NEW CHANCELLOR NAMED TO MEMORIAL

Past, Present and Future: Celebrating Memorial and its accomplished alumni

SPECIAL FEATURE
Highlights from havin’ a time: Reunion 2012
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features

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These are exciting times at Memorial University. We all have a lot to be proud of and much to celebrate. There is no doubt that 2012 was a big year for celebration at Memorial. Alumni, friends, faculty, staff, students and others in the Memorial community came together in August for havin’ a time: Reunion 2012—Memorial’s first-ever all-years, all-faculties, all-campuses reunion. Some reconnected after years without contact, others made new friends, and everyone made memories to last a lifetime. I saw friends from my days as a student in the psychology department and got to relive the classroom experience (minus the exams!).

During the reunion we also made a fantastic announcement about Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University, our $50 million private-sector fundraising campaign. As you’ll read in this issue of Luminus, we exceeded our goal with the generous support of many passionate donors.

What these two major initiatives have in common is the importance of people—of you, our alumni and friends—to their success. You are critical to our past, our present and our future. You are the reason Memorial was created—our legacy—and we are grateful for your passion for your university. In this issue of Luminus, we celebrate our alumni and their achievements. From the appointment of Dr. Susan Dyer Knight as Memorial’s next—and first female—chancellor, to the accomplishments of alumnae in fields as varied as neurology and visual arts, we are pleased to honour and celebrate you, our alumni. Our success truly lies in your success.

DR. PENNY BLACKWOOD
DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT
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havin’ a time
AUGUST 8–12 | REUNION 2012

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PHOTO: Dennis Flynn
WHAT DID REUNION 2012 MEAN TO YOU?

Alumni and friends from across Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada, the United States and beyond, had a time while celebrating Memorial University at havin’ a time: Reunion 2012 from Aug. 8 – 12 at the university’s St. John’s campus, the Marine Institute and Grenfell Campus. From reconnecting with old friends and colleagues to capturing the spirit of learning in speaker sessions featuring many Memorial professors and alumni, nostalgia-infused memory-making was the focal point of the festivities.

On the following page read what alumni had to say about havin’ a time: Reunion 2012.

OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Thousands of alumni and friends celebrate at The Wicked Memorial Variety Show at Mile One Centre. | Alumni sign the Reunion 2012 memory banner. | Dr. Gary Kachanoski, Memorial’s president and vice-chancellor, addresses guests at the opening reception. | CHMR alumni reflect on times spent on-air and off.

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Reunion 2012 character Trina Chafe gets the party started. | Alumni Earl Ludlow and Keith Wellon attend a speaker series session during Reunion 2012. | Residence spirit shines through with memorabilia from decades past at the Residence reunion event. | Dr. Gary Kachanoski and his wife Teresa, along with Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Grenfell Campus vice-president, nursing staff and students, participate in Western Regional School of Nursing’s open house. | Alumni and friends get the inside scoop on the making of Republic of Doyle during the speaker series event Republic of Doyle: St. John’s Reel and Imagined.
“Many of my happiest memories involve Memorial and my time on campus and the reunion was a good opportunity to see the people who helped shape those memories. I think people from out of province appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with home and the people and places, like Memorial, that inspired us along the way.

It is amazing to see how successful MUN graduates are no matter where they go and what path they choose. We have a lot to be proud of as a community and an institution. I gained more than a great education at MUN; I also gained lasting friendships.”

“The reunion was a chance not just to connect with old classmates and professors but a chance to reconnect with Memorial. This event reinforced my pride in this institution and also in this amazing place we call home, our province. From the social events to the classroom talks, meeting new friends and reminiscing with old classmates made Reunion 2012 a tremendously enjoyable experience.

Of course, the reunion was also a reminder of all of the learning we did on campus in our student days; getting back to class with the highly topical, unique presentations was a chance to rediscover this magic!”

“Two songs from the fifties, Memories Are Made of This and Moments to Remember, speak to what the reunion was all about and what it meant to me.

From celebrating the days we treasured as students to meeting up with people once again, this reunion was a chance to celebrate a university that has done so much for us. Reunion 2012 provided a brief shining moment in the youth of our lives.”

“Reunion 2012 for me meant re-connecting, I, together with alumnus Gene Power, had a true ‘ah ha!’ moment from the past.

While attending an event, Dr. Kirk Anderson, dean of the Faculty of Education, was about to introduce me to a fellow attendee, who looked familiar, when the gentleman said, ‘I know you!’.

Many years ago, Gene Power and I had both been members of a group of musical performers attending the St. John’s Folk Arts Council delegation in London, Ontario. We were part of a Newfoundland delegation representing the province at the opening of the Centennial Centre.

This was the first time I had met anyone from that trip in many years. I left Newfoundland in 1980. To have met Gene after over 40 years was definitely, for me, and I believe for Gene too, the reunion of the Reunion!”

“I’d always known what Memorial meant to me as an alumnus but this experience showed me just what an impact this institution has had on our many alumni and indeed, the overall impact on their personal and professional lives.

Watching our alumni, from different classes and periods in Memorial history, interact with old and new friends alike, was a remarkable experience. Witnessing the impact of Memorial on the lives of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians was truly the highlight of Reunion 2012 for me.”

“Wow! What a reunion! We were entertained and educated. We attended all of the speaker series events, which were fabulous. We learned so much about the university and the province in general. Some sessions were lighthearted and some were serious. Great selection!

We are delighted we travelled to Newfoundland for Reunion 2012. It felt so great to relive the MUN experience, reconnect at faculty events and rant and roar with alumni as we celebrated at the awesome social events.”
This fall, the Memorial community was introduced to the university’s seventh chancellor, Dr. Susan Dyer Knight. Premier Kathy Dunderdale made the announcement on Sept. 26, 2012.

“I am thrilled that an individual whose life demonstrates extraordinary commitment to our province and our youth has accepted this appointment to serve as chancellor of Memorial University,” said Premier Dunderdale. “I am especially pleased that for the first time in our history, we now have a woman serving as chancellor. It is so important for young girls and women to see themselves reflected in positions of leadership within our government and institutions. Susan Knight’s accomplishments are many, with Newfoundland and Labrador benefiting enormously from her work in celebrating our heritage and strengthening our province’s choral tradition. I look forward to the contributions of Dr. Knight as chancellor.”

“Dr. Knight has been involved with Memorial in various capacities over the years and is very familiar with the university. She is an excellent choice and a most welcome addition to the Memorial community,” said Dr. Gary Kachanoski, president and vice-chancellor, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Dr. Knight is well known within the Memorial milieu. She is an alumna of Memorial University (bachelor of music and bachelor of music education, ’83), an honorary degree recipient (doctor of laws, ’04) and was named the university’s Alumna of the Year in 2000. In her professional life, she has maintained contact and involvement in music education at the university and beyond. Countless music lovers in Newfoundland and Labrador, and at the national and international level, will recognize Dr. Knight as founder and artistic director emerita of Shallaway—Newfoundland and Labrador Youth in Chorus, as well as Festival 500: Sharing the Voices, the internationally renowned non-competitive choral music event, and its academic symposium on The Phenomenon of Singing.

