paulo, Brazil native explains that "the privilege of a postsecondary education gives you an



empowered position in the world, whether you want it or not, and that empowered position brings with it responsibility." Upon leaving Trent, Mr. Tranjan will strive to fulfil his own sense of obligation to the world by pursuing graduate studies and an eventual career working for the betterment of South America.

BEGINS FOR THE Class of 2007





Hooked on Forensics

From the first-time **Devon Recoskie** learned about forensics in a high school class, she was hooked. When it came time to apply to universities, however, she didn't find an existing forensic science programs that was a good fit for her. She compromised by beginning a degree in biomedical sciences at the University of Ottawa but when her brother, enrolled in the Police Foundations program at Fleming College, brought home a course book outlining a brand new forensics program at Trent, she made the choice to transfer in order to pursue her original dream.

Now as one of the first graduates of the new program, Ms. Recoskie looks back on her Trent experience with fondness. "It has been a really rewarding experience," says the new grad, who is also an avid figure skater. "I feel I have grown a lot and learned a lot – not just in class but also from friends and professors."

With a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science degree

under her belt, Ms. Recoskie is moving forward in pursuit of her next goal – to apply her forensics knowledge to the field of nursing. In the fall, she will start a two-year intensive nursing program at the University of Toronto. According to Ms. Recoskie, the emerging field of forensics nursing, when working with victims of sexual assaults, can be described as "alive forensics" and for this new graduate, it is the opportunity to help victims and their families that is the most appealing aspect of the job. "It is a very vulnerable time for these victims," she explains. "I want to be there to show support and provide options."

Insight into the Legal System

"I believe that understanding forensic science is a key feature in truly understanding the legal system," says new forensic science graduate **Kate Sansom**. So with a previous degree in criminology and a long-term



goal of becoming a first class constable with Toronto Police Services, this Halifax native decided to explore the world of forensics by enrolling in the new forensic science program at Trent.

"With the program being new, it was appealing to explore such a great new experience at a school with such a great reputation," she recalls.

During her four years at Trent, Ms. Sansom truly devoted herself to the study of forensics. She not only excelled in her classes but also founded the Trent Forensic Science Society, which enriched the experience of all forensics students by organizing tours of such organizations as the Toronto Police Forensic Identification Services and bringing many high-profile speakers and forensics experts to campus. In addition, Ms. Sansom worked as a camp counselor at Trent's DNA Forensics Camp.

"My experience at Trent has definitely been one to remember," she says. "I will never forget the people I've met along the way, both professors who showed a keen interest in the first set of students, as well as my peers."

An Exciting Opportunity

For **Stephen Dixon**, it was the opportunity to combine his interests in science and law that drew him to pursue a degree in forensic science. Having the chance to be one of the 15 first-ever graduates of the



Trent-Fleming Forensic Science programs was just an extra bonus.

"It's exciting to know that I am part of the first class that helped improve the forensics program at Trent," he said, explaining that he chose Trent because of its small class sizes and beautiful natural setting. "I would also recommend the forensics program to other students. The program offers a broad range of subjects that are interesting and relevant."


The Ottawa native, who was also a key member of Trent's varsity rugby team, will put his recently-acquired degree into practice as he explores a career in policing or emergency services.

Eye on the Future

When asked how it feels to be part of the first graduating class of the Trent-Fleming Forensic Science Program, **Leanne Pike** says: "It is exciting. We were able to provide feedback and we've seen the program evolve. It's a good feeling, knowing that our class sort of set the bar for future forensics students and graduates."

Ms. Pike, who hails from Oshawa, describes her time at Trent as "a once-in-a-lifetime experience" filled with opportunities to get involved in activities on-campus and in the local community. Ms. Pike definitely took advantage of such opportunities by becoming an active member of the Trent Forensic Science Society's student executive and participating in the Trent DNA Forensics Camp.



"I highly recommend the forensics program if you're looking for a well-rounded education in the sciences and also want to learn about law enforcement," Ms. Pike says. "Personally, I loved the program, and wouldn't have chosen any other undergraduate degree if I could do it over." 

A CELEBRATION OF FIRSTS



From left to right: **Donica Belisle, Mark Dickinson, Brian Thorn**

From Orangutans to Canadian Nature Poetry

One of the first three graduates of the Trent-Carleton Canadian Studies Ph.D. program, **Mark Dickinson** describes the process of writing his dissertation as a "literary pilgrimage."

