

# SHOWCASE

LEADING-EDGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH AT TRENT UNIVERSITY

## From Dolphin DNA to Goat Genomics

### Preserving Species, Protecting Habitat and Reducing Poverty around the Globe



From the prevention of poaching in northern Ontario to the preservation of habitats off the coasts of Taiwan and Hong Kong, Biology Professor Dr. Brad White uses cutting-edge DNA technology to bring about change at home and abroad. For Professor White, director of Trent University's Natural Resources DNA Profiling and Forensic Centre, the work has always been about results.

#### Dolphins Protected, Thanks to Trent

Based at Trent's Life and Health Sciences Building, the lab has been involved in the study and protection of species across the globe, most notably in its ongoing work with the iconic Indo-Pacific Humpback or "Pink" Dolphin, first discovered by Trent's Dr. John Wang in 2002 in the Taiwan Strait. It was thanks to Prof. White and his research team that the dolphins were declared "critically endangered" by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2008, giving them special protection and leading to international attention for Trent.

Lauren Dares, an Environmental and Life Sciences M.Sc. student was drawn to Trent because of its focus on conservation issues. Ms. Dares is one of several students to do field-based work with the rare dolphin. For Ms. Dares, gathering field data is essential to her thesis, but the experience was more than purely academic, noting that her favourite part of the fieldwork was having the opportunity to observe wild dolphins in their natural habitat.

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## From Dolphin DNA to Goat Genomics

Trent alumna Dr. Linda Rutledge came to Trent to study under Prof. White. “People who come here for genetics get the finest training,” states Dr. Rutledge unequivocally. “I’ve worked in other labs and I have no qualms about saying that the facilities and the faculty that we have here are world-class. We are spoiled with the equipment and infrastructure we have here, not to mention the tremendous intellectual resources.” Dr. Rutledge also cites Trent’s close ties with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) as setting Trent apart. “I couldn’t have done my research at any other place,” she concludes. “Only Trent has that connection.”

*It was thanks to Prof. White and his research team that the dolphins were declared “critically endangered” by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 2008.*

### Students Connect to Government Jobs through Science

“The presence of workers from the OMNR has been an incredible benefit,” adds Prof. White. “Many scientists supervise Trent graduates, and undergraduates often get summer jobs working with them. There are very few places in Canada where you get this close working relationship between a government agency and a university in the same building.”

### Goat Research to Benefit Humans

Now the lab has turned its attention to small ruminants research aimed at benefiting humans. Local dairy farmers Lloyd and Barbara Wicks of Grasshill Farm first became interested in Saanen dairy goats after they realized their special properties including high milk production and a tendency to multiple births. Trent was successful in securing multi-partner grants totalling \$100,000 from the Centre of Excellence in Goat Research and



*Dr. Bradley White and scientists work with students using cutting-edge robotic analysis equipment in Trent’s DNA Lab*

*“... a fantastic opportunity for our local producers to export their goatherd genetics to developing countries.”*

Innovation, the Canadian Livestock Genetics Association and a collaboration of regional Saanen goat farmers to pursue research on the animals.

Field research has begun in Trinidad, where a satellite herd of Grasshill Farm goats is being closely monitored by high-tech equipment that tracks feed, milk output, animal health and birthing records, and sends the resulting data back to the lab at Trent to be compared with their genetics by Prof. White and his team.

“The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that goats are a highly important source of proteins for rural families in developing countries,” explains Prof. White. “We will be one of the first labs in the world to compile data on goat genetics that can be cross-referenced to productivity, feed regimens and health. In the long run, we see a fantastic opportunity for our local producers to export their goatherd genetics to developing countries.” ■



## WORLD OF TRENT ALUMNI

### The Making of a University Leader Begins at a Great University

#### Alumnus Paul Davidson’s Desire to Learn Leads to Global Connections

Paul Davidson recalls how he came to Trent. “I popped up to Trent to visit my brother and I noticed a little sign saying ‘Trent International Program (TIP) – for information talk to Jack Matthews’. I had heard of Jack because he was the founder of Pearson College in B.C. and so I had a cup of coffee with him. The fact that I could speak to the director that day without an appointment made Trent particularly appealing for me,” explains Paul Davidson, Trent University alumnus and president of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

Mr. Davidson was one of the 25 per cent of domestic students who are a part of TIP every year, allowing Canadian students to engage in closer interaction with international students, and to gain international experience. In Mr. Davidson’s case, that meant spending a year abroad in Zimbabwe in 1985. He returned with a completed B.A. in Politics and History with an Emphasis in Comparative Development. “It was a very innovative proposition at the time,” he recalls.

Prior to his year abroad, Mr. Davidson helped reinvigorate Trent’s chapter of World University Service of Canada (WUSC), a national organization that brings students in refugee situations from around the world to study in Canada. “By the fall of 1984, we raised enough funds to bring three students to Trent from refugee situations in Africa,” recounts Mr. Davidson, “and I’m really pleased to say that the Trent committee is continuing to this day as a strong and active member of WUSC.”

**“It’s about becoming a contributor.”**

### A Global Vision for Higher Education

Mr. Davidson’s career led him from Kenya to Queen’s Park, and eventually back to WUSC as executive director from 2002 to 2009. In 2009, Mr. Davidson was appointed president of the Association of Universities and Colleges (AUCC) where his global vision for education met with AUCC’s expanding mandate. “Our work at AUCC puts great emphasis both on advancing higher education in Canada and on the importance of internationalizing Canadian universities,” explains Mr. Davidson. “Canadian universities in the 21st century need to be globally connected.”

Mr. Davidson credits his time at Trent with giving him the skills and the vision to tackle the types of challenges he faces regularly at AUCC. “In Canada, per student funding provided by provincial government is half what it was in 1977,” Mr. Davidson offers by way of example. “So it is more important than ever that alumni, employers and the broader community step forward to help close that gap. I reflect back on the kinds of experiences I had at Trent every day in terms of being able to engage rigorously on tough public policy issues. It’s not the specific knowledge you learn about A, B, or C, that matters most,” asserts Mr. Davidson. “It is the desire to learn, to analyze, to be articulate and to see ourselves as more than simply passive observers or consumers of the world. It’s about becoming a contributor.” ■



*President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Trent alumnus Paul Davidson recalls how his success began at Trent*

## Birds without Borders

### Shorebird Survival and Nesting Success on the Migration Trail

“Students are intrinsic to all of my research,” says Dr. Erica Nol, a Biology professor now in her 26th year teaching at Trent University. In her study of Arctic Shorebirds, Professor Nol asks, “What is the most vulnerable period of time in a shorebird’s life?” Prof. Nol teaches in the Biology Department and the Conservation and Ecology Group within the Environmental and Life Sciences Graduate Program.