Dr. Knight recently sat down for an interview with Luminus contributor Mandy Cook, during which she spoke about the many personal connections and far-reaching community partnerships she has enjoyed with Memorial throughout the years.

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She emphasized the importance of the chancellor’s ceremonial role during spring and fall convocation ceremonies each year, and what she said is the “privilege” of connecting, celebrating and encouraging the university’s new graduates as they launch into a new phase of their lives.

Dr. Knight also said she is eager to embrace the opportunity of serving in her role as an ex-officio member of Memorial’s Board of Regents and Senate. Ultimately, though, Dr. Knight is keen to contribute to a team that is developing the continuing realization of Memorial as an international institution of excellence in teaching, learning and research.

“Memorial’s renewed and expanded commitment to public engagement furthers the distinctiveness of the university, building on the unique and historic place Memorial University holds in Newfoundland and Labrador, as enshrined in its founding legislation. The centrality and inspiration of ‘the place’ in Memorial’s life of learning, discovery and connection is compelling: belonging to and serving the province—past, present and future.”

“As chancellor, you represent the university in this place, in our place, in our country and beyond in whatever way you can,” Dr. Knight continued. “Memorial’s whole fusion with Newfoundland and Labrador is unique. I look forward to playing a role in making people aware of who and what we are here, and what we are becoming. I feel a very strong intellectual and visceral connection with the whole sense of what Memorial is and wants to be about; in essence—all it can be.”

That connection has grown from what Dr. Knight said is a lifelong sense of pride in the province’s only university. She recalled her curiosity when, as a child, her parents attended French courses in Memorial’s Extension Division during the 1950s. She watched with anticipation as her older brother, historian and journalist Dr. Gwynne Dyer, attended the original Memorial University College on Parade Street in St. John’s. Her sister, Mary Gordon, founder of the internationally recognized charitable organization Roots of Empathy, is a Memorial alumna, as are her younger brothers David and Jeff Dyer. Dr. Knight’s husband, Dennis, and their two daughters, Emily and Jessica, are also Memorial alumni. The university’s motto, in particular, has always resonated with her.

“That was something that I was conscious of even as a child, Provehito in Altum—launch forth into the deep. My dad explained what it meant when I was small. It’s an extraordinarily prescient, inspiring and motivating motto that is so culturally apt. Not only did I grow up with it—its meaning was inculcated into my mindset from an early age.”

As a 16-year-old, Dr. Knight was a student at Memorial for a year, before she enrolled in the nursing program at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, Que. After completing the program she moved on to study music at the University of Toronto. Following her marriage to Dennis Knight, she worked as a nurse in British Columbia, and on the couple’s return to St. John’s in 1979, she transferred to Memorial to finish her music studies. She completed two undergraduate degrees, closing the circle at Memorial as a choral conductor and educator.

Dr. Knight lectured sessionally in undergraduate music education at Memorial from 1990 to 2003. But it was the founding of Shallaway in 1992 and Festival 500 two years later that established Dr. Knight as a vital and significant community partner of the university.

“I’m an emerita with both organizations now, and continue to enjoy wonderful partnerships with the university,” she said, upon reflection of her time at the helm of the two music organizations. “Memorial’s focus on public engagement and outreach is of such great value to our community.”

And while Dr. Knight acknowledged the position she now holds in Memorial’s history as the university’s first female chancellor, she is quick to reflect on what many see as a momentous development.

“When Premier Dunderdale asked me — and she herself is historic in her role as our first female premier—it was important to her that she appoint the first female chancellor, and I think that was wonderful. However, I really look forward to the day when this will be a non-issue, a complete non-issue, and we are thankfully getting much closer to that.”

“I say that in particular because I was reared in a household where gender was not an issue, and in retrospect, I think my dad in particular reared us to be confident that we each could do, accomplish, be anything we wanted and gender was never mentioned. Being female was never an impediment for me, because it was not an impediment in my mind. If it was so in society, well, that was just not something that affected me, because I knew who I was as a person. So, I think that the premier’s decision to appoint a woman is very important historically, and look forward soon to female appointments becoming commonplace and unremarkable.”

Dr. Knight’s appointment as chancellor took effect Sept. 1, 2012. Her ceremonial installation as chancellor, a traditional university ritual filled with pomp and pageantry, will take place at a future convocation.
Dr. Leslie Phillips knows better than most the storyline for pharmacy education in Newfoundland and Labrador. A graduate of the pharmacy diploma program at the College of Trades and Technology that was a precursor to Memorial’s degree program, she practised as a community pharmacist for nine years before returning to complete her degree in pharmacy at Memorial in 1991 and her Pharm.D. at the University of British Columbia in 1993. Dr. Phillips is a professor and the associate dean of undergraduate studies at the School of Pharmacy, and has been a faculty member since 1994. Reflecting on an 18-year teaching career, Dr. Phillips talked about her experience and how the approach to pharmacy education has evolved at the school.

“When I started, we had a very small faculty, and as I recall, there were only three clinical faculty teaching at the time so we were very limited in terms of what we could do,” she said. “Also there wasn’t really any clinical pharmacy going on in the hospitals at that point, so there weren’t a lot of resources available to facilitate student training in an expanded scope of practice.”

Last year’s silver anniversary celebrations marked 25 years of growth at Memorial University’s School of Pharmacy. It’s a milestone that gives pause for thought. By standards of institutional longevity, the school could still be considered a younger, one who has peers that date back over 100 years. But age and progress do not exist in parallel and it’s here that Pharmacy has distinguished itself. Improving pharmacy education in Newfoundland and Labrador provided the impetus for that first class, and since then, continually raising the standard in pursuit of that goal has defined the school’s success. In 1986, the objective was to address a need for professional pharmacists who could enter the workforce with a combination of practical skills, theoretical insight and foundational science.

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Over the years, changes were introduced and the program expanded. New resources and initiatives that focused on the modernization of the program and the professionalization of its students accompanied an increase in faculty. During her tenure as dean of the School of Pharmacy, Dr. Linda Hensman has remained focused on achieving excellence in the preparation of highly skilled and professional pharmacists.

“The approach we’ve taken is ensuring a strong foundation, and that starts with our faculty,” said Dr. Hensman. “We’ve got a lot of young, enthusiastic faculty who I think relate very well to our students—it hasn’t been that long since many of them were students themselves—and they bring an energy to the school that is infectious. Along with our more experienced faculty members, it makes for a very collaborative environment. When you consider the basic sciences group and some of the incredible research that’s going on here, it provides the full spectrum of exposure for our students.”