His journey began not in Canada but in the equatorial rainforests of Indonesia. While

working as the coordinator of a project specializing in orangutan conservation and environmental education, Mr. Dickinson began thinking about the affinities between natural and artistic processes, the topic of his doctoral dissertation.

Returning to Canada for graduate studies at York University, he was introduced to the work of Canadian novelist

and Trent professor, Sean Kane. Prof. Kane, whose interests lie in the intersection of ecology, mind and narrative. Prof. Kane struck Mr. Dickinson as a kindred spirit, and the two agreed to collaborate on Mr. Dickinson's Ph.D. at Trent.

Upon his arrival, Mr. Dickinson immersed himself in Trent's new Canadian Studies Ph.D. program. Because of the program's groundbreaking interdisciplinary approach, he was able to work with faculty from a number of different disciplines, including Cultural Studies, English Literature, and Native Studies.

"Sean Kane and Gordon Johnston guided me on an apprenticeship of the mind," explains Mr. Dickinson, "while working as John Wadland's teaching assistant gave me an apprenticeship of the classroom. Elders and cultural authorities from Indigenous Studies gave me an apprenticeship of the spirit."

These wide-ranging influences on Mr. Dickinson's work were clear during his

dissertation defence in April, which drew faculty and students from all of these departments. The evaluation committee also included renowned writer and critic Stan Dragland, and Canadian literary icon Dennis Lee, one of the subjects of Mr. Dickinson's dissertation. Under Mr. Lee's editorship, Mr. Dickinson is currently adapting his dissertation into a book.

Looking back on his time at Trent, Mr. Dickinson says: "It was a unique experience being part of a new Ph.D. program, and seeing it gradually strengthen itself into one of our flagship graduate programs. Trent has truly been a multi-dimensional experience. It allowed me a near-perfect environment to explore the connections I first began making overseas." 

Trent's First Canadian Studies Ph.D. Grads



A Family Affair

Convocation is always a special time for families, but for the Kilduff family this year's ceremony was cause for an even bigger celebration as it marked the graduation of the first of four family members – **Pauline and Brian Kilduff**, who have been attending Trent together alongside their children, Naomi and Daniel.

Intent on completing their degree 27 years after they were married, Mr. and Mrs. Kilduff resigned from their positions and decided to attend university full-time four years ago. "It's been really exciting," explained Mrs. Kilduff. "We wanted to go to university for years and years, so reaching our graduation is a huge accomplishment for us."



Their daughter, Naomi, was the one who encouraged them to attend Trent, where she was already a student. When their son Daniel also decided to pursue his degree at Trent, the Kilduff household became a busy hive of research, studying, writing and mutual support for the four full-time university students.

Throughout their time as undergraduates, Mr. and Mrs. Kilduff benefited from the full Trent experience and even participated in the Year Abroad program, spending their third year studying together in Spain. Over the years, both parents even found themselves in the same classes with their children. A highlight for the family involved a class presentation where the parents teamed up to perform the 1970s hit song *I Got You Babe* translated into Italian, with Mrs. Kilduff playing the role of Sonny, and Mr. Kilduff dressed up as Cher.

Now that they have completed their studies, Mr. and Mrs. Kilduff hope their degrees will lead them to new career opportunities, ideally as teachers. ✎

Stepping Stone to a Dream

Becoming a medical doctor has always been the ultimate goal for biochemistry and molecular biology graduate, **Tonya Carter**. Thanks to the education she received at Trent, that goal is now one step closer to becoming a reality for this talented Anguilla native. In the fall, she will attend the prestigious Penn State College of Medicine in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

"Becoming a doctor is not only about academics. It is also about extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities – experiences you can only get at schools like Trent University," Ms. Carter said. "I couldn't see myself having the same opportunities anywhere else."

Ms. Carter was first introduced to Trent when her sister decided to attend eight years ago. She accompanied her sister when she arrived on Trent's campus as the first student to come to the University from the small British West Indies island, which has a total population of 12,000 people. Along with her sister, Ms. Carter fell in love with the campus and when it came time for her to apply to

universities herself, Trent was still top of mind.

Over the last four years, Ms. Carter has engrossed herself in the complete Trent experience. In addition to a full and demanding course load, she also became an active member of the Trent African Caribbean Students Union (TACSU) through which she participated and coordinated several events, including the annual cultural show *Afrobana*.

At Trent, Ms. Carter has also found avenues to pursue another of her life's passions – singing. She joined the Trent International Students Association (TISA) choir and performed at many campus and community events. She also sang at a number of formals and open mic nights in Peterborough.