#### Early Spring Makes Birds Late for Dinner

Millions of long-distance migratory shorebirds fly to Arctic feeding grounds for a bounty of insects that emerge during the short arctic summer. With earlier springs in the arctic as a result of climate change, the birds may arrive too late to benefit from the flood of insects that provide food for their young. This timing mismatch is one aspect of the work of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in Prof. Nol’s lab, currently working in the tundra and wetland habitats around Churchill, Manitoba.



*Dr. Erica Nol gives students opportunities to spread their wings*

Students study directly on breeding grounds, during migration, and on wintering grounds, using research techniques that range from highly complex to simply clever. Geolight loggers, attached to bands on the legs of birds, record daylight hours and enable exact latitudes and rough longitude destinations to be recorded and charted to reveal flight path arcs. Working with a collaborator from the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Prof. Nol’s team has established that most of the eastern Arctic Dunlin populations spend their winters in the southeastern United States.

#### More Students in the Field

Financial assistance for work on arctic-breeding birds comes from the recently developed Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network (ASDN), a group of American and Canadian researchers who collaborate using standardized protocols for measuring shorebird survival, nesting success, invertebrate food, and predator numbers. As a result of this funding, in addition to grants from NSERC and Environment Canada, Prof. Nol has been able to put more students in the field. She usually works with about ten students each academic year, both M.Sc. and Ph.D. students.

“Students typically conduct their field work for a couple of summers and often return to the field in the third year to train new students, creating a successful integration through their overlapping participation,” explains Prof. Nol. ■



<http://goo.gl/Z7ejz>



# PUNK

## An International Movement with Local Differences

**P**unk is an international movement, but local differences do matter,” says Dr. Alan O’Connor in his book *Punk Record Labels and the Struggle for Autonomy*.

Beginning in 1994, Cultural Studies Professor Alan O’Connor spent summers in Mexico City writing articles based on participant observation of the punk scene in Mexico. An interest in punk music as a social activity, rather than the traditional view of punk as a subcultural style, led to his groundbreaking research on the subject. For example, in his book *Punk Record Labels and the Struggle for Autonomy*, he reveals a surprising finding that many parents actually support their children’s participation in the scene.

Beyond the impact of family life, Prof. O’Connor provides an exploration of punk as a global activity that takes on different characteristics according to specific location and class. He was struck by how different punk was in Mexico City from Canada and the USA. He came to strongly disagree with theorists of globalization who describe this as a kind of global-local hybrid, as that gives insufficient weight to the local social structure.



Dr. Alan O’Connor provides students hands-on experience in his media studies courses



In 2004, Prof. O’Connor began to delineate a broad spectrum within which to locate punk sensibility, bringing in issues relating to immigration and class structure.

“...The punk scene in Mexico City is a

product of several generations of migration from rural Mexico into the city... But the habitus of community, kinship and work is still evident in Mexico in the very different life chances of working-class or marginalized youth and the sons and daughters of the economic elite. It is the difference between four months of illegal work in Los Angeles and an academic year spent studying business administration at Yale University. (*International Journal of Cultural Studies*, Alan O’Connor, Punk and Globalization: Spain and Mexico, 2004)

Prof. O’Connor’s passion for punk culture and his related research have contributed to the analysis of a social scene within culture and the music industry as it responds to class, economic enterprise, and globalization. In the classroom and beyond, he has expanded student and global awareness of an ever-evolving and diverse social and aesthetic activity. ■

## CONNECTING RESEARCH TO TEACHING



Dr. Timothy Stapleton offers a unique research specialty to students

## Dr. Timothy Stapleton Brings Southern African History to Trent

**S**ifting through primary sources and newspaper reports from colonial Rhodesia from 1940 to 1960, two international students from the Republic of Botswana in 2010 found themselves effectively contributing to a publication by their internationally-renowned History professor, Dr. Timothy Stapleton.

*African Police and Soldiers in Colonial Zimbabwe, 1923-80* is the latest book by the historian who has

specialized in war and society in Southern Africa for over twenty years and has published five books. During the 1990s, he was a lecturer and post-doctoral fellow at Rhodes University and then a senior lecturer at the University of Fort Hare in South Africa. Over the last decade, he has held academic appointments as a research associate at the University of Botswana and the University of Zimbabwe.

### The Research Connection

“*African Police* examines the ambiguous experience of black security force personnel in a colonial state ruled by a tiny white settler minority,” says Prof. Stapleton. The research explored the lives of black security force personnel through records of the time and things they themselves had written. What was their relationship to ‘whites’? Were they opportunistic or ignorant? According to Prof. Stapleton, “They were neither of those things.

They were complex people who had pride in themselves and who wanted to become police professionals. They wanted the chance to develop – in all of the things that were being done by ‘whites’. They wanted to be the best policeman they could be.”

### The Teaching Connection

According to Prof. Stapleton, having a research specialty means you can offer students something unique. “As a researcher you have an understanding of challenges that other researchers face, such as access to archival history or oral history, for example. You have something to offer students, having been engaged in the research process. It’s about being someone who understands how knowledge is produced and how it is contested. Learning how to be an historian means collecting relevant information from various sources. You have to know what’s been written in the secondary sources, but then go deeper than that, into primary sources such as archives, oral history, government reports, etc.”

### The Trent Research Priority

Prof. Stapleton has come to appreciate one important advantage of working at Trent. “I think Trent prioritizes research as much as bigger universities in Canada,” he asserts. “Research is considered as important here as the other jobs that professors do such as teaching and service.”

“Why is it valuable? You want to advance knowledge – to engage in your interests and it’s good to work in a place that values that,” Prof. Stapleton says. “It also offers insight to students into how the field develops.” ■

“It offers insight to students into how the field develops.”