The creation of a strong team has been accompanied by the development of a modern professional practice lab that ranks among the best of its kind in the country. With its audio-visual capture technology, the lab allows standardized patient and student/pharmacist interactions to be recorded with the role-play exercises critically assessed over the course of the program. The lab mimics a community pharmacy setting and provides students with access to all the resources that are necessary for practice. Dr. Hensman also noted the significance of consistently receiving full accreditation status and the introduction of the White Coat Ceremony to the school’s overall development.

“In our last two reviews, we received the full six-year accreditation, and that’s something I’m particularly proud of,” she said. “In terms of emphasizing ethics and professionalism, another important initiative has been the White Coat Ceremony. We started that in 2007 and it constitutes the formal introduction to the profession for first-year pharmacy students. They receive their white coats and recite a formal pledge to uphold their duties and obligations as pharmacists. Very early on, it makes clear the level of responsibility that comes with being a healthcare professional.”

Dr. Phillips added that changing perspectives on teaching have also made a difference. A culture that has been fostered by the School of Pharmacy has also been prioritized across the university through Memorial’s Teaching and Learning Framework.

“I think the Teaching and Learning Framework is important because it communicates that teaching is valued,” she said. “If you look at the promotion and tenure process, teaching is supposed to be as valuable as research, but it never is and it never was. My hope is that if it starts to truly influence promotion and tenure, then the level of teaching will start to improve across the board.”

Dr. Phillips also noted that the Curriculum Planning and Development Committee (CPDC) that has been established at the School of Pharmacy has been a driving force behind a comprehensive review of teaching practices that includes mapping course objectives to educational outcomes and determining if students are meeting those outcomes through the development of a comprehensive assessment strategy. The CPDC is also focused on faculty teaching and learning by offering a series of seminars that will provide current insights into a number of areas such as creating course objectives, setting competencies and developing assessment techniques.

“The School of Pharmacy has fostered an environment that is very dynamic; we are always looking for ways to improve,” said Dr. Phillips. “It influences everything we do and I think it goes back to why this school was founded in the first place. We are responding to a need in our communities by raising the standard for pharmacy education. What started as a priority for the pharmacy community has become a philosophy at the school. We wouldn’t have it any other way.”
MAKING THEIR MARK

In honour of the appointment of Memorial’s first female chancellor, we talk with seven exemplary alumnae who are making their mark in the world in a variety of fields.

PEG HUNTER, B.Comm.(Hons.)*’82
Vice-president, marketing and e-commerce, Home Depot

Hometown and current city:
My hometown is St. John’s and I currently reside in Toronto.

Favourite Memorial moment:
Receiving the 2011 Alumni Honour Award from the Faculty of Business Administration, and the Class of ’82 week-long graduation celebrations.

Cultural icon or piece of work that most reminds you of Newfoundland and Labrador:
There can’t be just one—our culture is far too interesting. Things that come immediately to mind are The Dictionary of Newfoundland English, Great Big Sea and Christopher Pratt.

Advice for other women building careers and leading in their communities:
Know your core values, decide what you want, and believe in your ability to do it. It sounds cliché, but rarely has anything of significance been achieved without these three factors.

JEANETTE LANGER, Mi’04
Relief master/chief officer, Marine Atlantic

Hometown and current city:
My hometown is the small town of Conception Harbour but I live in Deer Lake.

Cultural icon or piece of work that most reminds you of Newfoundland and Labrador:
The song Salt Water Joys reminds me most of Newfoundland and Labrador. No matter where I am, how far I am from home, it always gives me a feeling of happiness. I really believe its words express the true beauty of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Advice for other women building careers and leading in their communities:
Set your goals high, be strong and always be true to yourself!

Thoughts on the appointment of Memorial’s first female chancellor:
It is wonderful for her and for Memorial University, because it opens yet another door to the many capable women who aspire to such positions.

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ZOIEY COBB, BA(Hons.)’06
Active citizen, Rotarian, Public policy advisor

Hometown and current city:
My hometown is Mount Pearl and I currently live in Ottawa.

Favourite Memorial moment:
Connecting students with community organizations as the co-ordinator of the Student Volunteer Bureau.

Favourite travel destination:
London, UK. I loved it so much when I first visited in 2004 as part of my semester at MUN’s Harlow Campus that I moved there to do my master of science at the London School of Economics in 2006-2007.

Advice for other women building careers and leading in their communities:
To borrow from Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg: “Sit at the table.” When I first started my career, I found myself in meetings with superiors and, out of respect for such a hierarchical environment (government), I sat by the wall instead of at the table. Not sitting at the table meant that my value-add was missing. Now, I always sit at the table and, most importantly, when I do take a seat I am always prepared to take a stand on the subject being discussed.

DR. LORRAINE MITCHELMORE,
B.Sc.’85, President and country chair, Shell Canada

Hometown and current city:
My hometown is Green Island Cove and I currently live in Calgary.

Favourite Memorial moment:
While a number of things stand out, the main Memorial moment is when you are involved in a geophysics degree you spend many late nights on the campus working on assignments, working with geophysical colleagues. Amazing friendships came out of all that hard work. I am thankful for the fantastic friendships and a lot of fun, despite stress amidst hard work.

Cultural icon or piece of work that most reminds you of Newfoundland and Labrador:
I’m a huge fan of Newfoundland music and Newfoundland books; I am still very connected to home. Ron Hynes symbolizes Newfoundland music for me. I love his music and his lyrics.

Favourite travel destination:
Vancouver Island. I just love Vancouver Island. However, of all the places I have travelled, I will say that Canada ranks the highest—west to east from British Columbia to my roots in Newfoundland.

Advice for other women building careers and leading in their communities:
Everyone has their own balance; find what makes you happy and spend time doing it. Don’t try to be someone you are not.

JAMIE-LEE CORMIER, BFA’07
Painter, gallery owner

Hometown and current city:
I was born in Ottawa and moved to Corner Brook when I was six, and I’ve been there ever since.

Favourite Memorial moment:
It’s hard to pick one. The four years I spent there were filled with many amazing moments. I loved the visual arts program at Grenfell and would recommend it to anyone. If I had to pick one moment, it would be walking across the stage to accept my degree!
Cultural icon or piece of work that most reminds you of Newfoundland and Labrador:
The beautiful landscape I see every day when I look around me. It is so influential to all the people who are in the arts scene in this province. I feel this inspiration in a lot of the art and music that surrounds us.

Advice for other women building careers and leading in their communities:
Never give up on your goals and the future of being your own boss, leader or whatever you want to be. It won’t always be easy but the hard times are made up for by all the good times.

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DR. FIONA COSTELLO, MD'95
Neurologist/neuro-ophthalmologist and clinician scientist, University of Calgary and the Hotchkiss Brain Institute

Hometown and current city:
My hometown is Stephenville, where I was born and lived to the age of 16. My current city is Calgary.

Favourite Memorial moment:
I was part of a “White Glove” graduating class from Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine in 1995. Dean David Hawkins was presented with a pair of white gloves in the “White Glove Ceremony” to honour the fact that everyone finished the four-year program. We worked together as a group to support one another, and to ensure that no one was left behind. I was part of a very unique and special group and I have nothing but the highest respect for all of my friends and colleagues from medical school.

