ONE OCEAN
ONE FUTURE
2,700 scientists, 80 countries, 9,000 days at sea, 30 million observations—Memorial takes a lead role in a historic census of marine life

SPECIAL FEATURE
Meet the remarkable recipients of the 2010 Alumni Tribute Awards
A lot of car for the money.”
- John Phillips, Consumer Reports

2011 Subaru Impreza 2.5i Sedan

ACCLAIMED AROUND THE WORLD. DRIVEN RIGHT HERE.

NEW LOCATION: 150 Kenmount Road, St. John’s, NL | www.capitalsubaru.ca
features

04 A FITTING TRIBUTE  Meet the remarkable recipients of the 2010 Alumni Tribute Awards

10 WATER, ICE AND STEEL  Understanding sustainable Technology for Polar Ships and Structures

13 LIFTING THE LID OFF BIG BLUE  An interview with Glenn Blackwood, executive director of Memorial’s Fisheries and Marine Institute

18 PUTTING THE OCEAN BACK TOGETHER  The Census of Marine Life is a historic first for global collaboration on marine biodiversity—and Memorial has taken a lead role

24 WE WILL REMEMBER THEM  The second instalment in a series of profiles by Bert Riggs looking back at the careers of veterans from the First and Second World Wars who attended Memorial. In this issue, the decorated war hero Thomas R. Ricketts

29 CAN OF SHAME  Original fiction from Winterset Award winner and Memorial’s current writer-in-residence, Jessica Grant

in every issue

02 MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

08 CAMPUS CONNECTIONS  An update from Grenfell Campus on the Smart Basin project and deepwater species research at the Ocean Sciences Centre

16 IN THE MIDDLE  A state-of-the-art research vessel helps chart a bold new course in fisheries science research

21 DONOR CONNECTIONS  Partners in business and in life—Jason and Christa Humber are a true Memorial success story

22 FROM THE VAULTS  Whale Song #10. Crystal Parsons reflects on the life and work of Anne Meredith Barry

26 ALUMNI CONNECTIONS  The latest updates on alumni activities and significant events in the lives of alumni

32 LAST WORD  Dr. Brad deYoung shares an oceanographer's perspective on how the new Memorial navigates global opportunities
It may be with a little serendipity that this is our spring issue. You’ll notice that Luminus has a fresh, new look—and it’s one that we’re pretty excited about.

Spring is all about new beginnings. In May, our alumni family will welcome the class of 2011 as our newest group of graduates walk across the stage to accept their diplomas. Convocation is particularly rewarding for me. I have a chance to witness first-hand some wonderful student success stories. In many cases, these have been made possible by your support, by your investment in their future. It is one from which we all benefit.

The progress of our university and the alumni who contribute to this growth is always revealed in Luminus magazine. This issue is no exception. Here we feature the remarkable recipients of the Alumni Tribute Awards, as well as a series of pieces dedicated to the theme of oceans. Whether it’s the lifetime of incredible achievements by our 2010 alumnus of the year, Dr. Max House, the leading-edge advancements and vision of the Marine Institute or the art of Anne Meredith Barry, the depth and breadth of Memorial’s impact is palpable.

A theme of oceans is particularly fitting at this time of year. In all ways, Memorial is intimately tied to the sea, and spring Convocation provides no better metaphor. Our motto, Provehito In Altum, or Launch Forth into the Deep, is inscribed in our coat of arms imprinted at the top of your diploma.

It is in that spirit I invite you to explore the pages of Luminus.

DR. PENNY BLACKWOOD
DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT
3M National Teaching Fellowship Winners

Teaching Excellence@Memorial

Memorial University is home to award-winning, exceptional educators from its various schools and faculties. Through demonstrating distinction in scholarship, many have been acknowledged nationally for their teaching dedication and for enhancing the educational experience of their students.

The 3M National Teaching Fellowship recognizes teaching excellence and educational leadership in Canada. Memorial’s winners have been awarded for their commitment to teaching and learning at home and beyond.
The 10th lieutenant-governor of Newfoundland and Labrador from 1997 to 2002, Dr. Max House launched an impressive career when he graduated from Memorial University College in 1947. A native of Glovertown, he earned his medical degree from Dalhousie University in 1952 and went on to do postgraduate training in neurology at the Montreal Neurological Institute and the National Hospital in London, England.

Dr. House returned to Newfoundland and Labrador in 1960 as the province’s first neurologist, and became actively involved in establishing the medical school at Memorial University. He held many senior appointments in the Faculty of Medicine, serving as director of continuing medical education, associate dean for clinical affairs, professor of neurology and chief of the neurology division.

Spurred by his experience in family practice in an isolated rural area, and by the need for continuing medical education province wide, Dr. House pioneered telemedicine and distance education technology and techniques. He founded the Telemedicine Centre at Memorial University in 1976 and is recognized as a world leader in the field.

Dr. House has been formally recognized by many prestigious organizations including the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Canadian Medical Association. He is an officer of the Order of Canada, a member of the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador and most recently he received the Award of Recognition from the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education. Dr. House has received honorary degrees from Dalhousie University and Memorial University. In 2003 he was named professor emeritus at Memorial. He is currently in part-time practice of neurology and continues his interest in telemedicine and distance education.

Despite these honours and the busy schedule that earned them, Dr. House still finds time to volunteer for the causes that matter to him, including his alma mater. He recently served with the Memorial on Parade Reunion Committee which brought together 500 graduates of the Parade Street campus for their first ever reunion.

Because of his outstanding contribution to the field of medicine, his steadfast commitment to the people of this province and across Canada, and for his unwavering dedication to Memorial University, Dr. Max House is the 2010 Alumnus of the Year.
Every year when Earth Day is recognized around the world, Memorial alumnus Leonard Vassallo enjoys a special candlelight dinner with his friends. An advocate for numerous environmental projects, Mr. Vassallo has dedicated his life to raising awareness of environmental issues on the west coast of Newfoundland.

Mr. Vassallo's commitment to conserving our environment through sustainability, as well as his desire to make a difference, have driven his involvement in many local organizations. He is the founding member of the North Shore Bay of Islands Development Association and the Salmon Enhancement Aquaculture Committee, and has served with the Western Environment Centre, the Community Recycling Committee, the Climate Change Education Centre, the Newfoundland Aquaculture Association, the Centre of Environmental Excellence and the Atlantic Coastal Action Program.

Mr. Vassallo’s work on the Grenfell College Principal’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability (PACS) and Western Health’s Green Committee is also informed by his acute environmental awareness. He was recently awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for his environmental advocacy work by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Multi-Materials Stewardship Board and The Women’s Institute.

It was the opportunity to conduct research on marine invertebrates under Dr. Don Steele that attracted Mr. Vassallo to Memorial University. He graduated in 1980 with a master of ecology, and in 1999 with a bachelor of vocational education. Recently retired from his position as an instructor and sustainability officer with the College of the North Atlantic, Mr. Vassallo continues to demonstrate his passion for the environment by building an eco-friendly retirement home in Nova Scotia.

It is his record of exceptional community service, a commitment that extends to the people and the places they live, that makes Leonard Vassallo deserving of the 2010 Outstanding Community Service Award.

After Carbonear-native Vanessa Donnelly completed her degrees at Memorial, she headed to Halifax, N.S. to complete her master of nursing. While in Nova Scotia, Ms. Donnelly learned about the Nova Scotia Gambia Association and the Canadian International Development Agency, and began a quest that took her halfway around the world to help those in need.

As a volunteer in Gambia she helped establish a summer school to improve community health and governance through youth development and leadership. For five weeks, she focused...
Despite the demands of a successful career as a lawyer and managing partner with Benson Myles Barristers and Solicitors in St. John’s, Gary Peddle still finds time to volunteer hundreds of hours to non-profit organizations locally and nationally. A large part of that volunteerism has been dedicated to Memorial University, where his volunteer involvement began as president of the commerce class of ’82. Since then Mr. Peddle has continued to give back to his alma mater.

Mr. Peddle has assisted with student recruitment activities, visiting local high schools to advise and encourage students on the benefits of university. He served on Memorial’s Board of Regents, and followed that term of service by tackling the role of president of the Memorial University Alumni Association. For six years Mr. Peddle helped promote the interests of Memorial alumni, fostering networks of communication and community service among alumni and friends, while advocating for increased alumni engagement to the university’s administration. More recently Mr. Peddle has taken on the role of chair for Memorial’s 2012 reunion. This will be Memorial’s first ever all-years, all-faculties and all-campus reunion. It is yet another example of how Mr. Peddle continues to give back to his university.

In addition to his volunteer activities at Memorial, Mr. Peddle has chaired Big Brothers and Big Sisters boards on a local, regional and national level. He has been instrumental in the progress of that organization which has seen the number of children served in Canada increase from 8,600 to over 19,000. He is also a founding member of the Rotary Club of St. John’s East Foundation, and both a founding member and president of the United Way of Avalon. He also serves on the Salvation Army Advisory Board for the Eastern District.