## Mosquito Net Work

### Predictive Tools for the Prevention of Insect-Borne Disease

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito.” ~ The Dalai Lama

**F**or Dr. Jim Sutcliffe, professor of Biology at Trent University, the mosquito is harbinger of mammoth global health issues and is definitely something to be reckoned with during sleep time.

Considerable time, energy, and money gets spent on the prevention of insect borne diseases, creating career opportunities in the fields of international development and global health. Professor Sutcliffe’s research translates to insights and material he can bring back to his courses in medical entomology and infectious disease biology at Trent University.

### Trent Expertise at the CDC

On sabbatical as a visiting scientist in the labs of the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Professor Sutcliffe’s particular research is analyzing mosquito behaviour and bed nets when there are people inside them.

“My challenge is to determine when a bed net no longer becomes useful,” explains Prof. Sutcliffe. “Hundreds of millions of nets are out there. We need to be able to replace these at appropriate times and cost.”

### Developing Prevention through Netting

Bed nets are an essential tool used by various malaria-preventative efforts in developing countries around the world. The netting is treated with an insecticide that protects the people under the netting and kills mosquitoes if they land on the fabric. Over time, the insecticide breaks down and becomes less effective. Regular and frequent washings accelerate breakdown. Inevitable rips and tears unravel and enlarge.

Several million cases of malaria occur every year. Two to three million people die of it annually, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa. Dramatic numbers of young children don’t make it past the age of five. Elders succumb. For the balance of the population, malaria affects productivity and the ability to work.

### Major Public Health Implications

Prof. Sutcliffe and his colleagues have developed a predictive tool that tells a lot of information about a given net and gives an estimate back as to just how vulnerable a

Trent’s Dr. Jim Sutcliffe conducts research as a visiting scientist at the CDC in the USA



person might be, to being bitten, inside that net. Distribution programs provide a way to sample bed nets and apply conditions and effectiveness on a larger scale. Information gained has major public health and cost implications.

### Several million cases of malaria occur every year.

“There’s lots of opportunity for student projects that can be done here at Trent, partly at the CDC and partly out in the field,” says Prof. Sutcliffe, adding that he’s testing theories in Guatemala and another project run by the CDC should soon be underway in Malawi. ■





## TRENT SPEAKS – HOW DO YOU THINK TRENT SHINES ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE?



**Alumni Perspective**  
Maryam Monsef  
B.Sc. Psychology

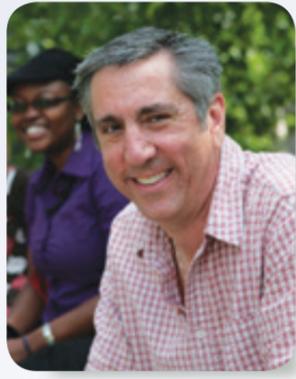
I believe Trent's most significant contribution to the international stage is graduating class after class of innovative and compassionate leaders, but having a global impact isn't

something that Trent students wait to do until after graduation.

Whether they are examining their assumptions and understandings through work-study programs in Ecuador and Ghana, or sponsoring refugee students to come to Peterborough for a Trent education, Trent students are active change agents long before they graduate.

I entered Trent during a rather dark phase in my life. I had very few expectations for myself, let alone my experience at a small university in Peterborough, Ontario. I didn't realize I was committing to building life-long friendships with bright young minds from over 100 countries. In no time, I was consumed by my peers' infectious desire to create opportunities from ashes of despair, to build partnerships in place of conflict and to dare to dream of rebuilding the broken.

I am referring to the student leaders at the helm of the World University Services of Canada, who reminded me that I could make a difference in the lives of my Afghan people with the support of my Peterborough people. I am referring to the team of visionaries at Trent's Active Minds, who taught me the universality of kindness and the importance of conversations in building healthy communities. I am referring to the international students whose stories of life in lands no longer far away taught me to appreciate the necessity of diversity in any undertaking. ■



**Staff Perspective**  
Dr. Michael Allcott, Director  
Trent International Program (TIP)

Since my highest personal value is lifelong global learning, being a part of the vibrant international community at Trent, as we say in TIP, "where the world learns together," gives me the opportunity to live that value every day. I might be having dinner with Trent alumni in Kuala Lumpur, recruiting students in Istanbul, watching a group of Japanese students lead new students

in the Fisherman's Dance on the Bata podium, or banqueting with research partners in Beijing.

It is no accident that this small Canadian university has a strong international reputation. Oftentimes, we're better known in schools and places overseas than we are in other parts of Canada. Our reach is the result of efficient investment of our most valuable resources: our people and our friends in key networks around the globe.

**"... this is a remarkable university, this utterly Canadian place whose people manage to connect in meaningful ways around the world."**

TIP staff believe in the transformational potential of their work in bringing international students together with new friends and mentors. They work to build relationships with each student from the time they are making plans to come to Peterborough, through to enjoying their successes in graduate school, careers and growing families. TIP's commitment and investment in the individual student distinguishes a Trent international students' experience from that of any other.

There are dozens of Trent people, especially faculty, current and in the history of Trent, who have made our international presence. Every person who, not only establishes their international scholarly reputation through their research and work at Trent, but who also goes the next step, and leverages their international accomplishments and networks to the greater advantage of this university, has established our strong reputation.

It is those people, working both in the classroom, in their research, in their interactions and learning friendships with international people, who make me think "wow, this is a remarkable university, this utterly Canadian place whose people manage to connect in meaningful ways around the world." ■



**Student Perspective**  
Ha Nguyen  
Final-year  
Economics

I am originally from the beautiful capital of Vietnam: Hanoi. While completing my GCSE - A levels

in Singapore, I came across Yann Martel's testimony about Trent.

According to Mr. Martel, Trent is a very personal place. The statement immediately formed an intangible connection between Trent and me. In Singapore, Trent is known as a small and excellent liberal arts university. So I applied, and was fortunate enough to become the inaugural recipient of the Justin Chiu Global Citizen Scholarship.

