DARE TO: THE CAMPAIGN FOR MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

The largest fundraising campaign in Memorial’s history dares to reach new heights in the pursuit of a goal that defines this university—making a difference in the lives of people and their communities.

Q&A WITH MEMORIAL’S CHANCELLOR

A conversation with General Rick Hillier (Ret’d)
Memorial University is havin’ a time. On August 8-12, we invite you to catch up with old friends and colleagues, attend class reunions, take educational tours of Newfoundland and Labrador hosted by our faculty and professional guides, and enjoy plenty of exciting activities for the whole family. Whether you live here or abroad, Memorial welcomes you back with open arms.

St. John’s Campus | Grenfell Campus | Marine Institute  www.reunion.mun.ca
features

04  RECOGNIZING OUR VERY BEST  Celebrating the recipients of the 2011 Alumni Tribute Awards

08  BUILDING A BRIDGE  The Department of Linguistics improves communications for provincial court interpreters in Labrador

10  DARING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE  Memorial University embarks on the largest fundraising campaign in its history, forging a path for critical growth and unprecedented success

13  LEADERSHIP AND RESPONSIBILITY  A conversation with General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), Chancellor of Memorial University and Campaign Chair

20  LIFE SAVING WORK  A healthcare team responds to the plight of those threatened by sudden cardiac death

25  SIFE MEMORIAL REACHES OUT  An award winning entrepreneurial team of Memorial students makes a publishing dream come true—and addresses the issue of bullying in our schools

in every issue

02  MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT  MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

16  THE MEDIAN  The Marine Institute and the Smart Bay project help chart a course for clear sailing in Placentia Bay

18  DONOR CONNECTIONS  The many ways to support Memorial have a common goal – helping others succeed

23  WE WILL REMEMBER THEM  The fourth installment in a series of profiles by Bert Riggs looks back at the careers of veterans from WWI and II who attended Memorial. In this issue, Dr. Cluny Macpherson

27  ALUMNI CONNECTIONS  Memorial University gets ready for the biggest celebration in its history. Alumni from near and far will be havin’ a time at Reunion 2012

31  FROM THE VAULTS  Robert Pilot’s Churchill Falls. Crystal Parsons contextualizes its history and contemplates the future

32  LAST WORD  Dr. Vic Young reflects on the rewards of giving back to his university
This special issue of Luminus celebrates some of the many daring people and programs at Memorial University. Our students, staff and you — our accomplished alumni — are contributing to and leading our communities, working to diversify and strengthen our changing economy, and conducting research of local and global interest and impact. Some of the remarkable outcomes of these efforts are described in this issue, with many more stories to be told, and more daring work to be done.

Through *Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University*, our students, staff, alumni and donors are able to support the talented people at Memorial and their important work. *Dare To* will help us continue to build a first-rate, world-class learning and research environment in Newfoundland and Labrador. By investing in our students and faculty, we are investing in the future of our province and beyond.

Because we’ve dared, and you’ve dared with us, we’ve accomplished a great deal in our 85-year evolution.

**DR. GARY KACHANOSKI**
**PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR**

There are never only two sides to a story.

That’s made clear in this issue of *Luminus* magazine. In this special edition we tell you the remarkable stories of lives saved and livelihoods protected, barriers broken and spirits given new strength. In the pages ahead you will learn about amazing individuals like Rick Ralph and Ken King, Raphael Rich and Jackie Squire — and the incredible faculty, students and alumni of Memorial University who have touched their lives.

It is a privilege to tell you about inspirational people who are making a difference. The many sides of Memorial’s story are woven into the fabric of our communities, of our history and future, of our greatest accomplishments, and our aspirations to do better.

This issue is focused on *Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University* and we are asking for your support. It is the most important contribution you can make. When you support Memorial — you are ultimately supporting each other.

**DR. PENNY BLACKWOOD**
**DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT**
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Since her graduation from Memorial’s bachelor of engineering program in 1980, Rhonda Zygocki’s career has climbed steadily upward.

She began her career with Chevron Corporation supervising oil rigs in Central Alberta, and has continued to take on challenging roles of increasing responsibility that have taken her all around the world.

Currently the executive vice-president of policy and planning, Ms. Zygocki holds one of the most senior executive positions with Chevron’s global operations. Her progressive corporate policy initiatives in the areas of strategy and planning, health, environment and safety on behalf of Chevron have been felt worldwide.

Ms. Zygocki is a mentor and leader, contributing to innumerable boards while also giving of her time and expertise to guide young people in the early days of their careers. Her work extends far beyond the San Francisco Bay area she currently calls home. She is a dedicated ambassador for Memorial University and a steadfast contributor to the growth of her alma mater, recently starting a scholarship specifically for women, enrolled at Memorial’s engineering faculty.

Accepting the Alumna of the Year award this past fall, she recalled her own Iron Ring ceremony on the day she graduated as a young engineer.

“I remember the last time our graduating class was together, the night we received our iron rings,” she said. “We pledged to contribute to human progress, by acting ethically and designing things safely. In all of my days at Memorial, and what my degree would come to mean, this was the most powerful and lasting memory.”

Since that day Rhonda Zygocki has honoured her pledge to her profession and community, and is a deserving recipient of Memorial University’s 2011 Alumna of the Year award.
FRED BEST, BA(ED.)’58, BA’65
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

As not only the long-serving mayor but also a former teacher and principal, Fred Best is a man whose name has become synonymous with the Town of Clarenville.

With two degrees from Memorial to his credit, the first earned at the original Parade Street campus, the Wesleyville native has spent a total of 28 years as an educator. It was in Clarenville that the community spirit he learned as a boy blossomed into a career in municipal politics, and he wore two hats—educator and elected official—for 14 years, until his retirement from the Eastern School District in 1990.

Reflecting on his upbringing, Mr. Best talked about how he came by that commitment to community.

“Coming from a rural setting like I did in Bonavista North, you have to understand that nothing happened in a community unless you were a part of it,” he said. “If it was a garden party or a church function, you went to it. If the Orange Lodge had a parade, you went to it. That was the culture you grew up in. You were part of everything that went on in the community, as was everyone else. The community may have been isolated, but you weren’t isolated from each other.”

Since retiring from teaching, Mr. Best continues to serve as mayor, a post he has held since 1981. A consummate volunteer and advocate for his town and the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, Mr. Best has served on many boards and volunteered in many capacities over the course of his career.

That record of exceptional service makes Fred Best deserving of the 2011 Outstanding Community Service Award.
KRISTA POWER, B.SC.’98, B.SC.(HONS.)’00
HORIZON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT UNDER THE AGE OF 35

A research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-food Canada and an adjunct professor at the University of Guelph and University of Toronto, Krista Power has accomplished a lot in a short time.

Since completing an undergraduate degree in biochemistry and nutrition at Memorial, Ms. Power has earned a PhD in nutritional sciences at the University of Toronto and postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Turku in Finland and the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Ms. Power is pushing the boundaries of her research on the effects of dietary compounds and extracts on human health and despite a hectic schedule of teaching, research and supervising, she continues to accumulate publications and awards along the way. Currently, her research focuses on colon cancer and seeks to understand how food and food components modulate cancer development.

Her work with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada is connected to a number of national research priorities, the first of those being food for health. By extension, this work also supports the agricultural economy, helping farmers develop healthier foods that can be introduced into the marketplace.