Favourite travel destination: As a Newfoundlander, I have a strong affinity for islands with a distinct culture and breathtaking natural beauty, which are inhabited by remarkable people.

Advice for other women building careers and leading in their communities:
In my opinion, there are no limits, except those you create for yourself. This is true for both men and women. That is what my parents taught me, and it is a lesson I want to teach my children—that is, if I can be half the parent either my father or my mother is!

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LAURA PITTMAN, current student,
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, future alumna and the next Rhodes Scholar from Newfoundland and Labrador to study at the University of Oxford in England

Hometown and current city: I currently live in St. John’s, my hometown.

Favourite Memorial moment: My favourite Memorial moment occurred while hosting the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students 2011 Annual Congress (a week-long conference with over 150 participants from across the country). It was an amazing experience to organize this event, share our Newfoundland culture and network with students from across the country.

Cultural icon or piece of work that most reminds you of Newfoundland and Labrador: Newfoundland music in general really touches me when I’m living outside the province. Whenever I hear a song by a Newfoundland artist or group, I am immediately reminded of my roots and proud to be a Newfoundlander. It could be a song by Great Big Sea, Hey Rosetta! or The Irish Descendants, or simply a traditional Irish/Newfoundland tune, but it is always bittersweet; it immediately brightens my day, but makes me long for home.

Favourite travel destination: I still have many locations on my travel wish list, but at this moment my favourite place would be the Canadian Rockies. Their magnificence and natural beauty is breathtaking.
Valerie and Earl Ludlow, havin’ a time: Reunion 2012 honorary co-chairs, are dedicated Memorial alumni and part of a three-generation history of Memorial alumni. Their mothers both graduated from Memorial University College and together the Ludlows have raised three daughters, all of whom have attended Memorial. Mr. and Mrs. Ludlow spoke with Luminus contributor Karen Moores about family, community leadership, their commitment to Memorial and their passion for this province.

LUMINUS: Tell me about your experience with havin’ a time: Reunion 2012. What did it mean to you as a couple and also as individuals?

VL: As a couple, it was a lot of fun for us. This is one of the first major volunteer initiatives we’ve undertaken together. We both come from totally different backgrounds in terms of our work and education, so we’re often involved in very different volunteer activities.

EL: As Valerie said, it has not been often, with Valerie in nursing and me in engineering and the world of electricity, that we’ve crossed over in our community work, so this was a great opportunity for us. Memorial has always been our
common ground, and it is, of course, where we met. Having finished there over 30 years ago, we have many memories and also maintain many connections to the institution. “Fun” is a good word to describe our experience—if it were not fun we wouldn’t have participated. There were a lot of people who put a lot of time and effort into the reunion and this teamwork contributed to the positive atmosphere leading up to and during the big event.

LUMINUS: You are both quite involved in different causes. Could you elaborate on your work—your day jobs as well as your extensive community work?

VL: I worked as a nurse for 30 years but returned to Memorial and finished my master’s in nursing. Since 2007, I have worked on a couple of nursing projects at Memorial; the first was primarily focused on colorectal cancer and now I am immersed in breastfeeding research. It has been a great learning curve but I am fortunate to work with a wonderful bunch of young, motivated healthcare professionals and researchers. Outside work, I enjoy knitting and sewing, and right now I have the Afghan blanket project ongoing with the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre.

EL: What Valerie isn’t telling you is that she has been involved in our church and school in our community as well as being on the regional school board and food bank committees. I am the chair of the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation, the vice-chair of the St. Luke’s Home board of directors and a member of the board of governors of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires, Newfoundland and Labrador division. I am also the honorary lieutenant colonel of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment, 1st Battalion. When you want to give back, setting priorities is important. For us, volunteer work in the health sector has always been important. Of course, we also really value education, given its importance to a successful life and career. Our approach to community work really is all about considering how we can help other organizations achieve their goals, to help ensure a positive impact on individuals and communities around the province.

LUMINUS: Memorial brought you together and set you on your paths in life. Did your children attend Memorial?

VL: Our two older girls have finished degrees at Memorial and our youngest daughter is a current student. It’s about finding out what you want to do and what is required in order to be successful. Memorial has played a very big part in that. The institution has given each of our daughters the chance to explore their options.

EL: I can go back another generation: both of my brothers attended Memorial and became teachers. There was always a focus on education in my family as it provides a basis for a successful career. Education takes many forms and it is yet another tool in your toolbox. However, education can also be the school of hard knocks, life experiences and learning as you go. Going further back still, my mother was a teacher. She had four sisters—one was a nurse and three were educators. Education was always looked on very fondly as a challenge and one that you took very seriously.

VL: I think Memorial has been instrumental in those generations in giving the opportunity to attend post-secondary school. Fortunately we both grew up in families where there was no option but for you to finish high school and continue your education. In both Earl’s family and mine, most of us completed post-secondary education. Memorial was here and it was—and is—an exceptional opportunity for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians to have access to high-quality education.

LUMINUS: Earl, I understand you are from Joe Batt’s Arm. Do you get to visit home often? Where do you like to get out and explore on the island?

EL: I’ve had the good fortune to see most small communities in this province. I also go home (to Joe Batt’s Arm) four or five times a year as my dad still lives there, in our old house. The place has changed a lot, but at the same time I have a lot of good memories. As a family, we relax at our summer home as much as we can. I enjoy fly-fishing and canoeing. Appreciating the stunning scenery and all that the natural environment offers in our beautiful province, together, with our family, is a must-do for us. When we get out of the province, we enjoy our family vacations. New York City is one destination we particularly enjoy. Although our relaxing summer home in Newfoundland and the hustle and bustle of New York are quite different, the multicultural nature of New York is engaging and it’s a unique experience every time.

VL: We’ve been lucky enough to take our three daughters with us. Each year we pick a city and the five of us go and explore on the island—summer home in Newfoundland and the hustle and bustle of New York are quite different, the multicultural nature of New York is engaging and it’s a unique experience every time.

LUMINUS: What do you make of the changes to the Fogo Island area with respect to new development?

EL: What the Shorefast Foundation has done and is continuing to do is incredible—there is indeed a future there. The artisan work, the carpentry work—it is beautiful. If you compare the new way with the old way, the “new” really is the old way.

Earl Ludlow’s father Arthur Ludlow passed away, in his 100th year, after the initial interview for this story. His family celebrated his life in fine style in Joe Batt’s Arm the weekend of November 4, 2012.
In summer 2012, the past and present came together as Memorial alumni from all classes, faculties and years gathered for havin a time: Reunion 2012. I took part in The Wicked Memorial Variety Show, the reunion’s big showcase event, as a performer and as a member of the audience. I was part of one of the best shows I’ve ever been involved with, and I finally had a chance to share the stage with my boyhood heroes, The Wonderful Grand Band. From the audience, I witnessed a night of world class talent wrapped in a night of celebration, emotion, and camaraderie.