Mr. Peddle’s exceptional volunteer service to the province and to Canada earned him the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Canadian Bar Association in 2006. In 2007 he was recognized by the St. John’s Board of Trade with the Outstanding Contribution to the Community award.

Because of his exceptional leadership and outstanding service to Memorial University and its alumni association, as well as his participation in activities that have enhanced the stature and reputation of the university, Gary Peddle is the recipient of the 2010 J.D. Eaton Alumni Award.

In 2008 Ms. Donnelly continued her quest, travelling to Tanzania with other health care professionals. Their aim was to develop and deliver diabetes education and best management strategies to health care professionals and educators at Muhimbili University and Ifakara International Health Training Institute. Impressed by Ms. Donnelly’s compassion and the quality of her work, the partnering institutions invited her to return to the project in 2011.

In addition to her life-changing experience as a volunteer, Ms. Donnelly works as a diabetes case management co-ordinator for Medicine/Geriatrics/Critical Care with the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre in Halifax. At national health conferences she shares the results of her research in diabetes prevention and management. In recognition of her outstanding individual efforts in diabetes care, she received the 2010 Eli Lilly Graduate Scholarship from the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Ms. Donnelly’s contribution to the field of nursing, and her resolve to provide care and compassion to those most in need, make her the 2010 recipient of the Horizon Award for Outstanding Achievement.
The Ocean Sciences Centre (OSC) is set to take another step toward the forefront of research into the biology of cold-water organisms thanks to a $16 million joint investment by the federal and provincial governments.

“This new funding is exciting for everyone at the OSC. It will take us to new, formerly unattainable, horizons for research on marine organisms and processes,” says Dr. Ian Fleming, a professor at the OSC and its former director. He is the lead on the successful funding application, which he wrote together with professor Dr. Kurt Gamperl and others at the centre.

The new research facility will be constructed complete with the latest equipment, laboratories and cold-water holding tanks for the specialized study of invasive species, deepwater organisms and marine diseases. “We will research everything from green crabs to bacteria that afflict aquaculture operations and the marine environment in general, to develop a means of countering their negative effects,” says Dr. Fleming. “We will also have pressurized tanks that enable the live study of deepwater species.”

Key to such research capabilities is an ambitious plan to use directional drilling through solid rock to a nearshore site 35 metres deep where the OSC can access a source of seawater of a consistently cold temperature. “It’s quite an undertaking,” says Dr. Kurt Gamperl. “We have shore intakes now, but the temperature near the surface, particularly in the warmer months, is too warm for many deepwater species.”

This infrastructure will make the OSC unique in the world. “We will be capable of studying living organisms from deepwater and Arctic environments,” adds Dr. Fleming. “This will attract students and scientists from around the world.”

This infrastructure will make the OSC unique in the world. “We will be capable of studying living organisms from deepwater and Arctic environments,” adds Dr. Fleming. “This will attract students and scientists from around the world.”

Dr. Christopher Loomis, Memorial’s vice-president (research) believes these joint federal and provincial investments will propel Memorial University’s capabilities and international reputation in oceans research. “It re-affirms our position as one of the premier institutions in the world for research on marine organisms, both native and invasive, that inhabit cold, deepwater environments,” he says.

Dr. Fleming is confident that the new research enabled by this investment in technology and facilities at Memorial will lead to significant advances in the knowledge of how organisms inhabiting the Arctic and North Atlantic respond to changes in their environment. The changes include accelerated climate change and the risks posed by infectious diseases and invasive species. The investment will also allow researchers to provide the kind of novel data that is needed to develop new policies for the management of Canada’s oceans.
A collaboration involving Memorial’s Grenfell Campus, the Marine Institute and Atlantic Coastal Action Program (ACAP) Humber Arm is about to make the Bay of Islands/Humber Valley basin area a lot smarter.

The Smart Basin project has brought together a number of different groups and organizations in an effort to learn more about the water, land and air conditions associated with the Bay of Islands. The ultimate goal is smarter and safer use of the area by industry and the general public.

“There is a lot of activity happening in and around the Humber River and out into the Bay of Islands,” said Dr. Ivan Emke, associate vice-principal (research), Grenfell Campus. “In the river basin we have farming, tourism, forestry and one of the finest salmon rivers in the province, all mixed in with residential housing. On the bay we have two fish plants, a pulp and paper mill, Oceanex, a cruise ship industry, ferry transport, a yacht club and pleasure boating.”

According to a draft report compiled by ACAP Humber Arm, each of these users has specific data needs in order to make informed decisions on using the area’s water and surrounding land resources. The Smart Basin project will systematically gather and share data with anyone who requires the information.

The Smart Basin is modelled on the SmartBay project in Placentia Bay that monitors weather and water conditions in one of Newfoundland’s busiest bays. The newer project’s goals touch on a range of issues from navigation safety and weather forecasting to scientific data and global climate change tracking. The west coast project was initiated by the Centre for Environmental Excellence, and is receiving financial support from: ACAP Humber Arm, Centre for Forest Science and Innovation, Environment Canada, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Marine Institute and Grenfell.

The Smart Basin initiative will be the largest monitoring and knowledge mobilization project of its kind on the west coast of Newfoundland, collecting and sharing data about the marine and terrestrial zones with many groups and individuals through a publicly accessible web portal. It will provide all users of the marine and land environments with the most accurate, up-to-date data to enable them to better manage and utilize resources in the region.

Buoy equipped with sensors will be used in the Bay of Islands, along with other sensors in the Humber River and on the shoreline. “We will be bringing together water and terrestrial remote sensing,” explained Dr. Emke. “After all, what happens inland will influence what ends up in the water. It doesn’t stop at the shoreline.”

Dr. Emke noted that there is also an interest in surveying the bottom of the Bay of Islands. To that end, the Marine Institute will send a vessel to map the ocean floor in that area. “There are economic ramifications: if the port authority wants to develop shipping, they need to know the depth and contours of the harbour bottom,” he said.

With Environment Canada bringing in new regulations pertaining to waste-water and sewage treatment, standardized water quality testing will be of importance as well. And the area’s many weather watchers and outdoor enthusiasts will be able to access weather information free online.

“There’s a multitude of uses,” explained Dr. Emke. “Researchers can monitor river tributaries to count fish, hikers can check the weather in York Harbour before going on a hike, people in the fishing industry can look at sea conditions specific to the area before they head out.”

ACAP Humber Arm’s extensive consultations on the initiative have revealed that while various groups and government departments currently collect some information for specific projects, this data is not widely shared. Stakeholder consultations also identified significant data shortfalls. The Smart Basin project will address these gaps by collecting real time oceanographic and terrestrial data using advanced technology and sensor equipment. The Smart Basin web portal will serve as a central information point to share data collected by participating partners.

AN INFORMED BASIN FOR DECISIONS

BY PAMELA GILL, BA(Hons.)’92

Aerial view, port of Corner Brook

PHOTO: ACAP Humber Arm
Memorial researchers involved in the Sustainable Technology for Polar Ships and Structures (STePS²) may change the way ships and offshore structures are built to withstand severe ice conditions.

There is a 50 per cent chance of finding 83 billion barrels of oil north of the Arctic Circle, according to the US Geological Survey. At $100 per barrel, that is valued at $8.3 trillion, plus the value of natural gas and minerals. The potential of these substantial petroleum and mineral deposits in the Arctic make the business case for STePS².

Currently in the second year of a five-year initiative at Memorial University’s Ocean and Naval Architectural Engineering Department, STePS² is a $7.2 million project focused on developing a toolset that will enable Arctic ship and offshore structure designers, operators, and engineers to evaluate a range of scenarios involving interactions between water, ice and steel, to specify optimal design parameters.

“To make the economics of operating in the Arctic work, oil companies will want year-round production,” explains Dr. Roger Basu, director, Shared Technology, American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) in Houston, one of STePS² private sector supporters. “So we need year-round shipping. Industry today is being challenged to design ships and offshore structures to operate in the Arctic year-round, but current information is incomplete. STePS² will help fill the gaps.” ABS established a Harsh Environment Technology Centre at Memorial University in 2009, and currently has a company researcher on-site working on STePS².

“The toolset for STePS² will be designed for year-round Arctic operations with potentially very large vessels and structures,
beyond current experience," reports Dr. Claude Daley. He is chair of the Ocean and Naval Architectural Engineering Department, professor of engineering, and director of the BMT Ocean and Arctic Structures Research Program at Memorial. Dr. Daley makes the point that one of the big worries regarding the Arctic is uncertainty about current technology performance in extreme cold and ice conditions. “If we do the legwork to raise the level of our technology and lower the worry, we can have a significant effect on whether these projects are seen as viable. This can affect whether our Arctic is developed, and how it’s developed.”

