

TRENT is published three times a year in June, September and February, by the Trent University Alumni Association. Unsigned comments reflect the opinion of the editor only.

Trent University Alumni Association
Alumni House, Champlain College,
Trent University
Peterborough, Ontario, K9J 7B8
705.748.1573 or 1.800.267.5774, Fax: 705.748.1785
Email: alumni@trentu.ca

www.trentu.ca/alumni

EDITOR • MANAGING EDITOR

Donald Fraser '91

COPY EDITOR

Martin Boyne '86

DESIGN

Beeline Design & Communications

CONTRIBUTORS

Marilyn Burns '00, Donald Fraser '91,
Lee Hays '91, Stephen Hill, Owen Kane '08,
Elizabeth Popham, Carly Snider '03, Christina Vasilevski '03,
Robert Taylor-Vaisey '66

EDITORIAL BOARD

Marilyn Burns '00, Carly Snider '03,
Christina Vasilevski '03, Kathleen Easson '78,
Donald Fraser '91, Lee Hays '91

PRINTING and BINDING

Maracle Press, Oshawa

TUAA COUNCIL HONORARY PRESIDENT

T.H.B. Symons

PRESIDENT

Robert Taylor-Vaisey '66

PAST PRESIDENT

Adam Guzkowski '95

VP, CAMPUS AFFAIRS

Vacant

VP, INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Kylie Patrick '94

VP, EXTERNAL RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS

Jovan Groen '01

VP, MEMBERSHIP

Jonathan Lake '92

COUNCILLORS

Bianca Bannister '03, Fallon Butler '00, Cheryl Coss '05,
Laura Elliott '00, Hamdy Faye '05,
Evan Fleming '04, Dean Howley '06,
Iain MacFarlane '95, Jonathan Pinto '06, Erin Whitton '97

BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Murray Miskin '73, Robin Quantick '78

SENATE REPRESENTATIVE

Adam Guzkowski '95 (Acting)

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Lenaee Dupuis '91 (Golden Horseshoe) • Gord Stencell '93 •
(Kingston) • vacant (National Capital) • Maile Loweth Reeves
'79 (York Region) • Caleb Smith '93 & Heather Davis '86
(Niagara Region) • Laura Suchan '84 (Oshawa/Durham Region)
• vacant (Belleville/Quinte) • An Kosurko '92 (Peterborough)
• vacant (Southwestern Ontario) • vacant (Toronto) • vacant
(Calgary) • vacant (Edmonton) • James Currier '05 (Vancouver)
• vacant (Vancouver Island) • Derrick Farnham '83 (Montreal)
• David Wallbridge '96 (Halifax/Dartmouth) • Allan Barnfield
'91 (London/Middlesex) • vacant (Fredericton/NB) • Melissa
Leroux '99 (Georgian Triangle) • Mindy Willett '88 (Yellowknife)
• Gordon Copp '76 (British Isles) • Patrick Lam '86 (Hong
Kong) • Mas Dati Samani '82 (Malaysia) • Aznan Abu Bakar '93
(Singapore) • Andrew Homer '86 (Tokyo)

DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS

Lee Hays '91

ALUMNI HOUSE & SERVICES COORDINATOR

Kathleen Easson '78

ALUMNI SERVICES COORDINATOR

Sue Robinson

ALUMNI AFFAIRS ASSISTANT

Sylvia Hennessy



EDITOR'S NOTES

Teaching: Attention, Nurturing, and Care

DONALD FRASER '91

Sometimes I consider myself lucky.

Lucky to be where I am right now. Lucky to be living a life that, while not exactly as I dreamt it as a youth, is at least reasonably close.

I always wanted to be a writer, you see. And I always wanted to be able to teach. While I didn't see myself as a traditional educator, I knew that I wanted to be able to pass on skills, interact with others, make the world a better place through my words and ideas.

And here I am.

I spend most of my days pecking away at a computer keyboard, dog at my feet, a woodstove burning when the mornings are particularly chilly. It's a slow week if I'm not published somewhere. I've spent the bulk of the past decade either writing for local media or creating community-based environmental education programs.

I haven't written the Great Canadian Novel (yet). And my wife, Krista, is the one who spends her days at the front of a classroom. But I'm doing what I've always wanted to do and am reasonably proud.

Those who know me well will tell you that it was far from a sure bet that I would ever succeed. I had some issues with learning disabilities, with distraction. I had a penchant for stubborn independence. Trouble seemed to follow me around.

All of this could have made my university experience a waste of time...

Had it not been for some incredible teachers and mentors.

There isn't space here to list them all. Anyone who has gone to Trent will tell you that they had many instructors who helped them along the way.

I had Professor Constantin Boundas for first-year philosophy.

Professor Boundas was a few years removed from winning the Symons Award for Excellence in Teaching, and his ability to recognize when a student needed a combination of nurturing and challenge led me to write some of my best papers. It was Constantin who first got me to dig deep academically.

And I had Stephen Brown as an academic advisor. Professor Brown won the Symons Award during my second year. It was not difficult to see why: Stephen truly understood that, in order to succeed in the classroom, you had to succeed as a human being. He helped mentor me. He helped keep me in the Trent fold when I was threatening to leave it all behind. When trouble went from merely following me around to knocking loudly at my door, he showed me the strength needed to bravely answer.

And I thank him for it.

In this issue of *Trent Magazine*, we are featuring Trent Alumni who went on to win teaching awards at their alma mater. What is truly incredible is that there are 12 of our fellow alumni who have turned this trick—an even dozen that attended Trent and then went on to win awards by teaching here.

I'm never going to be mistaken for an award-winning university professor. But, through my time at Trent, I understand how it is that Trent has managed to produce so many.

Through a combination of attention, nurturing, and care, Trent faculty help us realize the importance of being, not just good academics, but good people as well.

And it is the good people who win teaching awards. Every time. ✦

We'd love to hear from you

Drop us a line today at
trentmagazine@trentu.ca