Hello and welcome to the not so distant learning podcast, which is a podcast by the people at Trent online. My name is Terry Greene. I am an e-learning designer with Trent online and I'm here with my co-host and guests. Fergal O'Hagen and Maureen Glynn. Welcome. Hello. Thank you. Fergal, do you want to tell us a bit about yourself before we dig in? So I'm a professor in the Department of Psychology at Trent. And my background is mainly in health psychology. But I also taught courses in statistics, motivation and emotion behavior modification. I came on board Trent online in July of this year, and I'm working in the capacity of Director at this point. I'm really, really enjoying it and getting involved with the team. And cool stuff like this. Yeah, thanks for joining us today. And how about you Maureen, tell us a bit about yourself. So I'm currently senior e-learning designer with Trent online. I joined the team back in November 2018. So I guess it's been almost two years and have enjoyed all of my time here. It's a growing team. So when I first arrived, we were a pretty lean, small team, but we're getting bigger now and learning lots as we work together. Before I worked here at Trent, I worked with a team at Ryerson University called digital education strategies. And I also was fortunate to spend some time researching and working as an open education follow with e campus Ontario. Very cool. So we're sharing a little document here of a list of topics we're going over just so that we stay on track. The first question there and I think I'll direct it first to Maureen because you've been here. Compared to Fergal and I, an epically long time in almost two years. And so tell us, what is Trent online? What is Trent online? Trent Online is a part of a part of trent that is committed to supporting high quality online teaching and learning. So I, I, I think we're a team that spends our time. Collaborating with faculty but also our colleagues across the university in IT. we're part of the CTL. So we worked with the great people Centre for Teaching and Learning. People in the library with the goal of trying to make online teaching and learning as supportive for students and faculty as possible. When I first joined Trent, we were certainly focused exclusively, I would say on what we would call web courses are fully online courses, but now it's 2020 and life is different for everyone. So I would say that our mandates may be expanded a bit and maybe that's a great point at which to hand things over to Fergal and he can share share his thoughts on what is Trent online? Yeah, I guess for me, Trent Online first and foremost Is our team a really talented and dedicated group of folk who are our focus, like Maureen said on, on quality, online teaching and learning. And where things have evolved. From a point where, you know, like you're saying Maureen. The focus was mainly on developing online courses to supporting faculty now in this remote teaching model that we're using. And then moving forward, you know, where things land from here is going to be an interesting thing because I can imagine that there are going to be faculty and students as well that will look to incorporate aspects of online learning into face-to-face courses. So I think our, our model is liable to shift from this kind of dichotomy that we're, we have online courses and face to face courses into something where we have these interesting hybrids. And I think that, that, I think that that's potentially very positive thing for student experience and, and for faculty as well. Oh, I totally agree. I think so many people are really having to focus in on just how teaching and learning works because of the shifts. So there's silver lining in all of this difficulty. And even like, even I'm thinking when I'm hearing students say that they like they really miss their colleagues , they miss the interactions that direct social interactions they have with people. You know, I think, I think we can see things from a little bit from both sides now, where we can see the value of online learning and online learning components included in face to face courses. Yet we can, you know, and maybe even more. And we sort of appreciate what we had in certain respects. And the struggle that we're faced with in trying to reproduce that in an online, purely online environment. I'm going to ask you Fergal, this one next. And this is not on our list of maybe... I'm going rogue... why a Podcast? What do we do with this podcast? So podcasts like for me, for one thing, podcasts are such an accessible way to communicate and inner, inner, maybe not interact as a more one way, right? Man, I'm like, I'm just sort of a podcast junkie. I'm on CBC podcasts and a number

of other podcasts. And it's just such a useful way for me to get information, really direct my attention towards things that interest me. So I had that kind of personal proclivity toward podcasts. And I so I thought, you know, I'm thinking that this is such a great vehicle for us at Trent online to be able to get out and reach our, our, our folks, faculty, the trent community and beyond around the kinds of amazing things that we're doing in a very sort of accessible and kind of low demand way where we can bring faculty that are doing amazing things in their courses online with the help of you and Maureen and others on the team. To talk about these things and sharing them with faculty, maybe peaking interests and having people sort of get excited about what can be done in online learning. So that's what I'd like to see for the podcast. And and you know, it gives us, it gives, gives us a Trent Online . It gives us a face out and I think it helps us to connect Terry really Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Like I remember us all talking in a in a team meeting about how our trent online website, it's got a refresh. But it's, it's for students as it should be, that students need to know what online learning at Trent is all about. But, but we in trent online, we also want to talk to faculty and teachers about how this all works and what we can do to help. So I think the podcast hopefully will, because that's our target audiences is faculty. So hoping we'll get, sneak into their ears here and