Through the years, I have learned a great deal from exchanges with Trent's professors. Trent offers a wide range of interdisciplinary degrees and emphases, which transcend one particular topic, subject, culture and even ethnicity. I find such programs are useful and practical, as they equip me for any career path in today's dynamic and multicultural society.

I am thankful for the Justin Chiu scholarship as it enables me to gradually actualize my aspiration of being an international law practitioner. Here at Trent University where the world truly convenes and learns to speak a common language of academic challenge and creativity, of friendship and cultural respect, my experience has been nothing short of an adventure. I am proud to be a Trent student. I firmly believe that the experience that I have gained at Trent will enable me to be successful in the next chapter of life, anywhere in the world. ■

## MEET THE INNOVATORS



# Disciplines Merge in Biomaterials Research for Brazil-Canada Exchange Students



**Dr. Suresh Narine and students in the Canada-Brazil Exchange**

Representing three different disciplines – chemistry, dentistry, and sustainability studies – two international graduate students from Brazil were brought together with one from Trent University, through the Brazil-Canada exchange program, to find practical solutions and products in the exciting field of biomaterials at the Trent Centre for Biomaterials Research (TCBR). The TCBR enables researchers to look for ways to replace the fossil fuels used in many everyday products with more environmentally-benign materials such as fats and oils from agricultural crops.

According to Dr. Suresh Narine, director of the TCBR, the fit with Brazil is a natural one. "This collaboration developed out of the amazing strides that Brazil has made in biomaterials. Brazil, of course, has a growing season all year round and the political will to pursue biomaterials. It's a good marriage of technology and opportunity," asserts Prof. Narine.

### Implants with Better Resistance

Janaina Freitas Bortolatto, a Ph.D. student in dentistry from Sao Paulo's State University (UNESP), had some practice in the field of dentistry prior to embarking on her Ph.D. Ms. Bortolatto was able to come to the TCBR with a very concrete direction for her research, in the hopes to return to Brazil with the basis for an environmentally-friendly dental post made out of a linseed oil polymer. "We think that dental posts made out of biomaterials will have better resistance and it makes a lot of sense to use biomaterials in the process, because this is a product that is implanted inside your body," affirms Ms. Bortolatto.



## Practical Solutions in the Works to Replace Fossil-fueled Products

### A Promising New Polymer

Towards the completion of their visit, the group celebrated a small glass vial of polymer produced that Professor Narine called "very promising." According to team member Ivi Martins de Carvalho, a Ph.D. student in Chemical Engineering at the University of Campinas, the polymer is made out of a readily-available Brazilian coconut oil and potentially has the anti-microbial properties that will make it ideal for food packaging.

According to Ms. Carvalho and Ms. Bortolatto, the exchange gave them invaluable access to the resources and know-how that Trent's biomaterials lab has become renowned for. "The biomaterials facilities at Trent offered us a wide variety of equipment and expertise that we don't have readily available in Brazil," explains Ms. Carvalho. "It is incredible to have that much equipment available to a student and all the training that goes with it. Trent really excels in this area."

### Undergraduate Skills at Work

Emily Morrison, a student in Trent University's Sustainability Studies M.A. program, returned from six months in Brazil, where she not only immersed herself in the new culture, but also had an opportunity to apply the results of her collected data. She assisted with setting up a technology transfer department at one of the universities she attended, aimed at helping to get environmentally-friendly products to market.

"We don't have time to work in isolation any longer," says Ms. Morrison. "Countries can't afford to work against each other. We can debate climate change all we want, but at some point we have to address the issue of non-renewable resources, because we will all be looking for the alternatives in the future." ■

**"We don't have time to work in isolation any longer," says Ms. Morrison. "Countries can't afford to work against each other. We can debate climate change all we want..."**



# Understanding Change over Space and Time

## The Trent Experience in Turkey: International Fieldwork with Dr. Hugh Elton

For Professor Hugh Elton, the prospect of a “slow intellectual death” in a quiet southern university was enough to make him take a leap that few would be willing to consider. In 2001, he left his tenure-track position to become the director of the British Institute in Ankara, Turkey for five years.

“It was a risk, but I got lucky when I returned,” says Professor Elton, who, upon his return, was hired by Trent University as professor of Ancient History and Classics and was later appointed as dean of Arts and Science – Humanities, a position he will continue to hold once he completes his sabbatical in 2013. “I’m incredibly happy at Trent,” says Prof. Elton, citing the strong collegial atmosphere as one of its unique features.

In 2008 and 2009 Prof. Elton had the opportunity to bring a team of Trent graduate and undergraduate students back to Turkey. Colleen Johnston, currently in her first year of her Anthropology M.A. at Trent, was one of the undergraduates on that first trip and will be returning to Turkey this summer in order to complete fieldwork for her Master’s thesis.

**“When they hear one of their own peers say ‘this is what I felt being in the Pantheon,’ that reaches them far more effectively than another lecture.”**

### It’s a Large World After All

For Ms. Johnston, the trip was a real eye-opener. “After participating in the field school, I had a much better sense of what I wanted to do with my education, and ultimately, it helped me form career goals. Having the opportunity to take part in the process rather than just reading about the results solidified in my mind that I was on the right track and doing something that I legitimately enjoy for my education.”

According to Prof. Elton, one of the key advantages of field experience is developing a greater understanding of the physicality of a place. “The world’s a big place, and I’m keen on getting people to understand change over space and time,” explains Prof. Elton.

### Early Foundations of Peer Review

“Understanding the physicality of the site is invaluable to a student’s research, and upon their return, they can bring that new understanding into the classroom and share it with their peers in a way that I can’t. When they hear one of their own peers say ‘this is what I felt being in the Pantheon,’ that reaches them far more effectively than another lecture.”

Ms. Johnston agrees. “It was pretty amazing interacting with material outside of casts and pottery in a classroom for the first time. Somehow it’s an entirely different thing to hold a pottery shard in a classroom and to pick one up in the field.”