Looking to the future, Ms. Carter plans to practice medicine back in Anguilla upon graduating from medical school. No matter where life takes her, however, it is clear that her experiences at Trent will stay with her always. "I will always be grateful for the experiences I had here," she said. "They have allowed me to go on and achieve my dream." ✎

Coming Full Circle

For **Jutta Merilainen** it seems like a lifetime ago that she put her plans of pursuing a post-secondary education in her homeland of Finland on hold to start a new life in Canada with her new husband. Recently, however, the proud mother of four celebrated not only her 15th wedding anniversary but also the completion of her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Trent University.

The pursuit of a university education was always a goal for Ms. Merilainen. When her husband, Allan, a search and rescue pilot in the Canadian Airforce, was posted in Trenton, Ontario five years ago and her family was settled, she knew her time had arrived.

With a mother and a sister already in the nursing profession,

she was surprised to find upon reflection, that she also wanted to pursue a career in nursing. According to Ms. Merilainen, her interactions with children over the years and her experience as an immigrant also contributed to her decision.

Living in Batawa, Ms. Merilainen started her nursing degree with the Loyalist-Brock program in Belleville. During her time there, many people recommended that she look into the Trent-Fleming program and after two years, she transferred to Peterborough and took advantage of the program's option to complete practicum placements closer to home in Belleville and Cobourg.

"Trent has been a good place for me to grow," she said

At Trent, Ms. Merilainen excelled not only in the academic environment but also as a star member of the varsity cross-country running team. She began running after the birth of the third child in 2000

when she was looking for a new challenge. Since then, she has competed in marathons and, as a Trent varsity cross-country athlete, placed among the top 10 in Ontario and the top 20 in Canada. For her accomplishments, she was presented with an Ontario University Athletics (OUA) 2006 Women of Influence Award, which, according to Ms. Merilainen, was one of the highlights of her university experience.

Upon reflecting on the achievement of her long-awaited university degree, Ms. Merilainen says she has her family to thank for the opportunity: "I have had a great support system. I have only been able to accomplish this goal because of the support of my husband and my family." ✎

For the Joy of Learning

According to **Thomas Dormon**, a graduate of Trent's Master's in Anthropology program, "continuing education is contrary to the idea that education is all about vocation." For Dr. Dormon, "education is about mind expansion."

The quest to expand his mind brought Dr. Dormon to Trent seven years ago. As a successful chiropractor with a thriving business in North Oshawa, he felt the desire to return to an academic environment to pursue his interests in the study of ancient cultures and evolution.

"I have always been interested in anthropology," explained Dr. Dormon, who, with his wife of 16 years, has three children. "I took various courses throughout my undergrad and continued



to read about the subject after graduation. After a while I realized I didn't have anyone to talk to about what I was reading and I missed school. I went back with the idea of formalizing my study, instead of just 'browsing'."

With an established business and family close by, Trent University was a logical choice for Dr. Dormon's new academic endeavour. In addition to its location, he was also drawn to Trent for its reputation

of excellence in the area of anthropology. From his first trip to the University, he felt confident in his choice, especially after meeting Prof. Hermann Helmuth, who Dr. Dormon describes as "a legend in his own time."

Over the years as he pursued his master's degree part-time, Dr. Dormon's interest in and excitement for all things anthropological continued to grow. Through his research on degenerative joint disease in the ancient Maya with supervisor and mentor Prof. Anne Keenleyside, he even found a way to link his academic work to his interests as a chiropractor.

For like-minded professionals who are contemplating a return to the classroom, Dr. Dormon offers this piece of advice: "If you are thinking about going back to university, don't think of it has a job, think of it as a hobby and be sure to enjoy yourself." ✎





New Student Award Created in Honour of Former Dean of Arts and Science

Friends and colleagues of Dr. Colin Taylor have paid tribute to the former dean of arts and science by creating a \$75,000 endowed fund that will produce a \$3,000 per year award for a student registered in his/her final year of any Honours undergraduate program who has improved the intellectual and academic life of the University.

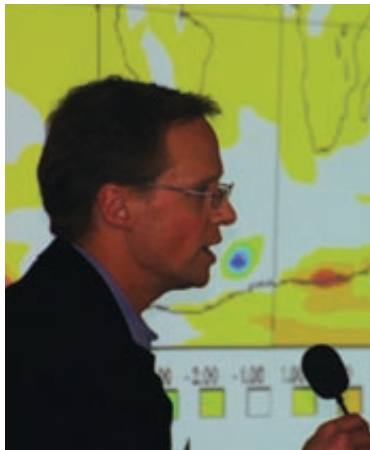
The Colin Taylor Award is the brainchild of current dean of arts and science Dr. Christine McKinnon, who took over for Dr. Taylor in 2006 after he completed two successful terms as dean. Prof. McKinnon suggested the award in November as a means of honouring Prof. Taylor, who started as dean in 1996. The proposal was very well received and, over the course of four months, over \$37,500 was raised by Prof. Taylor's Trent colleagues and friends. The funds have been matched by the Ontario government's Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) for a total of \$75,000. As an endowment, the fund will grow in perpetuity.