there by, by podcasting. So Maureen, Let me ask you this because I believe you came up with the name. Why why is it called the not so distant learning podcast? I think it partly came to mind because there hasn't been so much change this year. And understandably, I think both for students and faculty, there. A sense of legitimate kind of grief over what's maybe lost. But I think in our work, part of what we have been able to help out with is helping people to realize that you're learning, you're teaching your communication is somehow mediated perhaps by things like your computer and your learning management system. And the terms like remote or used in describing your learning and your teaching doesn't mean that you can't connect in really, really meaningful ways and find ways to kind of bridge Many people into a more cohesive community that feel one another's presence and that feel that there's authentic connection there. And in that respect that you're really not that far removed from one another. That's kind of how, how that not so distant learning name came to mind because it just, it doesn't have to be that way. And so we're hoping that the work that we do at trend online helps people to feel that it's not as distant as it has to be. I'm going to ask Fergal , you about how this is going to unfold the episodes. And I think it's going to kind of be a bit like some TV shows out there like true detective and American horror story. Those ones that like there are these seasons. And then the other seasons are completely different. And we have an idea of what the first season is going to look like. Forgot to, you know what I'm getting at and can you tell us what the kinda the first season will be about? Yeah, I think I think I like the analogy with true detective and Fargo' s and other one, I think. Yeah. So I guess we what we've been talking about, the three of us has been theming, it up... theming seasons up And I think we wanted to bring we wanted to kind of focus on connection with us one, community engagement. And so the idea is to bring in, bring, bring ideas about that general theme into focus through specific examples of practices of things that are going on in courses at Trent . And I think we're going to make, we're gonna make reference to the more recent courses that have been developed over the last couple years, I guess since Maureen came on board. But really anything that helps develop that idea of connection and community of engagement in our courses. And each episode is going to, as far as we have planned so far, have a guest where we will focus on that specific example. And, and with due to the wonders and magic of Technology, one of those episodes is already recorded. It's magic. Can you magic, can you give us a little? Spoiler alert ...teaser discussion of what Episode one, because we're calling this episode 0. What will episode one be like? So Episode one features Amanda Paxton, who we were lucky enough to work with this past summer on a course called Write In Time . It is a foundational writing course that really helps to set students up for success with the core writing skills that they need as they embark on their undergraduate academic career. And we touched on all sorts of things in the

episode. Plants, karate. We touched on all sorts of things, but I don't wanna give away too much because it was it was a fun conversation. But I think it was a great opportunity to just hear about how she felt working through her first online course development. And one spoiler I will share is that prior to working with our team, amanda
 had never taught online, never designed an online course, and had never taken an online course. So So she shares a lot It was a fun episode for sure. Absolutely. It was great to chat with her. And we kind of thought like sub-theme of it was that the course that came out of that work was lower bandwidth, lower immediacy, but high engagement. And I think that's true. Yeah. So if you're listening to this and look forward to that being released shortly after this since they will both be ready. Which leads to a question I guess I kinda should ask myself because I might be in the best position. The question being, where will this podcast live? There is a internet radio station slash podcast hosting space called voice Ed radio, which hosts like probably a 100 or so by now, different educational podcasts. And we're gonna get ourselves show page there. And from there, it would feed out to all the other podcast places like Apple podcasts and Google Play and Spotify all the places. But it will also live on yet to be procured. Blog, Trent online blog, dot. It will be a place for us to share even more broadly. This is kinda step one in the greater Trent online sharing universe. So we'll be sharing not only podcasts episodes but probably also lightboard videos and reflective blog posts and all kinds of cool stuff. So we're looking forward to sharing that out. And you know, the only way to feed that space with content is to talk to you, the people we hope are listening in and get your stories too. So if you're interested in sharing things we're working on, we're interested in talking to you and sharing it in any of those spaces. And one of the thing I think we should cover for sure is that as you listened to episodes, we definitely want to make sure you hear all the voices of all the people at Trent online. So we hope to hear from help me make sure I'm not missing anyone. Yeah, sure. So we've got obviously yourself, Maureen Glynn Terry Greene, Kristine Weglarz , Stephanie Park, Katrina Keefer, all e learning designers We have Josh Andrews, Christian Metaxas E-learning technologists. We have Brandon Remmelgas , who takes care of all things administrative Can't forget about Susan Yates a curriculum designer and consultant with us she focuses on sciences. as of this recording. And very apropos for the spooky month of October, Christian has been resurrected and is back on the team and we're very excited about that to have yeah. Okay. So I want to thank the two of you so much for your time in introducing the world to the not so distant learning podcast. And we can't wait to put it out there and make more and more episodes. So helping kick it off. Thanks very much.