Despite her many accomplishments, Krista Power feels like she is just getting started.

“Obviously, I’m extremely honoured to receive this award. It’s actually nice to be able to look back, because in the beginning of your career you’re constantly looking forward. But for me, it’s just that, a pause to reflect. I’ve got so much left to do.”

Ms. Power’s contribution to her field, as well as her commitments to both the health of her fellow citizens and the success of her students, make her the recipient of the 2011 Horizon Award for Outstanding Achievement.
Elizabeth Scammell-Reynolds has enjoyed a lifelong affinity for Memorial that began in 1954 when she started at the Parade Street campus. Her successful career as a student, and later a professor at Memorial, is only part of the story.

Ms. Scammell-Reynolds has set a standard for volunteerism, with a mantra that no project is too big or small. Whether it’s been serving as the co-founder, past president and long-time committee member of Memorial’s alumni association, or as a twice-elected alumni representative to Memorial’s Board of Regents—or serving hot dogs to students during orientation week—she has tackled every role with enthusiasm.

One example of that hands-on approach was her creation of the annual Memorial University art exhibition almost 10 years ago. A professional art appraiser, Ms. Scammell-Reynolds recognized a lack of opportunity for students and alumni to show and sell their work and promptly established a partnership between Alumni Affairs and Lifelong Learning at MUN, making the show a reality.

Elizabeth Scammell-Reynolds has contributed to countless committees, reunions, alumni activities and events over the course of her 58-year relationship with Memorial University. With her remarkable experience and perspective, she eloquently sums up what she feels is most important for Memorial’s success.

“*I think it’s a factor of one. And by that I mean each and every individual student,*” she said. “*That student, who leaves Memorial and makes an impression on the world and his or her community, will motivate the next generation of students to come to Memorial. It’s like a domino effect, where young people observe that if it’s possible for you, then it’s possible for me too.*”

In recognition of her exceptional leadership and tireless dedication to Memorial University, Elizabeth Scammell-Reynolds is the recipient of the 2011 J.D. Eaton Alumni Award.
Because we dare, Raphael is able to bridge a divide. Carry cultures forward. Interpret language. Balance the scales.

Raphael Rich is a provincial court interpreter in Natuashish, Labrador, where the Innu-aimun language is strong, but comprehension of English is often not—posing a significant barrier for Aboriginal complainants, witnesses and defendants in court. This barrier has now been lowered, due in part, to work conducted by Memorial University’s Faculty of Arts and the provincial Department of Justice, which have developed glossaries and training programs for provincial court interpreters.

Dr. Marguerite MacKenzie and Dr. Douglas Wharram, MA’97, of Memorial’s Department of Linguistics have both been involved in efforts to equip speakers of Innu-aimun or Inuktitut with the skills to interpret and communicate legal terminology.

In 2006, Newfoundland and Labrador’s Department of Justice commissioned a report, Developing a Strategy for Court Interpretation Services, which identified the provision of trained
court interpreters for Innu-aimun and Inuktitut as one of its highest priorities. In the spring of 2007, the Department of Justice approached Memorial’s Faculty of Arts and requested that Dr. MacKenzie and Dr. Wharram facilitate workshops on the translation of English criminal court terms into Innu-aimun and Inuktitut, respectively. Kristin O’Keefe, a lawyer and director of the Public Legal Information Association of Newfoundland and Labrador, was recruited to participate in the workshops and to provide legal expertise.

This collaboration resulted in the creation of two glossaries of criminal law terms for the Innu-aimun and Inuktitut languages, several hundred copies of which have been made. In combination with other materials, these glossaries enhance the work of interpreters such as Raphael Rich, who are now used in interpreter training courses, and are regularly consulted by court interpreters in their daily work.

“Without an interpreter, we could not deliver justice,” says Judge John Joy, BA’71, MA’77, who presides over provincial court in Labrador. “If we don’t have good interpretation for the accused, witness or complainant, then that person is essentially not present in court.”

Dr. Wharram reiterates that sentiment. “I think it’s reasonable to say that a defendant who cannot interact with a court of law in a language in which he or she is comfortable is not being treated justly,” he says. “The role that court interpreters play in such situations is critical; they provide the possibility of justice, where otherwise there could be none. Anything that can be done to attenuate the obstacles interpreters face in doing their jobs, in my view, should be done. It’s as simple as that, really. And if this project has helped to increase the visibility of court interpreters and increase the awareness of the kind of work they do, then that’s great too.”

Dr. MacKenzie and Dr. Wharram are working to bridge divides such as these each day, helping people like Raphael to ensure that the justice system is comprehensible for all parties in the courtroom. And their work continues with further glossaries in other areas of need.

“The criminal law glossary was followed by another one on family law for both Innu-aimun and Inuktitut,” says Dr. MacKenzie. “For Innu-aimun, one had been compiled for school vocabulary; one was created at the request of the Innu Nation in 2010 for environmental assessment survey vocabulary; and one is currently underway for medical terms for the use of Innu-aimun interpreters in clinics and hospitals.”

The work led by Dr. MacKenzie and Dr. Wharram reaches across regions, cultures and sectors, and aims to encourage understanding among the many people who in the past have faced barriers to communication.

“We still have a lot of work to do to improve the level of expertise and experience of our Aboriginal language interpreters and the level of expertise and experience of judges, lawyers, court clerks, probation officers, victim services workers, sheriffs, RCMP officers and youth justice workers in working appropriately with Aboriginal language interpreters,” says Judge Joy.

“This project should be a living one requiring regular revision and review,” continues Judge Joy. “We have just scratched the surface.”

The Polar Bear and The Rock: Two Windows on the World is a children’s book created by the Labrador Institute and Dr. Derek Wilton, B.Sc.’74, PhD’84, a professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at Memorial. The book uses an Inuit legend to illustrate and describe the geology of Labrador. This bilingual book, published in both Inuktitut and English, was generously supported by the Government of Canada Program for International Polar Year.

The Hibernia Management Development Corporation has committed to funding two further works that will highlight the traditional understanding of Labrador’s geology and address the need to preserve signature stories of creation for future generations. By presenting traditional stories and knowledge alongside scientific exposition, these books will provide young students with the opportunity to examine creation from two different perspectives and in two different languages.
DARE TO: THE CAMPAIGN FOR MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Spectacular students. Daring faculty. Extraordinary ambitions.

BY LAURA BARRON, BA’03

When Memorial’s chancellor, General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), was asked to take on the challenge of chairing the largest fundraising campaign in the province’s history, he accepted without hesitation. Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University is a $50 million private sector campaign, and is part of an overall redevelopment program totalling over $250 million.

He is now passing that challenge on to you, to be part of something amazing and transformative for our university and our community.

To make a real difference, it can never be business as usual.
“Dare To is all about creating the conditions for success for the talented people at Memorial, and for those who call this university home in the years to come. It is these people — past, present and future — who have made, and will continue to make, our province and the world a better place.”

– DR. GARY KACHANOSKI, MEMORIAL’S PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR

Investment in scholarship and bursary funding, research chairs, professorships and fellowships and improvements to the quality of facilities will enable the university to continue to build a first-rate, world-class learning and research environment in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“If we are to continue to fulfil the promise of Memorial’s first 85 years, and if we want to continue to attract talented students, faculty and staff who want to come here to learn, do research and start businesses, stay and put down roots here, then we must make some serious strategic investments in their success and in our university,” said Dr. Kachanoski.