And judging by the support from the private sector, they agree with Dr. Daley’s assessment. In addition to the American Bureau of Shipping, the StePS² project has attracted industry investment from Husky Energy Inc., Samsung Heavy Industries Co. Ltd., Rolls-Royce Marine and BMT Fleet Technology.

Thirty-five people are currently working on StePS²: 10 undergraduate students, 12 graduate students, five faculty members, four principal researchers from the National Research Council-Institute of Ocean Technology (NRC-IOT), and four staff. An estimated 40 to 50 graduate and work-term students will be involved over the course of the project.

Between 1979 and 1993 Dr. Daley worked for BMT Fleet Technology, a Kanata, Ontario-based applied engineering technology company that specializes in marine and Arctic technology. During this time he worked on the development of the latest Canadian Arctic Shipping Pollution Prevention Regulations. Through a sponsored exchange program, he also obtained a doctor of science degree in ice mechanics and arctic naval architecture at the Helsinki University of Technology. In 1995 he joined the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial.

Between 1992 and 2008 Dr. Daley helped develop the structural standard for the polar class rules, an international safety framework for ships operating in polar waters. Through his work as an ice-engineering specialist he met representatives of the American Bureau of Shipping, Samsung Heavy Industries Co. Inc. and Husky Energy, Inc., operator of Newfoundland’s White Rose oilfield. All of them took an interest in StePS² and joined the project. After Rolls-Royce Marine opened its commercial marine service centre in Mount Pearl in September 2010, they heard about StePS² and became the most recent industry partner.

In addition to the $1.2 million private-sector investment, StePS² has also received $3 million through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency’s Atlantic Innovation Fund. The Research and Development Corporation Newfoundland and Labrador is investing $800,000 through the Collaborative R&D Academic Program. Memorial University is contributing approximately $130,000 through the School of Graduate Studies for student bursaries. And research funding agencies such as MITACS and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) are expected to provide approximately $500,000 through various programs that fund graduate student support. The NRC-IOT is the technical partner for much of the equipment design and experimentation. In-kind partner contributions total $1.59 million.

The way that ice, “a visco-elastic semi-brittle solid”, responds to major impact forces is complex, Dr. Daley explains, and not well understood. Standing next to a model of a double-pendulum apparatus in the Faculty of Engineering’s Structures Lab (see top right photo), he says his team of
researchers will build one that is four times larger to conduct ice-crushing tests. These tests will enable researchers to understand the impact forces when ice collides with steel travelling at up to 15 knots — actual speeds in the high Arctic.

Dr. Robert Gagnon, B.Sc.(Hons.)’78, M.Sc.’81, PhD’87, a physicist who heads up the NRC-IOT technical partnership with StePS*, developed the impact module and experimental techniques that will be used to measure the pressure distribution changes over very short distances during the ice-crushing and impact tests. While Dr. Daley was studying damage to ship structures associated with ice collisions and helping develop structural standards for polar class rules, Dr. Gagnon had for several years been developing technologies for measuring load and pressure, formulating new experimental techniques to study ice crushing behaviour and developing numerical simulations of ice/ship collisions. Dr. Daley was able to capitalize on these strong and complementary backgrounds when drafting the StePS* proposal.

Dr. Daley explains that at 10 knots, the ship would be moving five metres per second. Most experiments to measure large forces to date have been conducted at lower speeds.

In the Thermodynamics Lab (cold room), research students are currently formulating recipes for cone-shaped ice for the double-pendulum apparatus tests. They will also conduct experiments in a wet tank in the Fluids Lab, where a ship’s hull will be placed in a dynamic environment with varying types and concentrations of ice underneath. “There are legal requirements to strengthen the deep wet parts of a hull,” notes Dr. Daley, “but we don’t know the physics of what’s causing those loads.” He says that’s okay for current designs that have been proven over time, but when designing on a much larger scale, such as the hull of a liquid natural gas ship which displaces 10 times the mass of current ships, an understanding of the physics is vital.

Researchers will collect data during the experiments, validate their applications of the data in a high-performance computing environment, and proceed to model full-scale field scenarios in order to develop the design tools that will be the project’s key deliverable. ■
Glenn Blackwood has a vision. He believes a vital part of his job as executive director of the Marine Institute is the transformation of an institute once grounded in the marine transport and fisheries side of ocean industries into a world oceans institute recognized globally for its educational and research expertise. While it has always supported fisheries and marine transport, the Marine Institute is becoming a leader in ocean technology and safety. In this interview Mr. Blackwood sits down with Luminus editor Wade Kearley to explore his connections to the ocean and share his insights into how he and the MI team are working to achieve this transformation.

LUMINUS: Would it be fair to say you’ve had a lifelong interest in the ocean?
BLACKWOOD: Where I grew up in Bonavista North everything revolved around the ocean. The work was around the ocean. The recreation was around the ocean. Livelihoods in the community were around the ocean. My father and my uncles were mariners or made their living from the sea.

My grandfather died when I was six years old. He left his boat and motor to me. All I had to do was find enough gas to keep it running. From 1968 when I was eight, until 1975, I spent two weeks every summer with my father on the coastal ferry service on the Labrador coast.

LUMINUS: What brought you to St. John’s?
BLACKWOOD: I wanted to be Jacques Cousteau. So I came to Memorial for the new marine biology program in ’77. I jumped into that boat with two feet, took a full load of courses, scuba diving, knocking around the Ocean Sciences Centre, the school in Bonne Bay. It was as good as it gets.

I worked summer jobs with DFO, Memorial and DFA and I had a job with [the provincial Department of] Fisheries before I graduated.
LUMINUS: Was there anything you learned that changed or refocused you in any way?
BLACKWOOD: (pauses) I was happy with the academic program but at that time the at-sea component was limited in some ways. The program was focused on the biology side.

LUMINUS: On ecosystems?
BLACKWOOD: No, on studying the animals but not the commercial species or the going to sea. I was also interested in fisheries research.

LUMINUS: So you started off right out of Memorial with provincial fisheries? You were there during the groundfish crisis?
BLACKWOOD: Yes. I started as a marine biologist in the '80s and was the director of resource analysis during the northern cod collapse.

LUMINUS: Didn’t Dr. Harris predict that in the 1980s? That if we continue fishing in the winter where stocks are spawning, that we were going to destroy the species?
BLACKWOOD: It’s like cutting Christmas trees to make a cord of wood. But it’s always a sensitive issue when something is an important source of income for thousands of people.

That’s the social dilemma for resource management. That’s why [after the collapse of the northern cod] I did a resource management master’s at Memorial in the early ‘90s. I realized the human resource or the people management side of the fisheries is becoming as important as the biological management.

LUMINUS: What influenced your decision to leave government for the Marine Institute?
BLACKWOOD: Even before I graduated, I was teaching undergraduates at Memorial. After I graduated, I taught graduates as well. And, in my previous life with government, I helped put funding in place to create the Chair of Fisheries Conservation and sat on the panel that hired Dr. George Rose in the mid-1990s. We have an enormous capacity in George. He is world renowned especially in the areas of cod and groundfish. He wrote the book on it.

LUMINUS: He heads the Institute’s Centre for Fisheries Ecosystems Research (CFER), that you announced jointly with government last summer.
BLACKWOOD: We needed to expand our efforts in the fisheries—in terms of numbers of people and in terms of the go-to-sea capacity. The creation of CFER builds on what George has done … but brings an applied commercial-species focus. Even though we’re looking at the ecosystem, we also need to understand what’s happening with our major species—cod, crab, shrimp and the pelagic species. So it was a huge step forward when the province provided a major investment to create this centre.

LUMINUS: You came here in 1997 was it? After 17 years as an upwardly mobile civil servant, to run the Canadian Centre for Fisheries Innovation? And eventually took the wheel as executive director when Les O’Reilly retired?
BLACKWOOD: Yes, that’s right. The Marine Institute has a history of working closely with people, advancing people from where they are to where they need to go in the fisheries and marine transportation sectors. It’s been hugely successful. And I think the Marine Institute’s integration into Memorial in 1992 was a great move for both organizations. The institute has grown its degree and master’s programs and greatly expanded the capacity of its applied research centres.

I was here in 2004 during the 20/20 vision process that we went through and I became very engaged in the Vision 20/20 plan.

LUMINUS: The Marine Institute has long been respected around the globe. Why was that Vision 20/20 process necessary?
BLACKWOOD: We’re very proud of our cod-college heritage but many people still saw us as mending cod traps on the hill—despite the fact that we’d developed in so many different areas. Enlarging the public perception to what we’re really about was part of the challenge we took on in 2004. The result was Vision 20/20. It’s a plan to transform the Marine Institute into a world oceans institute within Memorial.