The finale concert of Reunion 2012, with brilliant performances from icons of the past and rising stars of today, brought together generations of proud alumni. Our spirit as a community shone through so very deeply when all the evening’s performers joined together on stage, along with Great Big Sea’s Alan Doyle, for an inspirational rendition of Sonny’s Dream, in honour of the remarkable Ron Hynes.

On that summer night, past, present and future collided for an incredible display of Memorial talent and pride—a chance to remember, reflect and celebrate.
At its spring convocation in May 1966, Memorial University awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree to a man who had recently retired from office after 16 years as mayor of St. John’s, during which time he oversaw a major expansion of the city in size, in population and in delivery of services.

Henry (Harry) George Reginald Mews, Honorary LLD’66, was born in St. John’s on Dec. 18, 1897, the only son of Mabel Woods and Arthur Mews. His father was a career civil servant who served as Newfoundland’s deputy colonial secretary from 1898 to 1934. In addition to Harry, there were three daughters in the Mews family: Gwendolyn (an artist), Marjorie (a librarian) and Eleanor (a music teacher).

Harry Mews was educated at the Methodist College in St. John’s. He joined the Newfoundland Regiment as a commissioned officer with the rank of lieutenant in 1917 and was scheduled to sail to England via Halifax. His draft arrived there on Feb. 3, and were bivouacked at a converted sawmill in Windsor, Nova Scotia, but medical problems—some of the men contracted measles, others mumps—delayed their transport to England for 10 weeks.

The troops finally left Halifax on April 18 aboard the SS Ansonia and arrived in Liverpool, England, 12 days later. From there they were moved to Ayr, Scotland, where Mews remained until the end of 1917 as a training instructor. In a letter home to his mother, he remarked that his inability to be transferred to a fighting unit at the Front was partly due to his age: no one would believe that he was 19, approaching 20.

It was his good fortune to become attached to D Company of the Regiment under the command of Captain John Fox, who immediately recognized Mews’s leadership qualities and recommended that he be made a platoon commander, which occurred in December 1917.

He joined the regiment at the Front in January 1918 at the small Belgian village of Zadausques in Flanders. He participated in the allied counterattack on the German spring offensive in April 1918, where he was a victim of a mustard gas attack. He had exchanged his own gas mask for a defective one belonging to one of his men, but before he could get a new mask for himself, the gas overtook him.

After the end of the war, Mews went to Ontario, where he became a representative and sales analyst with the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Ltd. of Canada in Hamilton, London and Windsor. While there he was diagnosed with tuberculosis, brought on partly by the gas attack he suffered during the war. He spent nearly three years in a sanatorium in Saranac Lake, New York.

Returning to St. John’s in 1927, he spent a further year in recuperation before he joined the insurance business. In 1935, he became secretary of the Salt Cod Fish Board, but returned to work in insurance the following year as manager of the North American Life Assurance Company in Newfoundland. He would remain with that company until his retirement in 1962.

Politics was a constant factor in Mews’s life from childhood. His father had held one of the most senior offices in the Newfoundland public service for more than 35 years. His maternal grandfather, Henry J. B. Woods, served in the cabinets of Sir William Whiteway and Sir Robert Bond, and was Newfoundland’s postmaster general from 1902 to 1914. It is no surprise that Mews would have been attracted to the political arena.

In 1943 he was elected to his first political office when he won a by-election to fill a vacancy on the St. John’s municipal council. He was re-elected to a full term in 1945.
After six years as a councillor, he decided to contest the mayoralty in 1949. Andrew Carnell had been mayor of St. John's since 1932. He was extremely well-liked and had accomplished much during his 17 years in office, but the voters were ready for change. In the Nov. 8 election, Mews defeated Carnell in a closely fought contest. The result was a strong endorsement of Mews, in light of his defeat in the provincial election held earlier in the year.

In April 1949, Mews had agreed to lead the Progressive Conservative Party in Newfoundland's first post-Confederation election. The party was poorly organized and underfunded, and faced an uphill struggle against the Liberals, led by the new premier, Joseph R. Smallwood, Honorary D.Litt.'61. Mews lost personally in St. John's West, but five Conservatives were elected. His election as mayor six months later was a resounding vote of confidence in his leadership abilities. The remainder of Mews's political career was spent in the mayor's chair. He won re-election in 1953 and 1957 by acclamation and again in 1961 defeating two opponents. He retired in 1965, after 16 years as mayor and 22 years of service to the people of St. John's.

Mews's term as mayor occurred during a time of great social upheaval in the new province. In St. John's there was much emphasis on the need for increased municipal services and infrastructure. He oversaw the installation of new and improved water and sewer systems, the expansion of civic services, the development of city-owned housing projects and planned subdivisions, street paving and sidewalks.

St. John's Memorial Stadium was also built during this time. Harbour Drive was constructed along the north side of St. John's Harbour, replacing the coves and finger piers that had long dominated the waterfront. The privately owned bus service came under the city's jurisdiction and its routes were expanded to include new areas of the city. And, the new campus of Memorial University was built on the northern outskirts of the city.

The crowning achievement of Mews's tenure as mayor did not occur until after he left office. Shortly after he passed the chain of office to his successor, William Adams, in 1966, Mews announced the existence of a special fund, in excess of $2 million, that council had established in secret in the early 1950s and had added to over the years, earmarked for the building of a new city hall. Construction began in 1969 and the building opened the following year.

In addition to the honorary doctorate he received from Memorial University in 1966, he was given the Freedom of the City in 1970, and the city's boys and girls club at Mundy Pond was named after him in 1984.

Harry Mews married Vera Olga Sparling of Easton's Corners, Ontario, on Dec. 31, 1926. They had two children, Nancy and Henry. Following his wife's death in 1957, Mews married Mary Summers of St. John's in 1958. He died on Jan. 6, 1982. As mayor of St. John's, he was most certainly the right man in the right place at the right time.
THE HOUSE of TENDER MORRIS

He found a pry bar in John’s shed and hooked it into the tongue of the yellow padlock but the lock wouldn’t give. What he ended up doing was wrenching the latch and screws from the frame of the door. The house, inside, smelled good. You could see your breath it was that cold. He stood there in the kitchen, wondering about being there. Had Tender Morris ever lived here? Tender had inherited this house and, while he had plans for it, the truth is he wasn’t going to get around to those plans. This house required an energy too large for the type of life Tender Morris was planning on living. Tender didn’t have a rural bone in his body. His father had knocked it out of him. Tender Morris was sick of life around the bay, but he did hold a romantic notion of living out here, of raising kids much like his own raising, but that notion lived in him even less than it did in John Hynes, who pretty much came out in the summer to mow the lawn and drive back into town again. Martha Linegar lived in town and Tender would be in the army until he turned fifty-five. There was no chance of much attention finding its way to this place. Unless they had a kid.