For Prof. Elton, watching students grow intellectually is one of the most rewarding aspects of the job. “The students here are fantastic and they have tremendously inquiring minds. In my mind, I’m not here as this great professor guiding his young students along. Actually, what I really hope is that I’m training them to destroy me intellectually,” quips Prof. Elton with a laugh. ■

<http://goo.gl/XYSab>



## SPOTLIGHT ON



## Having a Ball Enhances Academic Success

### International Student Rechea Coakley Finds the Balance through Intramural Sports

While second-year Forensic Science student Rechea Coakley came to Trent from her native Nassau, Bahamas on a scholarship, the Dean’s Honour Roll student knew she wanted a university experience that took in more than just academics. For Ms. Coakley, that meant joining the intramural volleyball team where she made important social connections and at the same time, found a fun outlet for the stresses of study.

“It’s a great way to de-stress,” explains Ms. Coakley. “That’s why I make time for it – because if I didn’t, I’d be overwhelmed.”

### From Crime Scene House to Team Captain

Ms. Coakley was attracted to Trent because of its Forensic Science program, but also because of its low faculty-to-student ratio. “There aren’t a lot of forensic programs like the one at Trent,” says Ms. Coakley, who was particularly interested in the idea of the crime-scene house laboratory on site, which provides opportunities for investigative skills like blood spatter analysis, evidence gathering and professional team building.

As an international student, Ms. Coakley found the connections she made through playing intramural sports helped to ease her into her experience at Trent and gave her a social network beyond the classroom to make her feel more at home. As captain of her team this past year,



**International Student Rechea Coakley makes important social connections through athletics**

Ms. Coakley had a chance to pick her own players and was happy to find herself with a team that had a wide range of students (and even one professor) on it. “That’s one of the things I enjoy most about sports - getting to meet people. It’s really just about having fun, trying something new, and getting involved.” ■

## Happiness is Clean Air

### Evidence Shows in the New *International Journal of Happiness and Development*



**Dr. Mak Arvin and Dr. Byron Lew are co-authors in the *International Journal of Happiness and Development***

Economics professors Dr. Mak Arvin and Dr. Byron Lew have co-authored more than half a dozen articles on the subject of happiness over the past few years, and judging by international reaction to their most recent article, “Happiness and Air Pollution: evidence from 14 European countries,” published in the *International Journal of Green Economics*, the world is listening.

### Gross National Happiness

Since the King of Bhutan declared “Gross National Happiness” (GNH) one of his country’s developmental indicators in an attempt to modernize the tiny nation in 1972, economists have taken increasing note of what is now a rapidly expanding field of “happiness studies.” As Professor Arvin observes, the study of happiness, long the turf of psychologists and philosophers,

is increasingly an interdisciplinary subject that ties in economic, political,

psychological, and sociological perspectives.

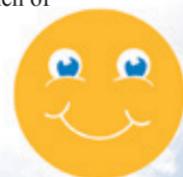
Professors Arvin and Lew’s study drew data from the World Database of Happiness located in the Netherlands (which provides summaries of various surveys on happiness) and the World Development Indicators database of the World Bank, and examined 14 European countries. The results showed a distinct correlation between happiness and air pollution. Simply put, pollution makes Europeans unhappy.

For Prof. Arvin, this is strong support for further regulation of the state of the environment in general and air quality in particular. “Cleaner air will elevate the level of happiness of citizens in Europe and we suspect in other regions around the globe,” asserts Prof. Arvin. “In addition, measures ought to be taken by policy makers to improve their citizens’ degree of life satisfaction, since the latter could result in lower air pollution.”

### Happiness Journal Begins at Trent

Late last year, the field of happiness studies was given a new venue with the launch of Prof. Arvin’s *International Journal of Happiness and Development (IJHD)* – the first journal to address happiness beyond the psychological perspective and to link it to developmental indicators. The journal’s first issue has also received international attention (in particular for its article examining the correlation between happiness and intelligence) and features articles from such luminaries as Dr. Richard Easterlin, long considered the father of the field.

For Prof. Arvin, the hope is that *IJHD* will become the leading journal in the field. “I don’t know what the future issues of the journal will bring,” states Prof. Arvin, but notes that readers should expect more of the same cutting-edge research by leading economists as published in the first issue. ■



**... the first journal to address happiness beyond the psychological perspective and to link it to developmental indicators.**

<http://goo.gl/RSoSu>





## INVESTING IN TRENT

# Scotiabank Partners with Trent University to Develop Tomorrow's Leaders around the World



## Scotiabank International Student Scholarship & Prize Awarded to First Recipients

“We believe that every Trent student should have the opportunity to develop his or her sense of global citizenship by living, learning, and making lasting friendships with people from many parts of the world,” says Dr. Michael Allcott, director of the Trent International Program (TIP).

### Remarkable, Ethical Investment

Trent is well known internationally for what Dr. Allcott enthusiastically calls a “remarkable ethical investment in students,” and Scotiabank’s generous donation to the University complements that investment on an international scale.

The donation, provided through the Bank’s grassroots and global philanthropic program Scotiabank Bright Future, will be used to provide scholarship support to students attending Trent University from countries where Scotiabank operates internationally. It will also be used to provide a prize that supports students on exchange programs at Trent partner universities where Scotiabank operates.

“This gift from Scotiabank gave me the rare opportunity to study independently abroad,” says international student Maryam Azraa Azizuddin, the first recipient. “I truly believe that Trent provides each individual, both internationally and locally, the push to succeed in what we’re strongest in.” Ms. Azizuddin hopes to complete a joint major in History and International Development Studies to pursue a career as a human rights officer.

### Top Academics Targeted

Scotiabank International Scholars will be chosen based on achievement in academic excellence and awarded approximately CAD\$5,000 annually per student, depending on

financial need. Scotiabank International Prize recipients will also be selected based on the same criteria and awarded some CAD\$3,000 per student to cover costs associated with travel and living abroad.

“Scotiabank is so pleased to be able to partner with Trent to provide this unique opportunity that can help broaden students’ perspectives,” says Sue Graham Parker, Executive Vice President of Global Human Resources at Scotiabank and Trent

University alumna. “Our bank operates in some 55 countries and we know firsthand how important having a global mindset is to enabling economic and social progress around the world. I’m proud that we can support the Trent International Program to drive this type of progress at the academic level and help develop a global mindset among its students.”



Dr. Michael Allcott gets to know international students



### Support for Communities Globally a Natural Fit

With a long history of supporting communities through the Scotiabank Bright Future program, “Scotiabank’s contribution is a natural fit with Trent University’s ongoing international philanthropic efforts,” says Dr. Allcott. “This donation will allow for the continued growth of Trent’s already acclaimed reputation for attracting the best students from around the globe.”