Through Dare To, Memorial is focusing on student financial support and academic excellence as areas which require major investment and support, in addition to the clear need for improvements to infrastructure.

“With our donors’ generous commitments to Dare To, Memorial will strengthen its capacity to educate enterprising minds, conduct influential research and produce qualified graduates to accelerate Newfoundland and Labrador’s prosperity,” said General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), B.Sc.’76, chancellor and campaign chair.

Throughout the quiet phase, and since it’s public launch, the campaign has enjoyed strong support from an extensive network of individuals, foundations and corporations, as well as from the team of people who spend a significant portion of their personal and professional lives on campus. From the very beginning stages of the campaign, Dare To has been avidly supported by Memorial’s faculty, students and staff.

cont’d on page 12

Promoting Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University, Memorial’s president, Dr. Gary Kachanoski and chancellor, General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), engage in a mock (and possibly daring) battle of wits on the precipice of St. John’s harbour.
“The achievement of the campaign objectives is highly dependent on our ability to receive the endorsement, enthusiasm and financial support of our internal constituencies—the groups closest to Memorial who are collectively known as our family,” said Gen. Hillier. “Our Memorial family is daring to make this the most successful campaign in our history. Giving truly does begin at home.”

To date, Memorial faculty, staff and students have demonstrated remarkable solidarity and support, donating more than $1.2 million. Following several years of planning, the campaign launched on Nov. 1, 2011, with $36.5 million having already been raised, representing 73 per cent of the $50 million goal.

At the campaign’s public launch, Memorial had seen a marked increase in giving by individuals, when compared to the last campaign, The Opportunity Fund, which began in 1997. Specifically, gifts from individuals comprise an impressive 36.4 per cent of the contributions made thus far. Of the $36.5 million already raised, $12.1 million comes from individuals; $19.2 million from corporations; $4 million from groups; and $1.2 million from Memorial’s faculty, staff and students. The $19.2 million from the corporate sector represents partners from many fields, including oil and gas, finance, mining, communications, pharmaceuticals, insurance and many more.

Among the remarkable gifts donated by individuals is the landmark 2007 gift from Dr. Jean Bruneau, BA’71, Honorary LLD’98, and Dr. Angus Bruneau, Honorary D.Eng’84, of over $1 million to the Angus Bruneau Student Leadership and Innovation Fund in Engineering. This was the largest gift of its kind to Memorial at the time and helps to give students opportunities to tackle leadership roles and broaden their educational experiences. Over the course of decades, Dr. Jean and Dr. Angus Bruneau have been strong supporters of Memorial, and there are many more individuals, foundations and corporations who have invested in significant and innovative ways, with many more to partner with Memorial in Dare To in the months leading to the campaign close.

Chaired by General Hillier (Ret’d), the voluntary campaign cabinet consists of: Dr. Vic Young, B.Comm.(Hons.)’66, Honorary LLD’96, Mr. Mark Dobbin, B.Comm.(Co-op.)’81, Dr. Angus Bruneau, Dr. Jean Bruneau, Dr. Gary Kachanoski, Dr. David Wardlaw, and Ms. Eleanor Swanson, M.Ed.’77, as well as special advisers to the cabinet, Dr. Ray Gosine, B.Eng.’86 and Dr. Christopher Loomis.

“I extend my sincere thanks to our incredibly dedicated campaign cabinet and volunteers for their time, expertise, and deep commitment to Memorial’s success,” said Dr. Penny Blackwood, B.Sc.(Hons.)’88, director, alumni affairs and development. “Since the campaign began, we have seen tremendous support from our Memorial family, and from a devoted network of volunteers, and their generosity is very much appreciated. We could not have achieved the success we have thus far, were it not for their unwavering dedication.”

The provincial and federal governments are also in support of the campaign and the overall redevelopment initiative. All levels of government recognize that, as Memorial has grown over the past 85 years, classrooms, studios, laboratories, and student gathering spaces have become overcrowded and out of date. The physical infrastructure is aging and requires renovation or replacement in order to compete with other post-secondary institutions. As part of the overall redevelopment initiative, the university is planning significant expansion and renovations across its campuses, and has already received over $200 million from the provincial and federal governments for infrastructure renewal. Projects include the St. John’s and Grenfell Campus student residences, the Grenfell Campus academic building, and the Faculty of Medicine expansion in St. John’s, including the creation of the new Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Human Genetics.

While the Dare To campaign is the most ambitious fundraising campaign in the university’s history, its legacy will be its ongoing, long-term approach to fundraising and engagement with ambitious annual goals. The vision of Memorial’s executive and alumni affairs and development team is to continue to propel the university toward a more sustainable, ongoing fund development program that focuses on a broad base of donors, with the goal of engaging the entire community of those with affinity to Memorial.

“Students who earn their degrees through Memorial come from all over the globe, and they go on to do great things, within this province, across Canada, and throughout the world,” said Dr. Kachanoski. “And many will choose to stay right here in Newfoundland and Labrador, to help contribute to our growing economy and create even more opportunities in the future. Through this campaign, and through the longer-term vision we have for Memorial, we wish to encourage the top students and academics in our province—and those from around the world—to recognize that our university, and our province, is where they belong.”

For more information on the campaign, please visit www.dareto.ca.
LEADING BY EMPOWERING OTHERS

A conversation with General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), Chancellor of Memorial University

General Rick Hillier (Ret’d) is the former Chief of the Defence Staff of the Canadian Forces. Following a decorated 35-year military career, General Hillier retired from active duty in 2008 and soon afterwards accepted an appointment as Memorial University’s chancellor. In that role, he also serves as the chair of the steering committee for Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University. In this interview with Luminus contributor Laura Barron, BA’03, General Hillier reflects on his personal journey and shares his views on our province, our country and our duty to our fellow citizens.

cont’d on page 14
Q & A

CONT'D FROM PAGE 13

LUMINUS: Congratulations on being named a Member of the Order of Canada!
HILLIER: Thank you. I was privileged and honoured to be named to the Order of Canada. It happened that I was on the list with Dr. Nigel Rusted and that really made it all the more special as he was a personal hero of mine. I’m sitting with you today after having attended his funeral service here in St. John’s and I was reminded at that service of what an inspiring individual, man, Newfoundland and Canadian he was—as well as an incredible doctor and philanthropist. He performed over 9,000 major surgeries in his life and also had the ability to diagnose tuberculosis without requiring X-rays—that’s long back before I was born, or you were born. That ability probably saved many, many lives across our province, and touched thousands more. So when it came to the Order of Canada, to be on the list with Dr. Rusted was a privilege.

LUMINUS: What might our readers not know about you as an individual? Do you have any interesting hobbies?
HILLIER: What you see is what you get. I do like to try my hand at everything in life, whether that is reading, which I love to do, or fishing, which I’ve gotten back into over the past three or four years, or golf, which I play horribly, or hockey, which I love.

LUMINUS: Did you enjoy writing your books?
HILLIER: I did. But I will say that I wrote two books in two years, and I bit off a lot more than I anticipated. It was a heck of a lot of work, particularly given the fact that I was busy doing other things, working for some of the companies for whom I work, as chancellor of Memorial, supporting charitable causes, and giving speeches to companies and associations that want to rejuvenate their leadership. Taking on those two books in two years was a lot, but that said, it was absolutely enjoyable. The first one, in particular, was a trip down memory lane. I had to work hard to bring back those memories, because I’ve never been a person to keep detailed diaries and notes. As we talked, our conversations would trigger other memories—things I hadn’t thought about for years and years. That was exceptional, and it was a great experience.