Henry opened the hall door and swung it in his hands. A heavy well-hung door. He walked to the staircase and stroked the big varnished newel post. The front porch could be saved. He took the stairs and they did not creak. He had to lower his head to enter the bedrooms. The ceilings were low and the wallpaper was peeling off in thick sheets. He was trying to connect to the impulse he had to be here. Newsprint and flour paste underneath the wallpaper. He searched for dates and found them, between the world wars. He read of fashion and baked beans and the religious judgment of loose behaviour. There were beds, not antique, but beds that were thirty years old and expensive when they were new. The laminate bubbling off because of the damp. Furniture made in Ontario. On a hook behind the door were hung three dresses. A pair of lady’s pumps. Under
a seat cushion a leather pouch. Inside, a letter. It was typed, from an American military fellow on board a ship docked in St John's. On the back of the blue paper a red mark. It was a mark of lipstick. He read the letter. It was a letter asking for a walk.

He stood there in the room, utterly alone, and looked out the window. Others had looked out this window but how long ago and who. What was a window doing, framing how you look at the world. What you saw was a hill with not a tree near it.

There were other letters. Some notes that must have been passed to each other in a room with other people. They were having dinner downstairs. I am asking for an excuse to be in the kitchen. Lipstick. Written from a ship. A telegram. Letters from a girl. A girl was born here, to one of these women. Out of wedlock. The girl moved to St John's, a sanitorium. Letters of condolence. Dead of tuberculosis.

He worked all this out in an hour. Pretty much an entire family figured out. Who it was who had lived here? It was not Tender Morris's parents but a great aunt, or two aunts. A man had married one of the aunts but only after she'd had this girl. John recalled an aunt. And Henry thought of her now, staring at the pumps and the dresses and the letters in the drawer and the notes in the leather pouch. He was letting it affect him. He was concerned.

He bent down to smell the bedframe and there was a rank scent of mould. He surprised himself with a motion: his own reflection in a bureau mirror. His torso hovering over furniture. He realized, in a fussy instant, that he was a bully. He had bullied Nora into leaving him. This man in the mirror had never owned a house, all he'd owned were contents. I've never owned people, people have never owned me.

He slept that night over at John and Silvia's summer home. He thought about the house across the field and the people who had lived and died in it. Why does this matter to me, he thought. I am no kin. Kin, he thought.

What an ancient thing, kith and kin.

Born in England and raised in Newfoundland, Michael Winter graduated from Memorial University with a bachelor of arts in 1986. He is the author of two collections of short stories and four novels, most recently, The Death of Donna Whalen, nominated for both the Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the Commonwealth Writers' Prize. His novel, The Architects Are Here, was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and The Big Why was shortlisted for the Trillium Book Award and the Thomas Raddall Atlantic Fiction Award, and was also longlisted for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Mr. Winter has also been a judge with the esteemed Giller Prize. He was Memorial’s writer-in-residence in fall 2012.
Dare To: The Campaign for Memorial University is the most ambitious private-sector fundraising campaign in the province’s history.
This past August, General Rick Hillier (Ret’d), B.Sc./’76, Memorial’s chancellor and campaign chair, announced that the $50 million goal for the campaign had been far surpassed. As of August 12, more than $62.8 million had been committed to the university from alumni, friends, small businesses, corporations and foundations. The campaign is set to close in early 2013, with a full update to be provided at that time. So far, the overwhelming response to the Dare To campaign has enabled Memorial to create substantially higher numbers of student scholarships, bursaries and awards. Approximately 50 per cent of the campaign goal has been intended for student support. To date, more than 1,000 students have received new scholarships, bursaries and awards as a result of this campaign, and thousands more will receive funding in future years.

“Through this campaign, and through the longer-term vision we have for Memorial, we wish to encourage top students and academics—locally, nationally and internationally—to recognize that our university, and our province, is where they belong,” said Dr. Gary Kachanoski, president and vice-chancellor, Memorial University of Newfoundland. “By providing sufficient financial support at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, we are encouraging talented students to pursue and to continue their studies at Memorial.”

In addition to support for students, Dare To focused on academic excellence, and has enabled Memorial to establish eight new research chairs and two new endowed post-doctoral fellowships, as well as significant funding for research in a variety of key areas. The chairs will be housed within various faculties across the university, including the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science and the Faculty of Medicine. The two post-doctoral fellows will be housed in the Faculty of Medicine, and will conduct research within the new Craig L. Dobbin Genetics Research Centre.

The university has also received support for various key infrastructure projects, including labs and research centres, in various disciplines.

The campaign publicly launched in November 2011, with strong support from a broad network of individuals, foundations and corporations, as well as from people who spend a significant portion of their personal and professional time on campus—Memorial’s faculty, students and staff. From the very beginning stages of the campaign, Dare To was quickly supported by this internal community, which has contributed over $1.2 million. Dare To is improving the university’s capacity to support the people who make Memorial the diverse teaching, learning and research facility it is today. The impact of campaign investments will be felt far beyond the university’s walls, and will be seen for many years to come through student success, research advances and improved facilities.

For more information, please visit dareto.ca

### Through Research, Memorial Will Seek the Answers to Questions of Local and Global Interest in These Areas and More

- Aboriginal Peoples
- Arctic and Northern Regions
- Community, Regional and Enterprise Development
- Creative Arts, Culture and Heritage
- Environment, Energy and Natural Resources
- Governance and Public Policy
- Information and Communication Technology
- Oceans, Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Social Justice
- Wellbeing. Health and Biomedical Discovery
Award-winning Canadian author Dr. Kevin Major (B.Sc.’83, Honorary D.Litt.’11) is known for his ability to captivate young adult readers, as is evident in some of his award-winning works, including novels *Hold Fast* and *Blood Red Ochre*. So when the opportunity presented itself for Dr. Major to share his knowledge and expertise with writers half a world away, he jumped at the chance.

In summer 2012, a friend of Dr. Major’s introduced him to CODE—the Canadian Organization for Development through Education. CODE is an international organization that supports a network of partner organizations to design, deliver and evaluate quality literacy programs in developing countries. The organization engages Canadians like Dr. Major to participate in education initiatives. CODE’s programs support libraries and teacher development as well as national and local book publishing in 20 languages in Africa and the Caribbean.
Dr. Major visited Ghana as part of the Burt Award for African Literature program. The Burt Award recognizes excellence in young adult fiction from Africa and has been made possible by the generous support of Canadian philanthropist William Burt and the Literary Prizes Foundation. It addresses an ongoing shortage of engaging books for young people while at the same time fostering a love of reading and learning at the middle and secondary school levels.

“The primary duty I've taken on for the two-year period of my involvement is to use my experience in the role of jury member for the Burt Award,” said Dr. Major. “In conjunction with that, I host workshops with writers and editors to help make them more familiar with young adult literature, for which the award is given, and to encourage them in working with writers and being writers themselves.”

“There is already a fair amount of literature coming out of Ghana, but the majority is adult-based or for young children.”