LUMINUS: And that’s guided you during your time in office?
BLACKWOOD: It has. The first year was spent developing a five-year plan and since then we have acquired the R.V. Anne S. Pierce, a 35-metre vessel, in 2006. In 2007 we launched the new School of Ocean Technology to complement our School of Fisheries and our School of Maritime Studies. We brought Memorial’s Canadian Centre for Marine Communications (CCMC) into the new school … along with that we brought in SmartBay, our oceans observations project in Placentia Bay, and further developed it.

LUMINUS: Has there been any recognition for these achievements?
BLACKWOOD: The Marine Institute won the Provincial Distinction in Innovation Award for the SmartBay Project in 2009. In fact, MI has been a finalist for that award in each of the past three years. We were finalists this year for the Journal of Ocean Technology, an industry journal that we launched in ’07 and which now goes to companies and post-secondary institutions in 52 countries.

But that’s only a partial list of accomplishments. We launched two new master’s degrees besides the existing one and three new diploma and degree programs including the underwater vehicles and ocean instrumentation.
and another this September, the ocean mapping program.

With funding we received from the provincial government, we invested in new multi-beam sonar equipment. And more recently, we bought a 20-metre catamaran, the R.V. Atlanticat. Our first sea trials for the sonar focused on a wreck off Bell Island in 36 metres of water. With the imagery we got back you can see the top of her and you can see where she was torpedoed. You can actually see the original mast still on her. And that’s 68 years after she was torpedoed by German submarines. That’s cool stuff and it allows us to explore the ocean in ways that were previously not possible.

LUMINUS: How did the new equipment and capabilities complement your existing tools and capabilities?
BLACKWOOD: We’ve got the ability at the Marine Institute and within the rest of Memorial University to make a major difference to the province’s economic growth by capitalizing on the entire value of the ocean. That includes gas off Labrador, the oil on the Grand Banks, fish in our nearshore and offshore and the marine transportation sector. Seabed mapping can play an important part in all of that. As Randy Gillespie [head of applied research at the School of Ocean Technology] has said, we’re going from Captain Cook to Captain Kirk.

LUMINUS: I’m not sure I understand?
BLACKWOOD: Let me explain what I mean. You go up to Signal Hill and what do you see? The big blue ocean. It’s frustrated me my whole life that you can’t see what is going on beneath the waves. You see a scattered whale or iceberg, but the rest of it is hidden under the surface.

And that’s true all around our coast. In fact most of our coastal areas, particularly in the north, were originally charted by Captain James Cook in the 1760s. And he was, in some areas, the last one to chart these waters. And there were still a lot of areas left unexplored.

That’s why I’ve been scuba diving. That can take me to 30 metres. But that can’t compare with remote sensing of the ocean. The Celtic Explorer has already mapped the Irish Sea with systems similar to the ones that we have now, and I believe it will allow us to lift the lid off big blue.

But in order to do that, our work is getting more complex. We’re taking on new vessels and international partners. Last year we launched CFER and now we’ve got 13 people who’ve just completed a 3,000 kilometre survey of groundfish stocks aboard the Celtic Explorer off the northeast coast.

LUMINUS: Why did the provincial government decide to step up now with funding for CFER and give you the capability to go offshore?
BLACKWOOD: It’s a combination of fiscal capability and the need to create certainty around the fishery. Some people believe the ocean is full of cod. Some people think it’s gone. Somewhere in the middle is reality. And defining that reality, not just for cod but for other species, and for the whole ecosystem, in a scientific way, that’s what CFER is established to do.

This is the start of the scientific process to build a science, build our own capacity and produce fisheries scientists with ocean-going experience. We have lots of small boats, but a large research platform to do year-round studies of our system is absolutely essential. But that is something we have to build towards.

LUMINUS: What is the biggest challenge moving forward?
BLACKWOOD: Managing expectations, building facilities, budgets and people simultaneously. Rising to the enormous opportunities that present themselves to us. We’ve hired more than 100 people but in the past five years we haven’t added one square foot onto the building.

We’ve also doubled our budget and revenues in five years and gotten into new disciplines and new areas of research and built capacity along the way. We’ve made a huge investment in personnel development.

And it’s important that we do that. Fifty years down the road this province will continue to be built around the ocean. We will be much better in terms of our capacity to understand it and to reduce the risk of working in the very harsh environment that we work in.

LUMINUS: I assume you are talking about things like Death on the Ice, the SS Southern Cross, the Ocean Ranger, Cougar 491.
BLACKWOOD: Yes. Our history, like other maritime societies, is unfortunately closely linked to tragic loss of life. Given that we live in such a harsh, unforgiving environment, increasing our knowledge of the ocean is one way to reduce the risk associated with working and living in the North Atlantic.

I believe Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should be able to make the ocean a career of first choice, not the employer of last resort. And our ability to work in this harsh environment will give us the lead in opening up the Arctic, things like the Northwest Passage and resources in northern waters.

I also think that we can use the knowledge and ability we’ve developed ... in fisheries and marine transportation and ocean technology and safety ... we can apply it, we can take it global. We’re gaining recognition as a world oceans institute. I see it every day in our graduates, in our clients and in our research. And I think our employees can take great pride in our accomplishments.
Setting a bold course for fisheries science in Newfoundland and Labrador, the Marine Institute’s new Centre for Fisheries and Ecosystems Research (CFER) will create a new capacity for fisheries research at MI, increasing the understanding of commercial species and marine ecosystems. This past February, CFER used the RV Celtic Explorer to carry out cod overwintering acoustic surveys under the guidance of Dr. George Rose, scientific director of CFER.

CFER, and the chartering of the RV Celtic Explorer, has been made possible in part by an investment of $11.75 million from the provincial Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, which includes an investment of $1.5 million from the Research and Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador (RDC). Both the new centre and charter vessel are key components of the suite of fisheries science research programs that were announced on July 2 of last year.

RV CELTIC EXPLORER

A 65-metre, state-of-the-art fisheries and oceanographic research vessel, the RV Celtic Explorer conducted offshore fisheries surveys and other oceanographic work in the waters off Newfoundland and Labrador. Chartered from the Irish Marine Institute, it is the most sophisticated purpose-built vessel ever used for fisheries science research in the province.
PUTTING THE OCEAN BACK TOGETHER

Life on earth depends heavily on life in its oceans. Yet what goes on beneath the waves, in many ways, remains a mystery. The Census of Marine Life is helping scientists piece that undersea world together.

BY KELLY FOSS
If you were told that microscopic spaghetti-like bacteria thriving in the low-oxygen waters off the west coast of South America have formed a giant mat larger than some countries, and possibly the largest living mass in the world, would you believe it? Believe it.

While much remains unknown about the oceans of planet Earth, scientists can now say they are better acquainted with this vast habitat and the diverse creatures that have found a niche there for survival. After a decade of scientific adventure and collaboration, marine explorers from more than 80 countries recently delivered a historic first: a global Census of Marine Life (CoML).

In one of the largest scientific collaborations ever conducted, more than 2,700 scientists spent over 9,000 days at sea on more than 540 expeditions, plus uncounted days in laboratories and archives. Through this massive research initiative, participating scientists made 30 million observations of 120,000 species which are organized in the global marine life database of the census, the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). The migrations tracked across seas and vertically in the water column reveal the pervasiveness of many species and demonstrate connections among the world’s oceans.

Over the past decade, these researchers collectively published more than 2,600 academic papers—on average, one every 36 hours. The OBIS directory of names and locations of known ocean species establishes a reference against which population shifts in the 21st century can be monitored. It also helps to delineate the vast areas of ocean that have never been explored. Total cost of this work? $650 million.

Memorial University was heavily involved in this initiative, primarily through Dr. Paul Snelgrove, B.Sc.(Hons.)’84, a professor with the Ocean Sciences Centre and the Department of Biology. The Canada Research Chair in Boreal and Cold Ocean Systems, he chaired the Synthesis Group of the CoML. This group oversaw the final, and some would argue the most critical, phase of the global initiative. It brought together the 17 different projects involved in the census to improve our understanding of the overarching continuity in the diversity, distribution and abundance of life in the ocean. The resulting books and journals, databases, websites, videos and photo galleries that document those experiences and conclude the first census are available online at www.coml.org.

“We realized it was imperative to bring these pieces together—to put the ocean back together, as it were. So we funded smaller initiatives to bring together data sets and ideas from different projects,” he says.

After 10 years of studying everything from the seashore to the deep sea, and from whales to microbes, Dr. Snelgrove says one thing researchers have discovered for certain is that it will take much longer to have a full understanding of life beneath the waves.

“We’ve counted many things but know some environments are still poorly sampled, and we know little about the specific roles of all these species,” he said. “But the census has created a community of scientists who are keen to continue working together.”