LUMINUS: You’ve spent quite a bit of your career travelling around the world. Is there a favourite place you like to visit?
HILLIER: Yes, it’s called Canada. I think that every soldier realizes what an awesome life we have here in Canada, what a privilege it is to live and work in this great country. We appreciate this each and every time we go away because we see what is not Canada. When we come back, we have a greater appreciation for our country than ever before.

LUMINUS: Are there any particular places in Canada that you love most?
HILLIER: Well, I have an affinity for this great province of Newfoundland and Labrador—to the point that my wife and I have just built a house in Campbellton. We are planting firm roots now, building on those roots that we had when we were very young. Campbellton is one of the most beautiful places on this Earth. It’s next to Lewisporte, right on Notre Dame Bay. It has the best boating in the province, great skidooing, berry picking, trout fishing, salmon fishing, hunting—really, whatever you want to do, it’s all there.

LUMINUS: When did you know that you wanted to be a soldier?
HILLIER: I knew from a young age. I like to joke that I was eight years old, though it’s probably not far off. I was enthralled by the idea of being a soldier. I grew up hearing stories about my great-uncle, John Clarke, almost as if he was alive with us. He was a soldier with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. He was killed in August of 1917, just after he had turned 20 years old. I grew up hearing about John Clarke, the soldier, and that’s all I ever wanted to be.

LUMINUS: Does anything stand out as a pivotal early experience when you began your career in the Canadian Forces?
HILLIER: Stories galore stand out from that time. Like all of us at 16, 17 and 18 years old, I thought I knew everything. I was so green, if I had been planted, I would have sprouted. I’ll give you one quick story: during basic training I was one in a platoon of 40, and at that time all young men roughly the same age. The non-commissioned officer who was our trainer had the job of trying to turn us civilians into basic soldiers, and then into leaders. Just an incredible leader himself, and I have looked to him as an example all of my life. So, on the second morning, we were all on parade, and this officer is walking through the ranks. He walked past me, looked me up and down, and looked me in the eye. We were all frightened to death—everything was so different, and we were in an entirely new environment. “Did you shave today Mr. Hillier?” he said to me. Now with the baby skin I had at the time I automatically answered, “Why would I shave?”
Well, that was the wrong answer. He proceeded to chew me out in a way I had never experienced before. Let me tell you, from then on, I shaved every day. And many times since then, that flashes through my mind when shaving [laughs] — “Mr. Hillier, did you shave today?”

LUMINUS: As you know, Memorial has established a new Office of Engagement. How, in your view, can we become more engaged with the people of our province?

HILLIER: I think we do it in a variety of ways. It starts at the core of this university, which is our students. We have somewhere over 18,000 students across this province and we want to make sure we keep them, their connection to and belief in our university — at the centre of our efforts. Whether they realize it or not, our students are our first ambassadors. Sometimes I don’t think we’ve made that point to them as well as we could. We used to say to our soldiers, “You are the very credentials of our nation when you step out on a mission — whether that be in Northern Canada, or a disaster after a hurricane in Newfoundland, or in Somalia, or the Persian Gulf, or in Afghanistan — wherever you go, you are Canada’s credentials. Our country is judged on you.” We need to have a similar message for our students who are Memorial’s first ambassadors. The second part is external. Our faculty, students, staff and leadership — we all have to be active in our communities and we have to actively organize community engagement. I think the third piece is our alumni. A great part of the Dare To campaign is that we’ve reached out to many more of our alumni in a more direct way than we’ve done in a long time. Memorial has produced some of the most successful men and women in our country. At times, we’ve not had the capability to harness their valuable input and support and they’ve felt underutilized. Lastly, the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador has stepped up in a way that is incredible. Premier Dunderdale attended the campaign launch this past November and her speech demonstrated her belief in the university and emphasized that Memorial is at the forefront of people’s lives in Newfoundland and Labrador.

LUMINUS: Why do you think alumni should support their alma mater?

HILLIER: Well, I go back to what I said first about how we live in the best country in the world. With that comes a responsibility, as a country, to give back to the rest of the world that has, in some respects, helped us to become what we are. As a citizen of this great country, I believe that every one of us has a responsibility to give back, and so many do. People who get the lever of a credible, professional university education have an even greater responsibility to give back, to ensure that the lever will be even more powerful for people in the future, and will be an even better lever than the one they had. The more successful you are, I believe, the more responsibility you have to give back. What greater role in life could there be?

LUMINUS: How do you think the Dare To campaign will impact the university?

HILLIER: I think it’s going to strengthen everything we do. We’re developing young minds every single day. By offering more scholarships, fellowships and professorships, we will entice people to come to Memorial who otherwise might not. And of course, we have to improve our infrastructure. Second-class infrastructure does not attract first class people. We have to complement and augment the work the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is doing with the university in terms of infrastructure. And we have a massive opportunity in front of us to extend our research and development in a variety of sectors, in particular, in conjunction with oil and gas companies and the provincial government. I think this campaign will allow us to realize the incredible potential we have to help better the lives of the people living here. And this campaign is reconnecting us with our alumni, so we can strengthen those relationships. Our alumni are an incredibly successful group and now they have an opportunity to help our university. This is more powerful than anything else.
RIDER ON THE STORM

BY GEOFF MEEKER

Because we dare, Ken is safe from harm. The tempests of the sea. The surprise of a winter’s squall. His forecast is now clear.

Since 1966, Ken King has fished Placentia Bay for crab, cod and other species. The bay is large, with unpredictable weather conditions, and Ken has been caught in sudden storms that very nearly killed him—that is, until the launch of SmartBay. A partnership among the provincial and federal governments, industry and the Marine Institute of Memorial University, SmartBay provides real-time weather data for fishers, recreational boaters and shuttle tankers in the busy, environmentally sensitive waters of Placentia Bay. The data is collected by four oceanographic buoys that measure wind speed and direction, wave heights, air temperature and more, often picking up local anomalies that wouldn’t appear in regional forecasts. “Many times, I’ve stayed off the water, based on what SmartBay told me,” he said. “Without it, I probably wouldn’t be here now.”

PHOTO: Dave Howells
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

_Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University_ has demonstrated that there is no single way to give back to Memorial. Contributions take many forms, and in doing so, capture the same diversity that is evident in our university, our students and our global community of alumni and friends. Giving back to Memorial is much more than a gift. It is an investment. Students who benefit from scholarships and state-of-the-art learning environments provide an immeasurable return on our shared future. Research initiatives support their education, advance our communities and address global challenges that extend far beyond our borders. Included here are just a few examples that show the diversity of contributions to our university—and how they are making a difference.

STEPHEN JARISLOWSKY CHAIR IN CULTURE CHANGE

The Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Culture Change in Rapidly Developing Modern Societies is an academic chair at Memorial University that focuses on culture change and the strategies required to affect immigration integration and retention. The chair was established at Memorial through a $1 million donation from the Montreal-based Stephen Jarislowsky Foundation and a $500,000 commitment from Dr. Elinor Gill Ratcliffe, Honorary LLD ’11, a local philanthropist. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, through the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment, has provided an additional $225,000 in support. This specialized teaching and research professorship is housed within Memorial’s Faculty of Arts. Research undertaken by the chair will assist the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador in advancing its immigration, recruitment and retention strategies.