According to Dr. Allcott, Trent University led the way for Canadian academic institutions “long before Canadian universities were awake to the potential for recruiting international students.” Fulfilling the global need for ethical engagement in international education, TIP allows Trent students from a variety of disciplines to benefit from a significant, globally-conscious program as they continue to excel on the international scene.

Scotiabank is a leading, multinational financial services provider and Canada’s most international bank. Like Trent University, Scotiabank is dedicated to developing leaders. With operations in more than 55 countries, Scotiabank’s multinational footprint uniquely positions it to identify and develop talent from around the world. As well, through its global Bright Future program, Scotiabank’s charitable efforts are aimed at being relevant and responsive to the needs of local communities at a grassroots level. ■



## MATTER OF COURSE

### Canada, Globalization, and International Development

IDST – POST – CAST 4240Y

Professor: Dr. Hasmet M. Uluorta



Dr. Hasmet Uluorta brings students together in discussion

“This is unique to Canada; no one else offers this course,” says Dr. Hasmet Uluorta, assistant professor of Political Studies and International Development Studies (IDST).

Canada, Globalization, and International Development is a fourth-year, interdisciplinary course, cross-listed between the Departments of IDST, Political Studies, and Canadian Studies.

According to Prof. Uluorta, the three pillars of the course around which all topics are discussed are: Canada as a national and regional space, Canada’s place within international development, and globalization.

### Respected Participants in Discussion

Prof. Uluorta likes to refer to his students as participants – out of respect, and to emphasize the need for contributions from everyone. He asks for blog-style pieces to be written and shared with other participants on a weekly basis. Blogs, says Prof. Uluorta, invite a more creative approach to discussion.

“Students come into the classroom with a great deal of knowledge and depth and my job, as I see it, is to synthesize all of that previous knowledge – from other courses, other readings, readings I’ve collected, and to bring them all together so we can discuss them.”

**“This is unique to Canada; no one else offers this course,” says Dr. Hasmet Uluorta, assistant professor of Political Studies and International Development Studies.**

“When participants come into the course, I expect them to read the material, give it some thought, and to be prepared to discuss,” he says. “It’s not just people articulating what they know. In some instances, we have more questions than answers. I think that’s just the nature of the course.”

The full-year course consists of one two-hour weekly seminar with ongoing participation through discussion as the greater part of the curriculum. Participants are asked to deliver two presentations per semester based on assigned readings and weekly blogs. One take-home exam each semester is designed to synthesize the course content. Participants also conduct independent research with a paper topic of their own choosing, approximately 8-14 pages in length.

### Skills for Engaged Citizens and Professionals of the Future

“It’s a good course for anyone who wants to develop the skill of synthesizing a broad range of information and presenting it in a condensed and engaging manner to others as a step to initiating discussion.”

A skill that is pertinent, Prof. Uluorta points out, in almost every aspect of professional, educational and civic engagement. ■



## GRADUATE STUDIES

### Canadian Studies: A View from New York City

#### Trent Ph.D. Student Examines the Canadian Labourer’s Experience



Julia Smith benefits from access to archival collections across the border

For Canadian Studies Ph.D. student Julia Smith, New York was the perfect place to pursue her research.

While Ms. Smith’s research focusses on Canadian labour organizing in the post-World War II period, she recognizes the fluidity of boundaries when it comes to her subject.

“Given the transnational nature of North American labour movements, it is critical to examine the experience of Canadian workers alongside those of their American counterparts,” explains Ms. Smith.

The Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives at NYU, where she recently completed six months of research, contains one of the largest collections of archival and secondary materials on labour and the left in American history. “It’s a huge collection and it’s really one of the best places to get a sense of things that happened in American labour organizing.”

A \$6,000 grant from the Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements Program helped make Ms. Smith’s research goals achievable.

### Enhancing Research with Study Abroad

“This award meant a great deal to me as it significantly enhanced my doctoral research,” explains Ms. Smith, who had previously been the recipient of a Canada Graduate Scholarship (a prerequisite for the grant). “I was fortunate in that I was able to do research as well as audit two courses and meet with prominent academics working in my field. As such, I was able to benefit from access to archival collections relevant to my research, but also the knowledge and expertise of other students and academics working and studying in my field. Indeed, some of the best tips and leads came from these folks.”

Ms. Smith recommends study abroad without hesitation: “The entire experience was memorable and life-changing,” concludes Ms. Smith. “I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to live and study in another city or country to do so.” ■



## Taking Students Abroad Trent's Year Abroad Program in Thailand and the Mexico Exchange Program

Currently teaching in the Indigenous Studies Ph.D. program at Trent, Dr. Don McCaskill teaches courses in social and cultural issues. An exciting aspect of his teaching includes his international work with students in their integrated year of study in Chiang Mai, Thailand. Courses in the Thai language, and Indigenous Cultures in Thailand, are among the educational opportunities available to students.

"Everything I've experienced in Thailand has helped me to grow," says Stephanie Cruz, a Trent student in her first year of the Year Abroad Program. "I've been able to work with an international NGO (non-governmental organization) to help with wild elephant conservation, to see strong communities, rotational self-subsistence farming, and some of the best scenery."

### Checking in with Students in Thailand

Professor McCaskill travels twice per year to Thailand to conduct integrated seminars where students give presentations on their field placements. He oversees some significant moments as students present the results of their hands-on research in the field.

From January to April students are immersed in their field-study full-time. They go to Indigenous villages or work in NGO's in all sorts of fields – environmental studies, orphanages, schools, economic development – they have placements all over Southeast Asia – also in Laos, China, Indonesia, and India.

### Summers in the Mountains of Mexico

The Mexico exchange program offers further diversity for Prof. McCaskill's teaching methodologies. He leads a summer course at the Universidad de la Tierra in Oaxaca, taking part in the North American Mobility Program and summer course for the past five years.

"In a combination of lectures and field trips to Indigenous communities in the mountains in Oaxaca, and working with Indigenous groups in the villages, students visit traditional groups and look at models for self-government and traditional healing," explains Prof. McCaskill.