According to Dr. Snelgrove, one of the biggest discoveries from the census came from some of the smallest species. This past year the researchers have turned their attention to microbial species, small larvae and invertebrates in the marine environment. “While we have long known of the importance of microbes and the roles they play in maintaining cycles of nutrients critical to food webs, the diversity of forms, and the numbers of rare species, is the really new discovery,” he says.

“Microbes are small and underappreciated, but mighty in what they do,” explains Dr. Snelgrove. “The oceans, and the planet, would quickly collapse without them.”

In his book, Discoveries of the Census of Marine Life: Making Ocean Life Count, Dr. Snelgrove wraps up the entire decade of research and provides insight into this international project. He explains in its pages the rationale behind the census and highlights some of its most important and dramatic findings.

Among the insights gained from the census was the discovery of how new technologies and partnerships

**LEFT:** The tube anemone, or tube dwelling anemone, lives in a mucous tube on the muddy bottoms of coastal waters, estuaries, and soft seabeds. These attractive anemones are found in tropical and subtropical waters throughout the world, where they can grow up to 15cm (6 in) across and 30cm (12 in) tall. When the anemone is threatened, the animal retracts into its tube for protection. The beautiful stinging tentacles of the tube anemone vary from a vibrant purple to a creamy brown.

PHOTO: Karen Gowlett-Holmes
“The census matched the immensity and complexity of ocean life with a human enterprise able to grasp it.”

DR. PAUL SNELGROVE

have contributed to a better understanding of migration routes and distribution patterns.

Researchers also gained a better appreciation of how the oceans are changing. The understanding and well-being of marine life [and therefore life on this planet] may well depend on the continued unity of international science.

“The census matched the immensity and complexity of ocean life with a human enterprise able to grasp it,” says Dr. Snelgrove.

While there is no clear mechanism to continue the work of the international Census of Marine Life, Dr. Snelgrove says there are projects that began with the census that will continue well beyond its conclusion. This includes the NSERC Canadian Healthy Oceans Network, a group of 65 researchers from 15 universities and multiple federal research laboratories that is based out of Memorial University. Dr. Snelgrove serves this network as a national director, working to deliver on its mandate of developing scientific guidelines for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity resources.

“Canada has a lot of ocean to manage and conserve, and with such a long coastline and expertise that is thinly scattered across the country in universities and government labs, partnership and collaboration are the only chance we have to do better,” he says.

According to Dr. Snelgrove the census greatly benefitted Memorial University, helping to raise the university’s profile in marine sciences and biodiversity. “I think we’re in a good leadership position for the future, but funding is getting tighter and tighter and we have to work harder and harder to convince central Canada that the oceans matter,” he says.

One way to do that is to raise the profile of the marine environment in the media, and the census helped with that. “Through this initiative, stories on marine life have gotten into newspapers around the world. I hope this has convinced people who live far from the ocean that they should care, that it is important to put resources towards ocean research.”

ABOVE: This large anemone is found from the Arctic to Cape Cod along the Eastern United States coast. Nearshore they grow up to 15 centimetres in diameter, and offshore tend to be even larger. They are equipped with powerful stinging cells. Expandable mouths open wide enough to allow them to feed on small fish, urchins, crabs, jellies and other invertebrates that venture too close.

PHOTO: Andrew J. Martinez
www.andrewjmartinez.com

TOP RIGHT: For many marine organisms such as lobster, Dr. Snelgrove says that survival of early life stages is thought to influence abundances according to the year and area of habitation. Shown here with a juvenile lobster, he explains that studying the behaviour and transport of larval lobster, both in the field and in the laboratory, is part of an effort to improve the predictability of lobster dynamics.
When asked what he remembers most about his time at Memorial, Jason Humber grins and his response is immediate. “Those first few days getting lost in the tunnels.”

This graduate of Memorial’s ocean and naval architectural engineering program has since found his way. Together, he and his wife Christa are a true Memorial success story. On very different academic tracks when they met back in the late 1990s, with Christa pursuing music education, and Jason in engineering, they met through the Salvation Army Student Fellowship. This was back in the days when student groups and societies came together in the centre of campus, at the old Thomson Student Centre.

Christa fondly recalls her experience as an undergrad, in particular her time at the School of Music.

“The music school was relatively small compared to now, but there were still so many different people with different backgrounds. It was fascinating to be a part of that diversity,” she says. “I enjoyed the coziness of the school of music as well. You knew everyone—including the faculty—and it made it feel like an oversized family. I think that’s a big part of why I stayed close to the university and continue to support Memorial.”

When Jason graduated in 1999, some early work experience with one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world provided him with a unique perspective. With an opportunity to work on massive, world-class projects, Jason recognized the need for a specialized GIS skill set and applications that would build efficiencies into these complex systems. In 2002, he and Christa co-founded Integrated Informatics Inc. Almost 10 years later the business is thriving, with a Calgary office supported by another in Houston and, most recently, in St. John’s.

“We have an incredible core group of people who have really pushed the boundaries for our company,” Jason says. “We work at a high capacity, and that work is done by high performers with the same expectations. Combined with some good timing and a real boost being felt across the industry, our recent opportunity in St. John’s is a by-product of all those things.”

When Christa reflects on their approach to the business, it is clear they have developed a model for success.

“Being honest with yourself and with each other—that has helped us recognize the strengths and weaknesses that we both bring to the table. I think that’s what makes us a great couple and good business partners, too. I know the lingo related to our business, but Jason can really make you understand and get excited about what we do. I take care of things behind the scenes. “All the glamorous stuff.”

That partnership and sense of purpose are hallmarks of their approach to giving, and paying success forward is important to both of them. As one of the youngest couples ever to create an endowed award at Memorial, they have made a significant commitment with the Integrated Informatics Award of Excellence. Awarded annually to senior engineering students in the faculty’s offshore oil and gas option, it will make a difference in many young lives for years to come.

“I think for both of us, it just seemed like the right thing to do,” Jason says. “I was debt free when I graduated from MUN, and a big part of that was because of scholarships. When you’re a student, every penny counts.”

Christa agrees, noting that their intention is to go beyond having a positive impact only on the individual students who receive this award. Their support has also extended to the School of Music and to the university in general.

“I know there are going to be a lot of fantastic graduates coming out who may need help, and that is a real priority. But we also want to support the university in its efforts to foster and grow new programs, programs that might not have a chance without a little extra help,” she says. “We’re proud graduates of Memorial. It’s important to both of us to show our appreciation for the years we spent there.”
ANNE MEREDITH BARRY
WHALE SONG #10

“The land and the ocean that surrounds it, replenish me.”
Canadian art has always had a preoccupation with landscape. Work by famous artists of the Group of Seven, for example, have always held a special place in the popular imagination. Art exploring different facets of landscape is perhaps more relevant today than ever before amidst continuing concerns about the environment. But those who live on islands, close to where earth meets water, have a different perspective.

Island-dwellers know that another world entirely lies beyond the edges of the shore, an environment about which we should be equally concerned.

One of Newfoundland and Labrador's best landscape artists, Anne Meredith Barry, Honorary D.Litt. ’97, was born in Ontario, the favoured inspiration and subject of many Group of Seven paintings. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art, Barry worked in paint, with mixed media but was perhaps best known for her printmaking. She was particularly proficient in collograph and woodblock printing.

Barry was initially drawn to Newfoundland in the early 1970s. She spent three months in Hibb's Cove with the Outports Arts Foundation teaching printmaking. She returned to the island several times more as a visiting artist in the 1980s to work on her own art and to teach through Memorial University’s Extension Services and at St. Michael's Printshop. After several years of visits, Barry finally emigrated east to where the land ran out, making her home close to the water in the outport of St. Michael’s, Newfoundland.

There on the Southern Shore, Barry focused her art on the coastal environment of her adopted home. “The tremendous visual and emotional impact I felt that [first summer in Newfoundland] is indescribable, and has influenced my work ever since. I was amazed at the immense and yet skeletal qualities of earth, sea and sky … everything was bigger than life size, in opposition to one another … strong, harsh and yet incredibly beautiful. The atmosphere was full of energy, with constantly changing kaleidoscopic qualities of light. … The land and the ocean that surrounds it, replenish me.” (1)

For all that she contributed to Newfoundland — as an artist, educator, proponent of community art development, active member of the arts community and mentor to other artists — Barry also gave the rest of the world a glimpse of Newfoundland and Labrador through her art. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including a solo exhibition at the Mullingar Arts Centre, Ireland in 2003. She was also part of a 1998 group exhibition True North: The Landscape Tradition in Contemporary Canadian Art at the Kaohsiung Museum of Fine Arts in Taiwan. Filled with the natural environment of Newfoundland that inspired her, her art conveys the great care and understanding arising from her immersion in the subjects that concerned her.