APRIL ARNOTT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The April Arnott Memorial Scholarship supports students in the Marine Environmental program at the Marine Institute and was established in honour of April Arnott, a Marine Institute student who passed away on Nov. 11, 2000. As a student at MI, April was loved by her classmates and instructors alike, displaying a dedication to helping others that made a scholarship in her name a fitting tribute to her memory. Funding for the scholarship was raised primarily through donations from members of the Department of Human Resources at Memorial University. April’s mother Hilda works in the department and the fundraising efforts of her co-workers have honoured April while also offering support for Hilda. It is a wonderful example of the overall support that has been extended by the Memorial community to the family campaign, an internal effort among faculty and staff that has made an important contribution to _Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University_. The family campaign has supported a variety of scholarships and other projects at Memorial with a total contribution of more than $1.2 million.

_The recipient of the April Arnott Memorial Scholarship for 2012 is Jonathan Chatman, a third-year marine environmental student from Canning’s Cove, NL. Pictured here during a 2011 trip to the Arctic with the program Students on Ice, Jonathan was one of 80 students chosen for the program from applicants all over the world._
RBC FOUNDATION’S BLUE WATER PROJECT

RBC Foundation’s Blue Water Project made history with Memorial University. The $800,000 donation is the largest philanthropic contribution the foundation has ever made to an educational institution in Atlantic Canada. This funding has enabled the university to strengthen its role as a leader in sustainable initiatives, and increase research opportunities for faculty and students through the Leslie Harris Centre of Regional Policy and Development. Exploring a number of issues associated with fresh water in Newfoundland and Labrador has been made possible as a result of this contribution. Dr. Rob Greenwood, BA(Hons.)’84, Harris Centre executive director, notes that, “The RBC Foundation’s support is enabling Memorial researchers to better understand the drinking water needs of rural and remote communities in Newfoundland and Labrador, and is working with communities, governments and industry to conduct applied research to create practical solutions. Regional workshops are being conducted to learn about needs and share findings. In addition, four applied research projects were funded last year, and a new call for proposals went out in April 2012.”

THE WHITE TRADING LAB

In the fall of 2011, Memorial’s Faculty of Business Administration unveiled the White Trading Lab. This new financial and research trading lab was made possible by a generous donation from Brad White, B.Comm.(Co-op.)’91, the founder, CEO and CIO of Toronto-based EdgeHill Partners. This state-of-the-art lab allows students and faculty to interact with the global financial community in a real-time setting, making Memorial one of just a few universities in Canada to have such a facility. Not only does the lab provide a hands-on learning experience for students that is not always available in a traditional finance classroom, it impacts the greater financial landscape of Newfoundland and Labrador. Providing a new incentive for local, Canadian and international students to choose Memorial as a premium location to study portfolio management, it has changed the perception of the investment management industry and demonstrates that St. John’s is becoming a growing and independent financial centre.
Because we dare, Rick will travel the world.
Breathe the air. Smile brighter. Raise his sons.

It’s a disease that hundreds in Newfoundland and Labrador are only too familiar with. Sometimes referred to as sudden cardiac death, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) is a degenerative genetic condition that causes healthy heart cells to be replaced by fatty, fibrous tissue. The buildup results in an irregular heartbeat that can trigger a heart to beat more than 300 times a minute until it finally stops.
“The first symptom is often death,” said Dr. Kathy Hodgkinson, the genetic counsellor who has been tracking families affected by ARVC and collecting their DNA since 1995.

Touched by the plight of families in Newfoundland and Labrador affected by ARVC, the molecular genetics research lab at Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine, led by Dr. Terry-Lynn Young, B.Sc.(Hons.)’83, M.Sc.’89, PhD’00, made a group decision to concentrate their research efforts on identifying the responsible gene mutation. Their successful findings were published in the online *American Journal of Human Genetics,* and were widely publicized.

Newfoundland’s ARVC puzzle was solved by an interdisciplinary team of clinicians, researchers, genetic counsellors, nurses, molecular biologists and ethicists. By identifying the problem in terms of patients, families and their communities, research knowledge has been translated into effective patient care.

Prior to the discovery of the specific ARVC gene mutation, the research team had already narrowed the location to chromosome 3, and team members were able to use this to identify likely carriers. Since 1999, cardiologist Dr. Sean Connors, B.Med.Sci.’87, MD’92, has been implanting internal cardiac defibrillators (ICDs) in adults with ARVC. These tiny devices restart the heart if it stops, and while not a cure, this device has been very successful in saving lives. Now that those most likely to be affected by ARVC can be reliably identified, Dr. Conners has been able to implant more than 100 ICDs in adults at risk from this condition.

MEMORIAL’S FACULTY OF MEDICINE is currently undergoing an incredible expansion, including the creation of a new centre dedicated to genetics research. This joint project by Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine and Eastern Health will mean improved health for people around the world who are affected by genetic disease.

Financial support for the expansion has been committed by the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador and the Canada Foundation for Innovation. On May 23, 2012, this centre was named the Craig L. Dobbin Genetics Research Centre in recognition of a substantial donation to medical education and research focused on genetic illness.

The Centre will help position Memorial at the forefront of health research in a highly competitive international research environment, will assist the Faculty of Medicine in retaining world-class scientists, and will prepare Memorial University to train the next generation of health researchers.

*Please note that this announcement was made close to the publication deadline. More detailed information about this landmark gift to Memorial University and the exciting initiative that it supports will be available in a future issue of Luminus magazine.*
For Vicki Connolly, BA(Ed.)’79, of St. John’s, the discovery of the ARVC gene mutation changed her life. For years she suffered from panic attacks, afraid that she was having a deadly heart attack. When she found that she did not carry the mutation, she cried for three days.

Not all members of Ms. Connolly’s family have been as fortunate. Her brother Keith died at age 42, and his son died at 38, both as a result of this condition. Keith’s daughter also has the gene mutation related to ARVC, and now has an ICD. Ms. Connolly’s sister, Thelma, had the gene mutation and died at age 57. Thelma had eight children—five of whom tested positive—and three grandsons with the gene mutation, one of whom passed away in his early 20s. On several occasions, a defibrillator has saved the lives of two of Vicki’s nieces.

“It is only for the work of cardiologist Dr. Sean Connors and all the researchers who worked on this discovery that this is possible,” said Ms. Connolly. “They are wonderful, wonderful people.”

For men with the ARVC gene mutation, the results are particularly devastating. Without intervention, only half of males with this mutation survive to age 40 and 80 per cent die by age 50. Men who carry one copy of the mutated gene have a median life expectancy of 41 years, women of 71. Researchers suspect hormones may offer premenopausal women some protection against the heart condition.

Rick Ralph of Gambo, NL, was just eight when his father died of heart failure. He knew from an early age that his family has a history of ARVC, and in 2003 he had his first defibrillator implanted. Rick makes sure that his two young sons go with him to the medical appointments for his heart. “I don’t want them to be afraid in case they might be affected too. They’ll be tested when they are in their teens. For me, I’m 35 now, and having a defibrillator is a small price to pay for being alive.”