The Colin Taylor Award will first be available to students in the 2008/2009 academic year. Donations are still being accepted. Those interested in helping to grow this fund are asked to contact Sherry Booth, manager of planned giving and leadership gifts, at (705) 748-1011 x7593.

NSERC Grants Trent \$1.4 Million in New Funding

Trent University has received \$1,494,399 in new funding from the 2007 Grants and Scholarships awards from The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC). Funding from the Discovery Grants and Research Tools and Instrument programs totals \$1,075,999. In addition, 29 graduate and undergraduate scholarships amounting to \$418,400 were also approved for Trent students.

The eight faculty-led projects to be supported by NSERC represent a wide range of academic disciplines, including Chemistry, Mathematics, Biology, Psychology, Geography and Environmental and Resource Studies.



Community Members Enjoy Lunch with Trent Experts

Over 130 members of the community attended the inaugural *Inside Trent: Lunch with the Experts* event held on Thursday, May 17 at the Holiday Inn Peterborough Waterfront.

At the event, three experts from Trent, two professors and one undergraduate student, discussed the topic of "Climate Change: A New Reality." The experts were: Dr. Chris Furgal,

a professor of the Indigenous Studies Department and the Environmental and Resource Studies program at Trent and the co-lead author of the International Arctic Science Committee-directed "Arctic Climate Impact Assessment;" Dr. Christine Freeman-Roth, a philosophy professor who is well-versed on the environmental ethics of climate change; and Robert Tookoome, an Inuit student who has seen first-hand the alarming consequences of climate change in Canada's north.

Professor emeritus and former Peterborough MP Peter Adams emceed the event, which was sponsored by the Trent University Legacy Society. For more information on the event, and to view copies of the experts' presentations, visit www.trentu.ca/insidetrent.

Graduate Research at Trent Receives Significant Boost

Twelve graduate students from Trent University learned recently that they will receive a total of \$556,500 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Awarded by SSHRC's Canada Graduate Scholarships, this funding will support innovative graduate research at Trent across many disciplines, including psychology, Indigenous studies, English literature, and public policy studies. The funding was part of SSHRC's \$105 million investment to support graduate research and training.

Trent Student Honoured with Ontario Volunteerism Award

During an awards ceremony held at the Lindsay Armoury on Monday, May 28, Sue Reynolds, a mature Trent student and single mother of

a teenage boy, was recognized by the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration as one of 20 province-wide recipients of the 2007 June Callwood Award for Outstanding Volunteerism. Ms. Reynolds received the prestigious award, named in honour of June Callwood, a renowned Canadian journalist, author and social activist, in recognition of her groundbreaking volunteer work teaching creative writing to criminalized women in the Lindsay jail.

Ms. Reynolds graduated from Trent last year with an honours degree in Psychology. She returned to Trent this past academic year to take more courses, including a creative writing course at Trent in Oshawa. In the fall, Ms. Reynolds will begin a Master's degree through the Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Native Studies at Trent University. In addition, she has also received a grant to offer a creative writing program to criminalized women who have been released back into the community.


Fifth Consecutive Win for Athletics and Recreation

For the fifth consecutive year, Trent University's Department of Athletics and Recreation has been awarded the Canadian Intramural Recreation Association (CIRA) Ontario's Outstanding Intramural Achievement Award.

Trent was one of only three post-secondary institutions to



receive this year's award and is among an elite group to have received the honour five years in a row. "To be recognized by our peers is rewarding, and I am grateful to CIRA Ontario for their ongoing support of active, healthy lifestyles," said Sue Robinson, campus recreation coordinator at Trent. To be considered for this award, program coordinators must send in a detailed year-end report describing the scope and effectiveness of their recreational programs. Winning programs are those that offer a varied line up of activities, promote fun, active participation, fair play and involve students in a leadership capacity.

At Trent, over 2,400 students participated in intramural activities during the 2006-2007 academic year. Activities ranged from the usual standards like football and soccer to the more unique innertube water polo and innertube ultimate Frisbee. 



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