Dr. Major hosted two two-day workshops in Ghana with 20 individuals who were eager to learn and develop their expertise in the area of literature for young adults.

“Ghana was colonized by Great Britain, so schools developed along the lines of the British system. Much of the curriculum for English programs remains British-based, including the novels that are being read and studied,” said Dr. Major. “This program encourages Ghanaian writers to portray their own culture, with the expectation that eventually the books will find their way into schools in Ghana.”

Dr. Major compared the literature landscape in Ghana to that of Newfoundland and Labrador in the recent past.

“There is already a fair amount of literature coming out of Ghana, but the majority is adult-based or for young children,” said Dr. Major. “Not too long ago Newfoundland and Labrador was in a similar position—the novels in the school curriculum were largely foreign, not even Canadian since there were very few Canadian young adult books until the 1980s. That changed over recent years, and we've seen a blossoming of literature for young adult readers that reflects the Newfoundland and Labrador experience.”

This was Dr. Major's first trip to Africa, and he was immediately struck by how open, embracing, friendly and hospitable its people are.

“It was a wonderful experience for me,” he said. “I was thrilled to see how eager the workshop participants are to learn and write high-quality books for that important intermediate level of readers.”
1 | **DR. VINCE WITHERS**, Honorary LLD’98, was awarded the Canadian Red Cross 2012 Humanitarian Award for Newfoundland and Labrador for his commitment to advocacy on behalf of families affected by eating disorders.

2 | **JILLIAN PEDDLE**, B.Mus.Ed.’12, B.Mus.’12, was awarded the Canadian Red Cross 2012 Young Humanitarian Award for Newfoundland and Labrador.

3 | **KELLY ANN EVANS**, B.Mus.’00, is now the owner of Rock City Music School. She has contributed to the province’s music and arts community for more than 20 years through her performance and charitable work.

4 | **MARGOT PRIDDLE**, B.Comm.’96, has been appointed secretary-registrar of the Newfoundland and Labrador Pharmacy Board (NLPB).

5 | **ALLISON BYRNE**, B.Comm.(Co-op)’02, chief operating officer with Rocky Mountain Liquor Inc., placed fifth in the annual W100 Ranking of Canada’s Top Female Entrepreneurs.

6 | **DR. MICHAEL J. RANGER**, M.Sc.’79, has been appointed to the board of directors of Strata Oil. Dr. Ranger, an expert in the petroleum industry, has worked with many of the world’s leading oil companies.

7 | **ROBYN DEVINE**, BA’95, recently became the secretary (commercial) and trade commissioner (science and technology) at the Canadian Embassy to the Netherlands in The Hague.

8 | **BRENT SMITH**, MA’98, and **CHRISTINA DOVE**, B.Sc.’94, M.Sc.(Medicine)’08, owners of the Newfoundland Chocolate Company, were awarded the Co-op Eat Atlantic Award in fall 2012.
Sometimes the best paths through life are those that are often unexpected.

Alumnus Jim Lacey returned to university as a mature student, after several years of working full-time. Although he had always been interested in science, it was only in his early twenties that he became particularly interested in physics, reading books on the topic as general interest rather than as part of a formal education.

At Memorial, that changed quickly as his academic career took him on the fast track to success. Now his years of laboratory and related research have paid off. Today, Jim is part of the team of scientists that recently discovered evidence of the existence of the Higgs Boson. Time spent in the lab, in the classroom and in academic debate prepared him for this role in research focused on the elusive Higgs particle.

While a student at Memorial, Jim obtained a joint honours degree in physics and applied mathematics, and went on to complete a master of science degree at Carleton University. He worked as an experimentalist on the Enriched Xenon Observatory (EXO) project as part of his master’s work. He described this high-tech project as being focused on particle physics. “The focus was to develop detector technologies for the EXO experiment,” said Mr. Lacey. “The experiment itself seeks to measure a very rare particle decay process called neutrinoless double-beta decay. Neutrinos are one of the fundamental particles in the universe and precisely measuring their properties is key to testing our current theories and therefore helping further our understanding of how the universe evolved. The observation of neutrinoless double-beta decay would allow for precise measurement of the intrinsic properties of the neutrino.”

Working on this project is a worthy feat for any rising academic but his accolades in the Canadian and international science community continued with admission to the PhD program at Carleton.

“It is very rewarding to realize that the hard work and long hours I have put in have contributed to such a monumental discovery. Many people have worked for nearly half a century to make this breakthrough,” said Jim. “The discovery itself is a testament to many years of dedication, focus and the tireless efforts of a large group of people who’ve come together for the common goal of exploring the fundamental nature of matter and the evolution of the universe we live in, and therefore our own existence. These are questions that are at the core of the human consciousness.”

Jim will now work with the team to confirm the existence of the particle, as the discovery is currently known in scientific terms as ‘probable’. Confirming its existence involves additional hard work on behalf of their discovery team. “Currently the new particle that was found agrees with the Standard Model prediction for the Higgs Boson, but the measurements are still very preliminary. It must be determined if the discovered boson is in full agreement with the Standard Model predictions or if there are deviations which may indicate other descriptions of the universe such as the SuperSymmetric extensions to the Standard Model (MMSM models) or other, more exotic new physics.”

While Jim has used his foundation from Memorial to rise to the top rank of world-class scientists, his Memorial roots are never far from mind. He said that while on campus, he was positively influenced not only by his classmates but by many of his professors and fellow students. “I had many great experiences during my time at Memorial, made lasting friendships and I thoroughly enjoyed working in Dr. Luc Bealieu’s lab for my Honours project. It marked the beginning of my development as an experimental physicist”.
IN MEMORY (RECORDED FROM DECEMBER 2011 – APRIL 2012)

REV. STEPHEN BENJAMIN ADKINS  
BA’72, M.Div.’92  
Dec. 1, 2011

DR. MARY ELLEN AVERY, MD  
Honorary D.Sc.’93  
Dec. 4, 2011

GLENN STEPHEN BANFIELD, BA(Hons.)’91  
Feb. 7, 2012

RONALD F. BARTER, B.Sc.’98,  
Dip. in Information Technology’02  
Feb. 10, 2012

JOEY BASHA, BA’08  
Dec. 22, 2011

DANIEL DOUGLAS BROWN  
B.Comm.(Co-op.)’07, MBA’10  
Feb. 2, 2012

VEN. DR. FRANCIS GEORGE BUCKLE  
BA’63, DSL’10  
Feb. 16, 2012

LEO JOSEPH BURKE, BA(Ed.)’73, BA’74  
Apr. 7, 2012

SHARON ANN BRYNE, BA’77, B.Ed.’79,  
Dip. in Adult Teacher Educ.  
Apr. 21, 2012

JOANNE CHAFE, BA(Ed.)’71, BA’75  
Feb. 17, 2012

LCDR CLIFFORD GRAYDON CHAULK CD  
RCN (Ret’d)  
BA(Ed.)’54  
Dec. 16, 2011

SANDRA (SANDY) ANNE (NEE PIERCEY) CLARKE, Dip. in Voc. Ed.’00  
Feb. 1, 2012

JUDY CATHERINE MARTIN-CROTTY  
BA(Ed.)’80  
Jan. 14, 2012

JEAN MARGUERITE DONOVAN, MUC’37  
Mar. 28, 2012

MARIE ENGUEHARD-DE LA VILLEFROMOY  
(Frm) educator, Frecker Institute  
Jan. 4, 2012

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY AFFINITY  
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR DINNERS (London, U.K., Calgary, Toronto,  
Halifax and Ottawa): 2013

Memorial University’s Alumni Affinity celebrations are the premier alumni events held 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.