Rick brought other members of his family to the attention of the ARVC research team. “One sister has a defibrillator that has never gone off, although her 20 year-old daughter’s did last summer. Another sister found out in the fall of 2011 that she has the gene mutation. She is waiting for an ICD implant. She has three children, two boys and a girl all under 21. They were tested this year and do not have the mutation.”

Newfoundland and Labrador has the highest incidence of ARVC in the world. Since the gene mutation was discovered, it is now recommended that either an implantable or external defibrillator be provided to male carriers in their late teens, and female carriers in their late 20s, even if they have no clinical symptoms. This has resulted in 10 times fewer male deaths, compared with carriers not provided with defibrillators.

Commercial testing for the ARVC gene mutation is now available. Research is continuing and with the help of $3 million in funding from the Atlantic Innovation Fund, the Memorial ARVC research team is leading an international team of cardiologists and cardiology research groups in the United Kingdom and Canada to discover and validate more genes and genetic mutations linked to sudden cardiac death.
CLUNY MACPHERSON

BY BERT RIGGS, BA(Hons.)’77, B.Ed.’77

At its Spring Convocation in May 1962, Memorial University of Newfoundland awarded an honorary doctor of science degree to Cluny Macpherson, a medical doctor who was recognized around the world as the inventor of the gas mask, a godsend to hundreds of thousands of soldiers in the First World War who were repeatedly exposed to poison gases released during enemy attacks.

Cluny Macpherson was born in St. John’s on March 18, 1879, the eldest son of Emma Duder and Campbell Macpherson. He received his early education at the Methodist College on Long’s Hill before enrolling at McGill University in Montreal to study medicine, graduating from there with an MD in 1901. While still a student he demonstrated what would become a lifelong commitment to public service by volunteering with the Royal National Mission for Deep Sea Fishermen, later the International Grenfell Association, in Labrador.

Following graduation from McGill, Macpherson spent a year at the Royal Infirmary in Edinburgh, Scotland, before returning to St. John’s in 1902, where he was immediately commissioned by the Newfoundland government to travel to Labrador in an attempt to eradicate a smallpox epidemic. Upon completion of that task he accepted an appointment as chief medical officer at the Grenfell hospital at Battle Harbour. Two years later he set up a private medical practice in St. John’s, but continued to serve rural communities when called upon to do so.

While practicing in St. John’s in 1910 Macpherson accepted a challenge from Governor Sir Ralph Williams and helped organize a branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. He was instrumental in training skills such as home care and first aid to many individuals who would later enlist in the Newfoundland Regiment after the outbreak of war in 1914 and become part of the Regiment’s Ambulance Brigade. Macpherson, who himself enlisted on Sept. 21, 1914, just weeks after war was declared, became the chief organizer of that brigade, which lasted for the duration of the war.

Upon joining the regiment, Macpherson was awarded the rank of captain and appointed principal medical officer. He went overseas in March 1915, where one of the first problems he encountered was the effect of poison gas on soldiers who had little protection from it. In April 1915, while in France, and using a helmet taken from a captured German soldier, he developed a mask made of fabric that had been specially treated to absorb the poisonous chemicals: one that covered the head and shoulders, fitted with transparent eyepieces, usually made of mica, to enable them to see. This mask went through several modifications before being transformed into the canister-type mask that became standard issue for the troops in 1916.

Macpherson saw service in France at Flanders, in Egypt at Gallipoli, and in the Balkans at Salonika, and was twice mentioned in dispatches before being shipped back to St. John’s, as a result of injuries, in October 1916. There he soon took up duties as chief medical officer for the Department of Militia, which was responsible for management of the war effort. Before demobilization from the regiment in June 1919 with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, he had also seen service as a member of the British War Office’s Committee on Protection against Poisonous Gases and as Newfoundland’s director of medical services.

cont'd on page 24
After the war, Macpherson settled back into private practice, where he treated tens of thousands of patients over the next 40 years. During that time he was heavily involved in the governance of the medical profession, serving as president of the Newfoundland Medical Association and the St. John’s Clinical Society and held offices in a number of related organizations. In 1949, he became a member of the Medical Council of Canada, becoming the second Newfoundlander to serve as its president (1954-1955). His community service was not limited to medical matters, encompassing organizations and interests that ranged from education to justice to business. In the latter role, he was for many years a director of a number of Macpherson family-owned businesses, which included the Royal Stores. In recognition of his war service and his many contributions to the medical profession and to the community at large, Macpherson was named a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (1918), Fellow of the British Royal College of Surgeons (1955), Knight of Justice of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem (1955), Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (1957) and honorary president of the Clan Macpherson Association of Canada.

Macpherson married Eleonora Thompson in 1920 and they were the parents of Emma and Campbell Macpherson, Honorary LLD’63, the latter serving as lieutenant-governor of Newfoundland and Labrador from 1957 to 1963. Cluny Macpherson died at St. John’s on Nov. 16, 1966.

In presenting Cluny Macpherson to Memorial University’s Convocation on May 19, 1962, public orator George M. Story described his life as “a singular instance of the manifold nature of a physician’s career ... notable for its varied achievement.”

Throughout his life, Cluny Macpherson refused to allow his vision or his actions to be restricted by the narrow bounds of convention or expectation. He was an ideal candidate to receive an honorary degree at the first Convocation held at Memorial’s new campus.
Because we dare,  
Jackie can inspire others.  
Overcome bullying.  
Discover confidence. Rise above.  

BY MOIRA FINN

Entrepreneurial skills and business acumen have helped SIFE Memorial teams win national and international championships, but the trophies and accolades are not nearly as important to these students as the opportunity to help improve the lives of others.

Like many idealistic young people, when Courtney Youden began her studies at Memorial in 2008, her goal was to gain the knowledge and skills to help others and improve the world around her.

The opportunity to do just that came sooner than she expected, thanks to her involvement with SIFE Memorial. Memorial University’s chapter of the international student organization, Students in Free Enterprise, participates in the global initiative to apply business concepts for the benefit of people in their communities.

“The idea is to take what we learn in university and help people make their business ideas a reality,” says Ms. Youden. “But the result is that we benefit from the experience as much as the people we are supporting.”

Jackie Squire was an early program participant. Bullied and marginalized as a child, she wrote and illustrated her own children’s book, *The Life of Little Hoot*, to convey the lasting effects of bullying.

After editing the book and making arrangements for its printing, the SIFE team worked with Ms. Squire to create BullyProof, an anti-bullying campaign that is now being delivered in schools throughout the province.

While having her book published is a dream come true for Ms. Squire, and its modest but growing sales a welcome bonus—it is her pride at overcoming adversity and her newfound status as a role model that are for her the most important outcomes of the venture.

“Local solutions to global issues, is the SIFE approach,” explains Ms. Youden, who is co-project manager of Bright Futures, a SIFE Memorial program that helps individuals with disabilities start their own businesses.
In December 2011, BMO Financial Group announced the BMO Financial Group Graduate Scholarship in the Faculty of Business Administration at Memorial University. By investing in student scholarships, BMO hopes to encourage prospective graduate students to pursue their studies in business at Memorial. Starting this year, scholarships will be available to full-time students enrolled in a PhD program in Memorial’s Faculty of Business Administration, helping PhD students focus on their studies without the added stress of a financial burden.
1 | **DR. KRISH P. THIAGARAJAN,** *M.Eng.*’89, has been named by the University of Maine as the first Alston D. and Ada Lee Correll Presidential Chair in Energy. Currently a professor at the University of Western Australia in Perth, Dr. Thiagarajan’s appointment will be critical to UMaine’s research efforts in offshore wind and tidal energy.