Whale Song #10 is part of a series for which Barry undertook extensive research — reading books on whales, making careful studies of whale anatomy, learning about their habitat and watching them from her studio window. She even chartered boats to take her out on to the ocean to get a better look at them as they breached and dived. The monumental beasts that float across the canvas are painted to be reminiscent of a petroglyph in order to convey “the sense of their having ‘been there for ever’ and [Barry’s] wish for them to endure, but at the same time her ‘horrible sense that they won’t.’ Through her studies, Barry was further drawn to the sounds of the whale’s song; ‘like a language on a cave wall, communicating in a language that we can’t or don’t understand...They’re singing and we’re not listening.’”(2)

If humankind is not listening, then Barry shows us in her paintings and prints that there are things all around us — on land and in the water — that should always hold a special place within our own popular imagination.

Crystal Parsons is a Newfoundlander and a graduate of Memorial University. She lives in Ottawa where she has worked as an independent curator and art historical researcher with a special interest in the art of Newfoundland and Labrador. She is currently an archivist at Library and Archives Canada. She welcomes comments at crystalsparsons@gmail.com

Footnotes:
(1) Other Perspectives: Landscapes of Newfoundland and Labrador. St. John’s, NL: Art Gallery Memorial University of Newfoundland, June 1979.

Sources:


Other Perspectives: Landscapes of Newfoundland and Labrador. St. John’s, NL: Art Gallery Memorial University of Newfoundland, June 1979.
Established as a memorial to the men and women of Newfoundland who served in the First World War, Memorial University College had, among its earliest students, several veterans of the Great War, including the youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross, Tommy Ricketts.

If you grew up in St. John's and are old enough, you should be able to remember the drugstore that was on the west corner where Job Street meets Water Street. Today the drugstore is gone but the site and the man who owned it are recognized by a plaque, commemorating the role he played as a member of the Newfoundland Regiment in the First World War. That man is Tommy Ricketts, and it was his heroic action on Oct. 14, 1918 that earned him the Victoria Cross, the highest honour given to any soldier who fought under the British flag.

Thomas Ricketts was born in Middle Arm, White Bay on April 15, 1901, the son of John Ricketts and Amelia Castle. He attended school in Middle Arm, but once war broke out in Europe, like many boys his age at that time, he was much more interested in serving King and country. His older brother George had enlisted in the Newfoundland Regiment on July 14, 1915 and was already fighting overseas when Thomas decided to join him. In the late summer of 1916, he travelled to St. John's, where, even though he was only 15 years old, he had no trouble convincing the recruiting officers that he was 18 years and three months old. He was signed up for duty on Sept. 2, 1916 and was given regimental number 3102.

On Jan. 30, 1917 Ricketts left St. John's for England on board the Florizel. After several months training at Ayr, Scotland, he was sent to France in June and first saw active service at Steenbeek later that summer. He was wounded at Cambrai (a bullet in the leg) in November and was invalided to England. While he was recuperating in England, his brother George was declared to be missing in action and later presumed dead. Recovering quickly, Thomas was back on the front by April, 1918, where he took part in fighting at Bailleul.

By the fall of 1918 an end to the war was a distinct possibility. The Germans were determined to hold on to as much captured territory as they could to strengthen their position at the peace table. The allies were just as determined to liberate as much as they could.

By this time, the Newfoundland Regiment was part of the British assault forces at Ledeghem, Belgium. On Oct. 13 they renewed an attack begun days earlier on the German troops who controlled the area. The attack, slowed by heavy smoke and darkness, lasted through the night and into the next day. Several members of the regiment attempted to outflank a German position but were running low on ammunition. Ricketts, at great personal risk, with German machine guns strafing around him as he ran, doubled back more than 91 metres to get ammunition and returned to his position on the front line with the ammunition that enabled his comrades to rout the enemy from their emplacement. He and his platoon then overtook the German battery, capturing four field guns, four machine guns and eight German soldiers.
For his actions, Ricketts was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the youngest member of the British armies to receive that honour in the war. It was presented to him by King George V in a special ceremony at Sandringham on Jan. 19, 1919, where the King introduced him to the assembled guests as “the youngest V.C. in my army.” Ricketts also received the Belgian Croix de Guerre and was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

After the war, Ricketts returned to Newfoundland where he finished his general schooling at Bishop Feild College. In 1925 he enrolled in the first class of the newly established Memorial University College, where during the 1925-1926 academic year he studied English literature, mathematics, Latin, chemistry and physics. An entry on his grade record reports that “he worked hard and very steadily.” Several of the courses he took at MUC proved to be quite beneficial when in 1926 he entered into a pharmacy apprenticeship at T. McMurdo & Co. In 1937 he opened his own pharmacy, a business he operated throughout his life.

Ricketts married Edna Edwards of St. John’s in 1933 and they were the parents of one daughter, Dolda, (who like her father became a pharmacist), and one son, Tom. Thomas R. Ricketts died on Feb. 10, 1967, two months shy of his 66th birthday. He was buried with a state funeral from St. Thomas’ Anglican Church in St. John’s. Edna survived him by 33 years; she died on May 20, 2010, at age 97.

Ricketts was a quiet man who refused to capitalize on the heroic deeds that resulted in his being awarded the Victoria Cross. He even refused an invitation to meet Queen Elizabeth II during one of her visits to Newfoundland, preferring not to draw attention to himself.

The next time you happen to be in St. John’s, take a walk west on Water Street past the Job Street intersection, stop and read the plaque, and remember Tommy Ricketts and his heroic action of Oct. 14, 1918. And remember as well that he was one of the first students to enrol in Memorial University College, a living memorial established in memory of his brother George and the many thousands of Newfoundland men and women who fought and died in that war to end all wars.
1 | PETER COLERIDGE, B.Sc.’82, was recently named the national CEO of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).

2 | MARY ANNE DONOVAN, B.Sc. ’02, is a first-time author. Her children’s book, *Oak Island—A Tale of Two Treasures*, has been published by MacIntyre Purcell Publishing and will be available in bookstores this spring.

3 | JOCELYN GREENE, BSW’75, MSW’99, was named 2010 Social Entrepreneur of the Year by Progress Magazine. Ms. Greene is the executive director of Stella Burry Community Services.

4 | GABRIELLE HUGHES, BFA(Visual Arts)’10, has been named the next Rhodes Scholar for Newfoundland and Labrador. A graduate of Grenfell Campus, Ms. Hughes now has her sights on a master’s degree in the history of art and visual culture at Oxford.

5 | JOSEPH D. RANDELL, MBA’85, was appointed chair of the National Airlines Council of Canada on Dec. 14, 2010. Mr. Randell is president and CEO of Jazz Air LP.

6 | SEAN RICE, B.Mus.(Hons.)’05, recently joined the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Ottawa as a clarinetist. Mr. Rice lives in New York City and is currently a doctoral candidate at The Juilliard School.

7 | COLIN WHITE, B.Sc.(Hons.)’03, MD’07, recently visited Linyi, China with Operation Rainbow Canada. Currently completing his residency in plastic surgery at McMaster University, Dr. White joined a volunteer team of eight doctors who performed free cleft lip and palate surgeries on children and young adults from the eastern province of Shandong.
This past November marked the 10th anniversary for the Ottawa Affinity Dinner, and it was a wonderful celebration of all things Memorial. Now in the planning stages for the 11th annual event on Nov. 3, 2011, there are no signs of slowing down.

Tom Bursey, B.Comm.(Hons.)’83, MBA’84 has been the chair of the Ottawa Affinity organizing committee since the beginning. A consummate volunteer and Memorial booster, his philosophy is about always focusing on the road ahead. “I can’t believe it’s been 10 years. We’ve had incredible success with this event, but I know it can continue to grow, to become even better. I’m looking forward to the next 10 years,” he said.

As the original affinity event, the Ottawa dinner has led to the development of a successful program, one that sees annual events across Canada and in London, England.

Over the years the event has benefitted from a number of celebrity supporters such as Seamus O’Regan; Rick Mercer, Honorary D.Litt.’05; Dahmnan Doyle; Mary Walsh, Honorary D.Litt.’00; General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), B.Sc.’76; Ed Martin, B.Comm.(Co-op)’80; former premier Danny Williams, BA’69 and Premier Kathy Dunderdale, along with numerous MHAs, MPs, senators and foreign ambassadors.

Mr. Bursey is quick to point out that the strong volunteer base driving these events is evidence of an enduring connection to Memorial and to Newfoundland and Labrador.