EVENTS AND REUNIONS

Our London event is scheduled for April 4, 2013 and will feature the Honourable Kathy Dunderdale, premier of Newfoundland and Labrador as the keynote speaker. Our Calgary event is scheduled for May 23 at the Hyatt Regency Calgary.

Stay tuned for more details on the 2013 events that will bring together alumni in London (U.K.), Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa and Halifax. For regular updates or to register for these and other alumni events, visit www.munalum.ca.
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It’s really because of my friend Melanie that I was one of the revellers at the CHMR party during Memorial University’s havin’ a time: Reunion 2012 event in August.

In the fall of 1987, Melanie was raving about her new radio show at CHMR-FM, Memorial University’s campus radio station.
At that time, I was deep into my studies at Memorial’s School of Music. But unlike most of my music school buddies, who were becoming more focused on their instruments and on the academics of classical music, I was beginning to wonder what else might be happening on campus and in the world at large.

So it was in that wandering frame of mind that one day I followed Melanie up to CHMR’s studio and offices on the third floor of the Thompson Student Centre (TSC) and joined her in the radio booth while she did her show.

Pretty soon, I was trekking up to CHMR on my own with a stack of LPs under my arm, ready for my own weekly two-hour radio show, Go For Baroque. My mission: to spread classical music to the masses, or at least the masses hanging out in the TSC, where CHMR programs were piped through loudspeakers.

On my first show, I pressed the red “on” mic button, said hello to the listening public, and cued up the first movement of Hector Berlioz’s *Symphonie Fantastique*. I can’t recall much else about what happened that day, but I do remember a voice inside my head saying:

*I can do this.*

As a keen student with more than a healthy amount of self-doubt, this was a bit of a revelation for me.

And so were my CHMR radio comrades. They came from all corners of Memorial’s St. John’s campus, and more than a few were “majoring in CHMR”—spending just as much time at the station as they did prepping papers or course notes.

As I worked my way through my music degree, I looked forward to my Thursday afternoons at CHMR. I’d arrive early to prepare my show and hang out in the station lounge.

There, I watched announcers put together campus newscasts, listened to arguments about the merits of heavy metal versus British house music, and laughed at the exploits of DJs who used their student loans to travel to the mainland to hear jazz or punk bands.

They, in turn, convinced me to answer phones at the annual CHMR-FM fundraising pledge drives, and to be their play-by-play sports commentator for inter-residence arm wrestling during Memorial’s Winter Carnival.

And when I was on air with Go For Baroque, I’d get phone calls in the studio asking about the music I was playing. I would get stopped on my way across the TSC by students I didn’t know, talking about something they heard on my show. I had listeners!

After earning my bachelor of music at Memorial, I went to the University of Western Ontario to study journalism. For the past 20 years, that’s what I have been doing—journalism—mostly in radio—mostly at the CBC. And I can’t imagine doing anything else.

I was hard-working and disciplined enough to get into Memorial’s School of Music straight out of high school. But while concentrating on one tree of knowledge, I nearly missed the forest—and boy, there’s a lot of biodiversity.

I still use much of what I learned from my music studies. But it’s that visit on a whim to CHMR that probably has the most to do with who I am today.

So my advice to students and potential students is this: by all means, be focused, and have a plan for what you want to do at university.

But also give yourself permission to be distracted. Follow a friend into the radio station, get drawn into meandering conversations about music or books or movies. Maybe even cut down on your course load if you’re really into some part of campus life outside the classroom.

By the way, many of my fellow CHMR DJs are now engineers, businesspeople, teachers, academics, and yes, journalists and broadcasters. My friend Melanie is partner in a St. John’s law firm. It was great fun to see many of them at Reunion 2012—and meet the latest CHMR band of radioheads—in the station’s updated facility in the new student centre.

Some roads through Memorial University are direct. Others have twists and turns. Memorial produces successful alumni on both paths. Whichever route you’re on, keep an open mind about side trips. You could wind up in an unexpected and incredible place.

Heather Barrett (B.Mus.’90) is a producer and an award-winning radio documentary maker with the CBC in Newfoundland and Labrador.
One of the major highlights of my term as chancellor of Memorial University was the convocation ceremony. I looked forward to the occasion every fall and spring, when newly minted graduates would pass across the stage in front of me, beaming with pride and a sense of accomplishment. It was in those moments, looking into the faces of the next generation of leaders, that I saw the future of Newfoundland and Labrador and the future of Canada, and I thought, “We’re going to do well. The future is bright.” The raw talent, energy and commitment of the students who attend Memorial, some of whom I have had the privilege to meet over the past four years, is nothing short of extraordinary.

The Dare To campaign, part of an overall redevelopment initiative at Memorial totalling more than $250 million, was one of the most exciting projects I worked on during my time with the university. For me, it was highly motivating to see not only administration, faculty and staff work tirelessly for the future of Memorial, but also to see students, alumni and friends contributing to the future prosperity of their university. Many individuals and foundations, as well as a broad spectrum of industries, confirmed their belief in the importance of Memorial by committing financial support to the campaign. Their support will enable Memorial to continue to attract talented students, faculty and staff and to continue to grow this world-class institution.

Memorial is full of incredible leaders who inspired me and kept me engaged in the work of the university with their commitment, enthusiasm and drive to achieve excellence. I’ve always said that you can accomplish anything in life if you put your mind to it; if you apply yourself and work hard. I’ve never found a replacement for elbow grease, that’s for sure. I saw examples of this everywhere at Memorial: in students achieving academic excellence and realizing their dreams, in renowned faculty and researchers pushing the limits of learning and innovation, and in people so generously giving back to the university.

Under the leadership of Dr. Gary Kachanoski and his team, and with strong provincial government support, Memorial University is continuing on its path of success. Every day, in classrooms, lecture theatres and labs at St. John’s campus, Marine Institute and Grenfell Campus, Memorial continues to equip the people of our province with the knowledge, skills and expertise necessary to drive growth on a global scale and to make their mark on the world.

As I reflect on my time at Memorial, what truly inspires me about the place is the passion of its people. Memorial’s success is the success of its students, faculty, staff, researchers, alumni, donors, volunteers and friends, and indeed, that success is tremendous and tangible. It is clear that the Memorial community is a proud one, with a faith grounded in the past, present and future of this institution—a cornerstone of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.
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