2 | **ROBERT SMART,** *B.Comm.*’78, is the new city manager for St. John’s, NL. Mr. Smart takes on the top administrative job in the city following a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years in the provincial public sector.

3 | **DEANNE FOLEY,** BA’95, is a writer/director. Beat Down is her debut feature film starring Robb Wells (Trailer Park Boys) and Marthe Bernard (Republic of Doyle). The film has been nominated, Best Canadian Feature, at the Female Eye Film Festival, June 20-24, in Toronto. For more information visit www.beatdownmovie.com.

4 | **CATHERINE COURAGE,** B.Sc.(Hons.)’97, was named to the 2011 Top 40 Under 40 list by the Silicon Valley/San Jose Business Journal. She is an author and design expert, working for Citrix Systems Inc. as vice-president of product design.

5 | **OLGA ILICH,** MBA’80, is a developer and former cabinet minister in British Columbia. She was recently named co-chair of Vancouver’s housing affordability task force, which has a mandate to identify both the conditions that lead to unaffordable housing in Vancouver and opportunities to address the issue.

6 | **DR. PETER J. ZED,** B.Sc.(Pharm.)’95, has been appointed associate dean, practice innovation in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia.

7 | **JASON CARMICHAEL,** BRM’11, is working with a non-governmental organization in Sierra Leone that is committed to addressing issues of empowerment and sustainable development in third-world countries.
IN MEMORY (RECORDED FROM AUGUST 2011 – NOVEMBER 2011)

COLIN BARTHOLOMEW  
(Ret.) faculty, Department of Mathematics and Statistics  
Aug. 2, 2011

JOAN ANN BURKE (NEE VINICOMBE)  
BA(Ed.)/’73  
Sept. 5, 2011

CAROL ANN BYRD (NEE ROSE), BA(ed.)’69  
Oct. 27, 2011

JUNE MARIA CHAFE (NEE THORNHILL)  
MUC’42  
Aug. 22, 2011

SHARON COLLINS, B.Sc.’84  
Oct. 18, 2011

HARRY COPPIN, B.Sc.’91  
Aug. 1, 2011

BYRON R. DAWE, B.Eng.’74, M.Eng.’84  
Nov. 18, 2011

SYLVIA DAWSON, BA(Ed.)’77  
Oct. 13, 2011

STELLA DEVEREAUX (NEE POWER), BA(Ed.)’80  
Oct. 24, 2011

A. BLAISE DUNNE, B.Com.’70  
Aug. 10, 2011

DR. JAMES THOMAS DUNNE  
(Ret.) assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology  
Nov. 23, 2011

THE HONOURABLE MR. JUSTICE GORDON G. EASTON, BA’53  
Aug. 2, 2011

WILLIAM A. HAMLIN, BA’68  
Aug. 24, 2011

EILEEN M. HAMMOND (NEE KENNEDY)  
BA(Ed.)/’78, BA’80, B.Sp.Ed.’97  
Oct. 22, 2011

GILBERT DARA HEFFERN, BA(Hons.)’77, MA’95  
Aug. 13, 2011

OWEN JUNIOR HISCOCK, BA(Ed.)’64, BA’65  
Aug. 28, 2011

MAY VINCENT HORWOOD, MUC’30  
Oct. 1, 2011

DR. GORDON HUTCHINGS  
B.Med.Sci.’75, MD’77  
Nov. 10, 2011

TIMOTHY (TIM) J. KAVANAUGH  
B.Comm.(Co-op.)’79  
Oct. 12, 2011

CAROL ANNE KELLOWAY, B.Sc.’02  
Aug. 13, 2011

SCOTT DAVID KELLY  
BA’96, Cert. in Nfld. Studies’96  
Nov. 1, 2011

FRAN LOCKE, B.Sc.(Hons.)’76  
Oct. 2, 2011

GLENN CLARENCE MAOORE, Dip.Voc.Ed.’93  
Nov. 28, 2011

DR. CLIVE MELLOR  
(Ret.) professor, chair of psychiatry  
Aug. 24, 2011

DR. SAILENDU SEKHAR MOOKERJEA, professor emeritus, Department of Biochemistry  
Nov. 18, 2011

ELIZABETH MURRAY (NEE WALSH)  
MUC’44, BA(Ed.)’71, BA’74  
Oct. 28, 2011

PETER REUBEN NARVAEZ  
(Rev.) professor, Department of Folklore  
Nov. 11, 2011

SISTER ANN MARIE NORMORE  
BA(Ed.)’74, BA’78  
Oct. 25, 2011

DR. FRANCIS NORTHOVER  
(Fmr) professor of mathematics  
Nov. 4, 2011

EUGENE PIKE, BA’63  
Oct. 3, 2011

GORDON WILLIAM POWER, B.Comm.’70  
Nov. 23, 2011

DR. WALLACE STANLEY READ, CM  
Honorary D.Eng.’96  
Aug. 16, 2011

DR. SATTI PADDI REDDY, professor emeritus, (Fmr) head of Department of Physics  
Sept. 15, 2011

PHILIP LEMUEL JAMES REID  
MI Vocational/Technical Cert.’06  
Nov. 15, 2011

NANCY CAMARILLO SEPULVEDA, B.Sc.’09  
Aug. 9, 2011

JOHN MICHAEL SHAW, Dip.Ed.Admin.’72  
Oct. 26, 2011

DR. ROBERT (BOB) SIMMS, MUC’32  
Sept. 19, 2011

DR. GORDON RICHARD SMEON, OC  
Honorary D.Eng.’94  
Sept. 26, 2011

JUDIE SMITH (NEE PROBERT), BA’92  
Aug. 17, 2011

RUBY VERA SWYERS-WHEELER, B.Voc.Ed.’85  
Nov. 7, 2011

GWENDOLEN SUZANNE THISTLE  
BA’96, B.Ed.’09  
Aug. 11, 2011

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR AFFINITY DINNERS

(Calgary, Toronto, Halifax, Ottawa and London, UK): 2012

The Alumni Affinity event series are the signature alumni events throughout the year. Since their inception these events have generated funds for scholarships at Memorial while also providing a forum for networking among alumni and friends across Canada and in the U.K.

In Calgary on June 13, the Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, will provide the keynote address: Bold and Tenacious: Driving Growth and Prosperity in the New Newfoundland and Labrador.

At our annual Affinity event in Ottawa on Nov. 1, Canada’s Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and president of the Queen’s Privy Council for Canada, the Honourable Peter Penashue, will address alumni and friends. Juno nominated folk trio The Once will entertain alumni and friends at the Arcadian Loft in Toronto on Sept. 20 and again on Sept. 27 at the Affinity celebration in Halifax.

Stay tuned for more details on the remaining 2012 Affinity events. For regular updates or to register for any of these events, visit www.munalum.ca.
With over a year of planning already complete, the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development at Memorial are working overtime to make sure everything is in place for Reunion 2012. Happening from Aug. 8-12, the reunion is being described as the biggest celebration in Memorial’s history. Its theme is *havin’ a time* and the recently released schedule of events promises just that. Over 70 different events are planned for the five-day period at Memorial University’s St. John’s campus, Marine Institute and Grenfell Campus.