As part of the North America Mobility Program (NAMP) the exchange also partners Trent with the Universidad Tecnologica del Valle del Mezquital. As the lead school,

*Dr. Don McCaskill leads the way in Indigenous Studies and Study Abroad in Thailand*



Trent implements a federally sponsored program (NAMP), providing opportunities for students from Mexico, Canada and the U.S.

The founding director of the Indigenous Studies Ph.D. program at Trent University, Dr. McCaskill has taught in the department for forty years and was the chair for twelve. His ongoing commitment to Indigenous issues attests to the passion and enthusiasm of Trent's long-standing interest and investment in Indigenous Studies on a global level. ■



## Trent Fellowships with Netherlands' International Institute of Social Studies Rare International Learning Opportunities for Trent's Graduate Students

### Important Perspectives Outside of the Comfort Zone

The value of an international perspective is now, more than ever before, an academic essential, according to Dr. Haroon Akram-Lodhi, professor and chair of International Development Studies (IDS) at Trent. "Our connections with the rest of the world through social media are closer and tighter than they've ever been in human history and that means that as a scholar, it is critical to be informed

by perspectives from outside your comfort zone - outside Canada, the U.S., and Western Europe - to be informed by perspectives from around the world," he advocates.

Now Professor Akram-Lodhi has helped to create a rare international learning opportunity for Trent students through his connections to the prestigious International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam in The Hague, the Netherlands, where he taught for 12 years before coming to Trent. The result is a new program starting this fall that will open up two heavily subsidized fellowship positions to Trent students wishing to attend the intensive 15-month Master's program.

Each year ISS welcomes 200 Master's students, with 175 of them from Asia, Africa, and Latin America, and only 25 from North America and other countries. The international network that is formed from such a venture is, according to Prof. Akram-Lodhi, second to none, and will stand students in good stead for their future studies.

### The Biggest Benefit

"I think the biggest benefit from studying at the ISS is that you end up having a very close relationship with the academics just as you do at Trent. The faculty is incredibly accessible," he observes.

For Prof. Akram-Lodhi, there are no better students for this opportunity than Trent students. "Trent students are the best I've ever had in my professional career and teaching them is an absolute joy," he maintains. "These students go on to do such amazing things. They are passionately committed to their field of study and they really want to make a difference."

### Facing the Global Challenges

"It's incredibly important to have an international perspective at this point because it seems to me that the three great challenges facing the planet as a whole are international challenges: the challenge of climate change, the challenge of rising global inequality, and the challenge of combating poverty, all three of which are very closely interconnected and cannot be addressed by nations on their own. We have to take a global perspective in addressing these challenges." ■

## Trent/Fleming Nursing Students Engage with Friends of Honduran Children Setting up Primary Healthcare in Remote Villages



*Dr. Patti Lynn Tracey and students from the Trent/Fleming School of Nursing*

Each short-term medical mission is two weeks, mobilizing a multi-disciplinary team of doctors and nurses, pharmacists, dentists and nursing students. A twenty-person team is set up with Honduran interpreters and logistics people in small villages in churches or schools.

The multidisciplinary team travels to Honduran sites in February and then, the following October, students from the nursing program take part in Honduran field placements – comprised in part by a promotional and educational project around health teaching. Areas such as oral hygiene and pre-natal health are among the areas addressed during the placement.

### In the Wake of Global Devastation

Professor Tracey's research is primarily concerned with looking at the role and impact of short-term medical missions in the rural regions of Honduras. "For me, it's about trying to be accountable in the work we do in Honduras," she says. "International experiences such as the community nursing placement in Honduras are beneficial for students to increase their understanding of the influence of culture on health, to practice with diverse populations

and to foster a global perspective. International experiences and partnerships are powerful mechanisms to engage the next generation of nurses."

The massive damage and death toll caused by Hurricane Mitch in 1998 destroyed the national infrastructure and isolated cities and small villages, leaving thousands of families homeless, unemployed, and with little to no source of income. The World Health Organization and the Pan-American Health Organization provide assistance to a variety of smaller grass roots programs.

Logistics workers from these larger groups assist with the Trent/Fleming program in the early stages where they identify isolated villages in need and then put together nursing teams for February or October visits based on village needs. Friends of Honduran Children and the relatively recent involvement by Trent/Fleming contribute significantly to an ongoing effort to assist in the wake of global devastation. ■



When Dr. Patti Lynn Tracey joined the faculty in the Trent/Fleming nursing program, she brought with her the Friends of Honduran Children – an organization she had been working with for fourteen years. In October 2012, she took eighteen nursing students to Honduras, where they took part in a variety of community health projects. In collaboration with logistics workers familiar with the needs of rural regions, Professor Tracey and her team travel to remote villages and set up makeshift primary healthcare facilities twice per year.

## MEET A TRENT STUDENT



**Constance Dupuis**  
Third-Year, International Development Studies

If students could earn bonus marks for mileage per degree, third-year International Development Studies student Constance Dupuis would be among the leaders in points. She has lived in Rwanda, Bangladesh and Ecuador and explored beyond borders to learn the differences in which humans shape, and interact in, their communities.

“My favourite part of my time at Trent has been the community I’ve found here,” says Ms. Dupuis. “I came to Trent for the International Development Studies (IDST) program, knowing its reputation for excellence. Having had many family members attend Trent, I felt a strong need to break the trend, but I couldn’t find a better program. So here I am.”

### Travel Expands Research Interests

“Trent brings a layer of constructive critique of the way the world is right now that has been very informative for me. The IDST Department happens to be full of engaging and dedicated professors. I haven’t been disappointed by a single course... I have been pushed to explore my thinking and uncover my particular research interests.”

Ms. Dupuis talks about the great experience she had on an internship program of three months in Bangladesh, exploring the feasibility of coupling homestead food production microfinance programs that target rural landless and marginal farmers.

“It was a great learning experience for me, but easily the most important part was the relationship we were able to build with our mentor.”

**“Trent brings a layer of constructive critique of the way the world is right now that has been very informative...”**

### Working with Youth in Ecuador

From that excursion, Ms. Dupuis went into her third year with the Trent-in-Ecuador program, an eight-month live/work/study-abroad objective enabling students to get practical experience within the framework and challenges of a developing country.