“When I talk to Memorial alumni and Newfoundland and Labrador ex-pats about the affinity dinner and our commitment to raising funds for scholarships, I never hear maybe or I’ll see. It’s always where and when. It feels good to be part of that community.” •

An Evening with Dr. Philip Riteman: In a moving address to a capacity audience of alumni and friends at Memorial this fall, Dr. Philip Riteman spoke about his experience as an eyewitness to the struggle for survival in the Nazi concentration camps. As a Holocaust survivor, Dr. Riteman continues to spread a message of love and tolerance while ensuring that a dark period in our history is not forgotten. He holds an honorary doctorate from Memorial University and his book, Millions of Souls, is an inspiring account of his life story. It is available through Flanker Press. www.flankerpress.com/millions_souls.shtml

You can view a video of Dr. Riteman’s address online at www.distance.mun.ca/media/files/riteman/index.php
EVENTS AND REUNIONS

CALGARY AFFINITY DINNER
(The Petroleum Club, Calgary, AB): June 7, 2011
Memorial University’s alumni and friends are invited to the fifth annual Calgary Affinity Dinner on June 7. This typically sold-out event is sure to be another roaring success with keynote speaker General Rick Hillier (Ret’d) addressing “Canada in Turbulent Times”.

For more information or to reserve a ticket, contact Alumni Affairs and Development, Memorial University, at 1 877 700 4081 or rsvpalumni@mun.ca.

TORONTO AFFINITY CELEBRATION
(Fermenting Cellar, Toronto, ON): June 9, 2011
Escape Toronto’s hustle and bustle for an evening of Newfoundland hospitality that will take you back to the place you once belonged. Join us to enjoy Newfoundland inspired cuisine while catching up with old friends as well as making new connections. Accompanying tunes to be provided by islander musicians Barry Canning and Kim Stockwood.

For more information or to reserve a ticket, contact Alumni Affairs and Development, Memorial University, at 1 877 700 4081 or rsvpalumni@mun.ca.

MEDICAL GRADUATES’ SOCIETY REUNION
Classes of ’76, ’81, ’86, ’91, ’96, ’01
St. John’s, NL: July 29-30, 2011

NURSING REUNION – Class of ’86
(St. John’s and Woody Island, NL): July 29-31, 2011
We are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the nursing class of ’86! Planning is underway for a graduates-only evening in St. John’s and an overnight excursion to Woody Island. If you are interested in attending these events, are looking for further information, or have contact information for fellow graduates, please email Joanne Rose (née Newhook) at joannerose@westernhealth.nl.ca or call 709 643 3185.

MEMORIAL ON PARADE DINNER
(St. John’s, NL): Aug. 26, 2011
Due to the overwhelming success of the Memorial on Parade Reunion in 2010, a dinner is being planned for Aug. 26, 2011. For more information or to reserve your ticket, contact Alumni Affairs and Development, Memorial University, at 709 864 4354 or rsvpalumni@mun.ca.

IN MEMORY

(RECORDED FROM OCTOBER 2010 – JANUARY 2011)

HARVEY GORDON BAKER, B.Sc.’73, B.Ed.’75, Jan. 9, 2011
DR. NORAH BROWNE (ELPHINSTONE, RENOUF), Honorary LLD’87, Nov. 24, 2010
SYBIL ROXALENE BUTT (NÉE LEDREW), BA(Ed.)’73, Nov. 12, 2010
A.E. MARSTON CAMERON, MUC’46, Nov. 23, 2010
GREGORY RALPH COLLIER, BA’03, Nov. 10, 2010
AUDREY RAYMA COWARD (NÉE BRIFETT), BA(Ed.)’67, Nov. 6, 2010
OLGA ROSALIE (DROVER) DAVIS, MUC’39, Dec. 14, 2010
ROY ROLAND DECKER, MUC’39, Nov. 29, 2010
RUBY DEWLING (NÉE SKINNER), M.Sc.(Medicine)’83, Dec. 13, 2010
GAIL D. DOYLE, B.Sc.’89, Ed.’90, Oct. 20, 2010
AGNES (NÉE MCGRATH) FAGAN, BA(Ed.)’78, Dec. 18, 2010
ALMA PRISCILLA (NÉE BURRY) FORD, MUC’40, Jan. 17, 2011
JUDITH E.S. GILLINGHAM, BA(Ed.)’60, BA’67, Nov. 23, 2010
DR. CORRINA ELIZABETH GOLDING, B.Med.Sci.’89, M.D.’91, Nov. 29, 2010
G. GARY GUSHUE, B.Comm.’76, Oct. 18, 2010
BRIAN WALTER HAMLYN, B.Sc.’85, Nov. 8, 2010
M. KEITH HEALEY, B.A.’74, Oct. 10, 2010
MARY ELLEN HENLEY, MUC’47, Nov. 23, 2010
CATHERINE (NÉE RYAN) HOOKHAM, BA(Ed.)’73, Oct. 22, 2010

DR. LESLIE DENIS KARAGIANIS, (Ret.) dean/professor, Faculty of Education, Jan. 12, 2011
MARIE LEONARD, BA(Ed.)’82, BA’84, Oct. 19, 2010
CHESLEY DAVID (DAVE) MARTIN, B.Eng.’74, Nov. 8, 2010
DONALD ARCHIBALD MERCER, MUC’46, Oct. 27, 2010
CLIFFORD ELIJAH MILLS, BA(Ed.)’55, BA’78, Dec. 1, 2010
REV. RALPH MOSS, BA’70, Oct. 12, 2010
DR. JOHN JOSEPH MURPHY, CM, Honorary LLD’05, Dec. 15, 2010
STELLA POWER (NÉE WALSH), MUC’40, Jan. 23, 2011
ALBERT (BERT) QUINTON, BA(Ed.)’56, Dec. 11, 2010
DR. EARLE K. RALPH, (Ret.), professor, Department of Chemistry, Nov. 19, 2010
JAMES WILLIAM ROBERTS, BA(Hons.)’80, B.Sc.’80, Dec. 3, 2010
PATRICIA RYAN (NÉE FUDGE), BA(Ed.)’81, M.Ed.’92, Oct. 29, 2010
DR. B. MARK SCHOENBERG, professor emeritus, University Counselling Centre, Oct. 28, 2010
MARION ISABEL SCOTT (PETERS), MUC’41, Dec. 11, 2010
MARGARET NATALINE (NÉE OSMOND) SELLARS, MUC’44, Oct. 25, 2010
JEFFREY STEINER, B.Sc.’77, B.Ed. ’92, Nov. 11, 2010
DR. HOWARD ROY STRONG, B.Med.Sci.’71, M.D.’73, Jan. 8, 2011
ROBERT R. WELLON, BA’76, Sept. 11, 2010
BRIDE WYSE (NÉE HUNT), MUC’32, Dec. 1, 2010
It turns out my great uncle Otto has broken his hip and they have traced the fracture back to an encounter with me on the dance floor two years ago. I had been doing the polka with Harrell Murchie, rag-doll style, while Otto stood on the sidelines clapping. We collided. But he was fine then. Or so the doctor who examined him said. The same doctor who is now retroactively amending that diagnosis to blame me.

My great cousin Eppo called from the hospital. He said the doctor is saying that while it is true that Uncle Otto didn’t break any bones two years ago, the stage was set then for a later breakage. The doctor would like to speak with me. Well, we’ll see about that.

This is a terrifying thing, if you believe it, that bones can break in slow motion over the course of two years.
I told Eppo I would check on Otto’s cat and water his plants. I would do that ASAP. I hung up and raced over there. Apparently he’d fallen en route to the sofa, and I wanted to take a close look at the scene. The cat greeted me at the door and I fed her two cans of Fancy Feast, one seafood, one beef. Then I went into the living room. It was 8 a.m. The room was filled with sunlight. This is important. The room was filled with sunlight and the floor is hardwood and what did I see but a shiny patch. The early a.m.-angle of the sunlight illuminated this patch fortuitously. I tested it with my socked foot and it was like, jeeze, I don’t even know how to describe this level of slipperiness. I got down on my knees and sniffed. Right at that moment, the cat threw up in the kitchen. It was like the finger of God descended to point out the truth of what had happened. The cat had thrown up and the mess had been cleaned up with Lemon Pledge. You could smell the citrus.

Have you ever Pledged a hardwood floor. I hope not. This is a big no-no, which people who have wall-to-wall carpeting don’t realize. They think Pledge is for all things wood, having no experience otherwise. It’s not their fault—unless they are a professional cleaning service, in which case it certainly is their fault.

I once Pledged the landing of our staircase at home because I wanted to watch people fall down the stairs.

Anyway, as a 92-year-old man, my great uncle Otto naturally has a cleaning service come in called Maid My Day. She comes in twice a week, this maid. Eppo pays for it. Her. I now slid over to the phone book and looked up the service. Hello, I said. I am the great niece of one of your clients who has recently fallen on one of your petards. What is a petard. An explosive. He has broken his hip. Otto von Schmoll. Yes. Did you Pledge the floor. Just answer the question.