Grouped in four distinctive categories called Rant and Roar 1101, Day Tripper 2201, Something to Talk About 3300 and Glory Days 4305—the events themselves are so widely varied that all ages and interests are sure to be engaged. From faculty parties to pop culture lectures to boat tours—there’s something for everyone.

Dr. Penny Blackwood is the director of the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development at Memorial. She talked about the planning process to date and is anticipating great excitement about the upcoming celebration in August.

“Seeing this come together, after so much effort and planning on the part of our incredibly dedicated volunteers, as well as so many people from across the university, it’s remarkable,” she said. “And what we have planned for August is really exciting. It’s unprecedented for Memorial. I’ve been looking at the event schedule and I’m amazed by it—there is truly something for everyone. Our big showcase event is called the Wicked Memorial Variety Show at Mile One Centre. It’s going to put an exclamation point on an incredible week.”

Valerie and Earl Ludlow are honorary co-chairs of the Reunion 2012 Steering Committee. Both proud graduates of Memorial, they have actively supported and promoted Memorial University throughout their careers. Valerie Ludlow spoke about the influence of Memorial and its graduates.

“In the process of planning something like this, you can’t help but be reminded of the enormous contribution that Memorial has made since 1925,” she said. “Our graduates have led and supported this province in so many ways. And that reach hasn’t been limited to Newfoundland and Labrador—it extends all around the world.”

Earl Ludlow reiterated that the first priority throughout the planning process has always been about having fun.

“Ultimately, this reunion is really about everyone getting together and celebrating their glory days here at Memorial and our special connections to this incredible province we call home,” he said. “We’ve got a lot to be thankful for and Memorial is way overdue for a celebration. We will definitely be *havin’ a time* in August.”

*The event schedule for *havin’ a time* Reunion 2012 can be found at www.reunion.mun.ca. Browse the schedule and register for events taking place during Reunion 2012. For those interested in helping out as a volunteer during Reunion 2012, information is also available on the reunion website.*
A painting can record history and mark a single point in time. But can it also be a caution for the future? A reminder of the past to guide us as we move forward?

The painting, Churchill Falls, shows us a mighty body of water as it begins its sheer drop over the edge of the falls. It was commissioned by Michael McCormick, senior vice-president of the House of Seagram Ltd., in 1966. Having been to Newfoundland and Labrador for a visit, McCormick decided he wanted an artistic record of what the falls looked like before the hydro project diverted the water. He selected for the job the Newfoundland-born artist, Robert Pilot.

Born in St. John’s but based in Montreal, Pilot was the stepson of another famous Newfoundland artist, the noted Canadian impressionist, Maurice Cullen. Pilot studied not only under his stepfather but also with William Brymner at the Royal Canadian Academy and in Paris at the Académie Julian. He became an accomplished artist in his own right specializing in landscape painting. He maintained a connection to the land of his birth, returning on several occasions. A series of landscape paintings done along the West Coast of the province became part of the Bowater Collection, which is today housed within the Grenfell Campus Art Collection.

Pilot was originally commissioned to do two paintings of Churchill Falls but died shortly after the first was completed. It is, in all likelihood (since the hydro-project broke ground in 1966), the last work of art to capture the massive waterfall in its natural state. The painting depicts the land and water before the development drastically altered the terrain and slowed the falls to a mere trickle.

Being of a different age and attitude, the prevailing concerns expressed about the project were less environmental and more in favour of progress and development. Pilot remarked that coming home, “In present times is to see a country of remarkable change—a splendid university has arisen in St. John’s and the awesome roar of Churchill Falls is heard around the world. A catalyst has appeared bringing the island proudly into the forefront of the 20th century.” In its day, the Upper Churchill Falls development was the largest construction project in North America.

Pilot’s painting of the falls was presented as a Centennial gift to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador in June 1967. Then Premier Joey Smallwood, Honorary D.Litt’61, accepted it and stated: “The greatest hope for Newfoundland’s future [was] the power which [would] be developed by Churchill Falls”, which would be, “the greatest single hydro-electric development ever known.”

Smallwood went on to say that the gift of this painting would, “be remembered with gratitude by the people of Newfoundland [and Labrador].” But looking at the painting today, it is clearly a reminder of so many things—of what the falls, and the land around them, once were, and of the dramatic and unintended consequences the project had. It causes one to wonder if such reminders will be of any consequence as plans for future developments to the Lower Churchill proceed?

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. The views and opinions expressed in this column are her own and do not necessarily reflect those of Memorial University.

She welcomes comments at crystalsparsons@gmail.com

Sources
“Painting Presented to Province’s People.” Western Star, Corner Brook. June 8, 1968.

Footnotes
(2) Painting Presented to Province’s People. Western Star, Corner Brook. June 8, 1968.

COURTESY OF: The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Collection

IMAGE: ROBERT W. PILOT
Churchill Falls 1967
Oil on canvas, 117.5 cm x 91 cm
The Rooms Provincial Art Gallery
Government of Newfoundland and Labrador Collection
Gift of the House of Seagram
It has now been over 45 years since I graduated from MUN with a bachelor of commerce degree. The campus, faculty and student body were but a fraction of their size today. In 1979, I was invited by Mose Morgan to join a major fundraising effort he was putting together to raise money for Memorial and, in particular, to fund the new Queen Elizabeth II Library. I jumped at the chance to help—not only because you could not say no to Mose—but because it just seemed like the right thing to do. I realized that here was an opportunity to give back to what I considered to be the most important institution in our province, tasked with the crucial responsibility to create an innovative environment in which students could grow, thrive, and contribute to the exciting future of Newfoundland and Labrador, and to the entire world.

That campaign raised $10 million for a variety of purposes, and the Queen Elizabeth II Library still stands as a symbol of its success. I found that fundraising was a particularly rewarding task, partly because of all of the new people I met, but mostly because I was a witness to the generosity of people in all walks of life who each felt the need to support the vision and the mission of a university that was determined to be world class.

Several years later, in 1984, I was asked by Mose Morgan to help him with a specially purposed campaign to fulfil his dream of creating a School of Music at Memorial. That campaign raised $3 million and laid the foundation for the magnificent music program now flourishing on the St. John’s campus. By this time, I was beginning to fully appreciate how important Memorial’s reputation is in bolstering support from potential donors from across the country and around the world.

Then, in 1997, I was asked to become the corporate finance chair for the new Opportunity Fund campaign with a private sector goal of $25 million. At this stage, it seemed as though people were crossing the road when they saw me coming towards them, and were not answering their phone when I tried to reach them. This is the kind of reaction generated by too much fundraising activity. Joking aside, this campaign was a major success and it helped build such significant capital projects as The Works and the University Centre. The Opportunity Fund also raised considerable sums for scholarships, bursaries and research chairs.

On Nov. 1, 2011, Chancellor Rick Hillier and President Gary Kachanoski announced the new Dare To campaign with a private sector goal of $50 million. I am delighted to be in the midst of this great campaign team as its vice-chair. When we reach our financial objective—and I have no doubt that we will—it is intended that we will then adapt our ongoing strategy so that we will continue to raise sustainable and substantial levels of funding outside of a formal campaign structure. Volunteers for this kind of continuous, never-ending campaign will be as easy to find as they have always been in the past. It still seems like the right thing to do.
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