The program, established by Trent University 20 years ago, placed Ms. Dupuis and her classmates in a classroom for four months preparing logistically and mentally for the following semester’s placements. They were then “scattered across the country with community organizations or NGOs,” she says. “I was working on the coast with a group of youth who were doing all kinds of political consciousness-raising and having conversations about politics in the region.”

When the academic year was complete, Ms. Dupuis spent the summer travelling through Central and South America.

### A Future Leader in Action

Now only months away from graduating, she is busy organizing the IDST Community Movements Conference, an annual exploration of themes “not exclusive to international development but timely,” Ms. Dupuis explains. “This is the longest-running, student-led conference at the undergraduate level in international development in North America.”

And when asked what’s next, Constance doesn’t hesitate: “I am looking into grad programs, looking into work opportunities and will be applying to grad schools – but not until September 2014.”

It’s safe to assume Constance will have worn out many shoes and seen many passport pages stamped before she does return to the academic stream. And the global community will likely be the better for it. ■

<http://goo.gl/Wy3Vg>



## Ethnic Tensions Begone

European countries seeking to defuse ethnic tensions can benefit from looking at Canadian multiculturalism, says Dr. Feyzi Baban, associate professor in the Departments of International Development Studies and Political Studies.

Professor Baban is examining four European countries – Britain, Sweden, France, and Germany – to compare how multiculturalism is embraced, and what influence minorities have in shaping multicultural policies. His study



draws comparisons to Canada’s experience. “Canada does a relatively successful job of taking people from all over the

world and integrating them into society,” he says. “This can largely be attributed to the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which mediates broad citizenship rights with specific cultural ones.”

Prof. Baban has discovered that Britain and Sweden, which are beginning to acknowledge and accommodate cultural differences, have less ethnic tension than Germany and France, where migrants are expected to assume traditional German and French identities. By comparing the experiences of these countries, and contrasting them with Canada, he hopes to produce a body of knowledge that will generate a debate within Europe and inform the development of multicultural policies.

## Life during Wartime

During the Vietnam War, western audiences were riveted by scenes of anti-war demonstrations and images, while the citizens of South Vietnam were attempting to get on with their everyday lives.

Dr. Van Nguyen-Marshall, an associate professor of History, is examining the ways middle-class Vietnamese formed clubs, charities, and other social organizations, as a means of coping during the war. “There continues to be a high level of interest in the Vietnam War,” says Professor Nguyen-Marshall, “but most research has focused on the military aspect. This is one of the first studies that will look at society and, in particular, associational life during that time.”

Prof. Nguyen-Marshall is hoping to provide a sense of what ordinary Vietnamese were doing during the war and to give them an appreciation of cultural differences. By learning how local people reacted to a war that was being waged by outsiders, western societies may better understand the attitudes of local cultures that they encounter in other international conflicts, such as Afghanistan.



## Herding Liberal Democracy

An African success story, the nation of Botswana stands out for achieving economic and political stability. Dr. Jacqueline Solway, professor of International Development Studies and Anthropology, attributes this to a successful liberal democracy in which the livestock industry has played an important role.

For Professor Solway, the livestock industry provides a lens through which to understand the process of building democracy in Botswana. She explains that, in the early years, livestock were the primary source of wealth, for both rich and poor. The industry was organized to be inclusive and provided material benefits to all sectors of society.

“The organization of the livestock industry helped foster trust in the state and citizen identification with it,” says Prof. Solway.

“It’s important, especially in Africa, to understand the components that contribute to the development of a successful democracy,” says Prof. Solway. “While each case is unique, in Botswana the social history of the livestock industry offers us some clues that can be constructive and helpful to other nations.”



## A Glimpse into the Latest Findings at Trent

### All in the Family

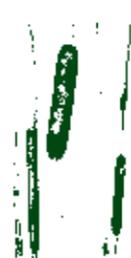
Working in a family-run restaurant or retail business is not uncommon for Chinese immigrants settling in urban France. But, as Dr. Winnie Lem has discovered, immigrant women can become marginalized and excluded from society at large, because of heavy demands of being on-call mothers, wives and workers.

“Immigrants face many challenges,” says Professor Lem, a professor in the Departments of International Development Studies and Gender & Women’s Studies. “Not only do they have to cope with earning a living, but they must negotiate the challenging terrain of citizenship in which the pressures to assimilate, integrate, and be accepted co-exist with marginalization and exclusion.”

Prof. Lem’s research explores how Chinese and southeast Asian migrants in France pursue livelihoods by making transnational networks and connections. In particular, she studies family businesses operated by immigrants, to shed light on the kind of relationships that develop to ensure sustainability, as well as the types of issues that arise amongst newcomers in dealing with broader society.

“Questions of immigration have global relevance, so anything we can learn about how immigrants live from day to day in their adopted countries is important,” says Prof. Lem.

### Invasive Ornamentals



Those ornamental plants you enjoy growing in your garden may be contributing to the ruin of our wetlands, according to Dr. Joanna Freeland, associate professor of Biology.

Professor Freeland studies species of Phragmites and Typha, commonly known as reeds and cattails, which have become aggressive invaders of wetlands around the Great Lakes. “We need to better understand invasive species because they are altering habitat, reducing biodiversity, and impacting agriculture and forestry,” says Prof. Freeland. “Part of this is knowing where they come from, which in turn can help us figure out the entry routes.”

Through DNA analysis, she has discovered that invasive Phragmites in eastern Canada originated in the UK, while an invasive species of Typha came from Europe. Both are sold by retail garden centres as ornamental plants. They are then unwittingly introduced into local ecosystems.

“There are no laws that prevent nurseries from selling plants from other countries,” points out Prof. Freeland. “But by determining that retailers are importing and selling invasive plants from Europe, we can help governments figure out what to do with respect to legislation.”

### 2012 Faculty Publications Listing Online at [trentu.ca/showcase](http://trentu.ca/showcase)

In keeping with Trent University’s commitment to sustainability and the environment, we are pleased to announce that the Faculty Publications list will be available online. The List features peer-reviewed publications that appeared in press between September 1, 2011 and August 31, 2012.



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