She was not a native of our country and was interpreting the word pledge as oath, a word she associated with her recent acquisition of citizenship. It was all very confusing. The phone is not cordless but the cord is very long and I moved freely about the kitchen, stepping in the cat vomit and uttering an oath of my own which caused the maid to hang up. I then checked under the sink and lo, what do we have here but the can of shame.

I called my great cousin Eppo immediately and explained my theory. He listened. He was still at the hospital. He asked if I was planning on coming down there. I said in a while. I could hear code blues happening all over the place. He said to shut up about my theory and was I coming down there. His voice was tremulous. Soon, I said. I hung up.

I called back Maid My Day and there was no answer because she’d caller-ID’d me, I guess, and I left a message saying that she should go to the hospital ASAP and fess up to Eppo and the doctor, both of whom were blaming the broken hip on me and my polka of two years past. I would meet her down there with the Lemon Pledge.

Then I cleaned up the cat vomit with Comet, which has grit in it, it is like
putting crushed stone on your floor, you will never slip on Comet, and went back into the living room and Cometed the Pledged patch. I ruined the wood. I sat on the sofa and realized I was very upset.

When I got to the hospital the maid was there with a bouquet of flowers. Sometimes people can surprise you. Good, good, I said and took her by the elbow, and we walked down the hall. Eppo was sitting beside Great Uncle Otto's bed and when he saw us he put a finger to his lips and came out into the hall. He asked the maid, whose name is Ulricha, to give us a moment. She didn't know what he meant, and he rephrased. Ulricha went and examined the floor-plan near the elevators.

Eppo, who is six foot eight, hunched down to look in my eyes and said what the hell was wrong with me. Poor Ulricha, he said. She had called him weeping. I pushed the can of Pledge into his chest. Eppo said he didn't give a damn about my Pledge theory. Great Uncle Otto was conscious and you know what his theory was. Get ready, because it was going to break my heart, he said. Otto's theory was that his body had decided his time was up and had knocked the legs out from under him. I said I didn't find that heartbreaking. Shut up, Eppo said. He's on Dilaudid, is the reason for his crazy theory. I, who am presumably not medicated, have no excuse for mine. At this point the doctor who remembered me from the polka incident came striding up, a handsome man whose handsomeness, I noticed, Ulricha also noticed. He went to shake my hand but I held up the Lemon Pledge like, oh, sorry, can't shake your hand. He put his hand in his pocket and said my great uncle was doing very well and they would operate tomorrow. No general anesthetic. An epidural. That’s great, I said. Can we see him.

We being me and the maid. She has something she wants to say to him.

The doctor and my great cousin Eppo made high-altitude eye contact. Then the doctor said he would like to talk to me alone.

So you can blame me!

No, he said. Come.

The doctor and I walked down the hall together, past Ulricha. I leaned my head against his upper arm as we passed, which Ulricha did not fail to notice.

No one is blaming you, the doctor said, shrugging me off. But your behaviour two years ago makes me reluctant to let you see your great uncle.

My behaviour. You mean my polka style.

No, I mean the way you came in here, guns blazing.

Guns blazing. I don’t know what that means. Listen, I was very upset. I’m not upset now.

Your great uncle is an old man. His bones are brittle. What he needs right now is support and encouragement.

You’re preaching to the choir, doctor.

Ms. von Schmoll.

I’m not a von Schmoll.

Nevertheless, you are an unwell young woman. For all I know you came here with the intention of spraying your great uncle with Pledge.

That is so ridiculous.

Give me the Pledge and, if you promise to behave, I’ll see what I can do about getting you in to see your great uncle. Promise to behave. Get out of my way.

I turned, Pledge in hand, and strode back down the hall to Ulricha, whose bouquet-free wrist I grabbed, and we carried on into Great Uncle Otto's room. He was asleep. I woke him up. He looked disoriented and milky-eyed and, when he recognized me, not exactly relieved. Where’s Eppo, he said.

Relax, I said. Take it easy. Look at this can of Pledge. Do you know what this is. He shook his head.

Ulricha made your living room floor slippery. It was not my polka. Do you understand.

No.

Ulricha started crying again. Otto turned his head. He had just noticed her.

That’s right, I said. There’s your culprit, right there.

Eppo came into the room and put an arm around my shoulders and ushered me out. We left Ulricha with her flowers to make her apologies. He escorted me all the way to my car. I said I thought my visit did Otto a lot of good and, to my surprise, he didn’t contradict me. Good call, he said, bringing Ulricha. I nodded. Thanks. And I got in the car and threw the Pledge in the back seat and was halfway home before I wondered what he meant. ■

Jessica Grant is the author of the novel Come, Thou Tortoise, which won the 2009 Winterset Award and the 2009 Amazon.ca First Novel Award. Her short story collection, Making Light of Tragedy, includes a story that won both the Western Magazine Award for Fiction and the Journey Prize. She is currently Memorial’s writer-in-residence.
Memorial, like a lot of things, can change without us noticing. The Memorial of the 1970s, when I started as a student studying physics, chemistry and math was both different and similar from today's Memorial. I enjoyed student life in the '70s but it was hard to develop a wide worldview. There were no online newspapers and journals, much less air travel, no free phone calls around the world, no web conferences, limited cultural diversity, no downloading of music and movies, no podcasting and no email. (How DID we get by?) Memorial had, and still does have, a great library and I spent a lot of time exploring the world there. That was my gateway to the outside world of people and ideas. My classes were filled with white guys; indeed there was only one female in my physics program, nothing like today, where often women outnumber men and there are people from around the world in our classes.

While still located on this big rock out in the ocean, life and work here seem much better tied to the wider world. You hear a lot about commercial globalization but global interconnectedness also applies to ideas, science and universities. We are a loosely connected global community of thinkers who share our ideas, our results, our computer code, and our cool techniques. Our students go to the Arctic or the Antarctic to work on a research vessel or to northern Russia to deploy current meters; a Japanese student from Hitachi will work here developing new acoustical instrumentation; an engineering student from Morocco will spend a work term here working on climate modelling; a Chilean student will work on modelling oceanography in Arctic fjords. People and ideas move about freely. At the most recent meeting I attended, there were 75 scientists, from 34 different countries. It is hard to hold to a local, narrow view of things when exposed to such a wide range of perspectives.

The faculty members in our department alone come from 10 different countries; our graduate students from more than 14. This can pose interesting cultural and linguistic challenges but it also enriches life and provides contact across the globe. Simple things like nodding or shaking your head mean quite different things in different cultures. The Internet has changed how we communicate and interact, allowing us to easily share ideas and results with people around the world. Whatever the event, there always seems to be a connection. Take the recent unrest in Egypt and we find connections through students from Jordan and Saudi Arabia who have family there, faculty who have worked in Israel and contact with an education group that is operating a tour there this month and wanted oceanographic expertise to guide their activities.

As an oceanographer, it is hard for me not to notice the wider world. It is no accident that the program I have worked on over the past few years was called GLOBEC - Global Ocean Ecosystem Dynamics. In understanding the coastal ocean, you have to link with the dynamics of the North Atlantic and for climate problems you need to consider the whole globe. As a result, I am in regular contact with people throughout the Americas, Europe and Africa (including my daughter, who is in Ghana with OneWorldEd). My greatest fun is when a group of international scientists get together to work on a problem that we could not tackle on our own. We each bring the thread of an idea to weave results that would be impossible working separately. One side benefit of such work is that we hold meetings in interesting places—Rome, Cape Town or Tokyo. But why do we need to meet with all the Skype phone calls, email and video-conferences? Ultimately the technology, while supportive, is not enough to make international collaboration really work. It takes a lot of trust to share ideas openly. And the building of such trust requires personal contact.

The web and travel have changed how we live. It is true at home; it is also true here at Memorial. I feel part of my own collective, virtual university whose faculty and staff are from all over the world. People come and go like the tide from my virtual university. I will drift into someone interesting, talk about a shared idea, and they will enter the ocean of a broader collective discussion enabled by new technologies. From the outside the walls and bricks look the same but inside the buildings people find themselves moving to the ebb and flow of new ideas freely exchanged, fully connected to the wider world.
THE COURSE OF CHOICE

“Distance education courses have allowed me the freedom to choose when I ‘go to class.’”

- Jeff Genge

Memorial@Home™ enables students to benefit from the same course, with the same professor, while completing their degree from Memorial, wherever.

To discover how distance education can be your course of choice, visit: www.distance.mun.ca/choice
enjoy peace of mind

Insurance is all about having peace of mind. And that’s what you get with a home and auto insurance policy through Johnson. We offer excellent products and services that are tailored for the MUN Alumni Association.

• Savings and discounts
• 24-hour customer service
• Identity theft coverage
• Earn AIR MILES® reward miles

Put your feet up. And put your mind at ease.

1.800.563.0677 • www.johnson.ca/munalumni
(Please provide your Group ID Code: MA)

Johnson has been proudly supporting Memorial University for over 25 years.