LOOKING NORTH

Learn how Memorial’s alumni, researchers, students, faculty and staff are working in and with Arctic and Northern communities.

Q&A WITH DR. KEITH CHAULK

Director of Memorial’s Labrador Institute

and

STUDENTS ON ICE

An Arctic expedition seen through the lens of alumnus Justin Dearing
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Immense, beautiful and complex. It’s a fitting description for the interplay of place and people across the vast expanse of land and water that we call the North.

This issue of Luminus attempts to showcase that spirit — as reflected in the experience of our Memorial community. Our alumni, researchers, faculty, staff and students are living, working and learning in Arctic and Northern regions in countless ways.

Our cover story describes a sample of the expertise and research that is facilitated by this laboratory on our doorstep. In the Q&A, Dr. Keith Chaulk speaks about the important work of the Labrador Institute and Memorial’s relationship with UArctic. Graduates of our Faculty of Education and School of Social Work exemplify how alumni from all disciplines and campuses at Memorial ply their trades in the North. In addition, see how the Marine Institute’s Dr. Scott Grant is working to protect the Greenland shark.

And while we do look North in this issue, we are aware that these pages can only provide a fleeting glimpse. The existing and potential depth and breadth of Memorial’s work and influence in these regions mirrors the size of the Arctic itself. With that perspective, I invite you to explore the pages that follow.

DR. PENNY BLACKWOOD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALUMNI AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT

CORRECTION
In the last issue of Luminus, we posted obituary notices for Mr. John Edward Buckingham Sr. and Mr. Gerard Joseph Cahill. In error, we associated the degree credentials, B.Com ‘74, with those notices. Mr. John Edward Buckingham Sr. and Mr. Gerard Joseph Cahill are friends of Memorial but are not graduates of the Faculty of Business Administration. We apologize for this mistake.
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Growing up in Raleigh, N.L., a small picturesque town on the Great Northern Peninsula, Dr. Rocky Taylor, B.Eng.’03, M.Eng.’06, PhD’10, was literally a stone’s throw from the harsh North Atlantic Ocean.

From an early age, he had a limitless “fascination and respect” for his surroundings. It’s little wonder that this childhood curiosity about the North became central to his career as a respected researcher focusing the bulk of his work on the Arctic.

Last year, Dr. Taylor was named the new Centre for Arctic Resource Development (CARD) Chair in Ice Mechanics in Memorial’s Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

“It’s a real privilege to take a leadership role in this very important and interesting field of work,” said Dr. Taylor.

“New frontier regions here in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as throughout the Arctic, hold vast resource potential and yet also present engineers with some unique challenges. Working every day to build the research programs and to help train the personnel that will be needed to overcome these challenges is a very stimulating and rewarding experience.”

In his new role, he’s helping strengthen Memorial’s research capability involving ice loads on offshore structures and ships designed for operations in ice-prone regions, as well as tackling the challenges associated with Arctic oil and gas development.

As the CARD Chair in Ice Mechanics, Dr. Taylor conducts research programs within CARD using full-time researchers and graduate students and develops collaborative relationships with other academic and industry-based researchers.

One such program involved collaborative field work in the Barents Sea. Dr. Taylor led a team of Canadian researchers who joined a field program organized by Dr. Aleksey Marchenko from the University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) in Norway. Dr. Marchenko was a visiting professor at CARD in January 2014. The team conducted on-ice field tests and carried out intensive data collection in an environment that is not only isolated and challenging, but also lacks the communications and transportation infrastructure of more southerly locations. The project was supported by the Research & Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador.

“As new frontier basins in Labrador and Northern Newfoundland begin to open up, having the data and capacity needed to support those developments is vital,” said Dr. Taylor. “That is why another key outcome of such field programs is the training of the next generation of Arctic experts. Opportunities such as this, which allow young engineers and scientists to get boots on the ice, are essential in providing them with a context for their work and allowing them to judge whether or not experiments or simulations actually reflect what happens in nature.”

The data will be used to identify and document different types of ice features and validate new techniques for interpreting satellite imagery for the purpose of ice environment characterization, as well as to assess the physical and mechanical properties of sea ice and ice ridges.

It is expected that the CARD/Memorial participation in the Barents Sea program will be the first of many opportunities for exchange, research and training with Arctic research projects and organizations around the world.

It all adds up to an exciting time in both ice and Arctic research, Dr. Taylor concludes.

“We need to tap into potential new resources,” he said. “I want the same opportunities that exist today to be here for my kids in 20 years.”
A summer spent in a remote Inuit hamlet on the western shore of Hudson Bay more than a decade ago was all it took for Dr. Andrea Procter, PhD’12, to get hooked on the Arctic and Canada’s role in the North.

“I’ve always been interested in Aboriginal rights and environmental issues,” she explained recently from Happy Valley-Goose Bay where she’s currently a post-doctoral fellow at Memorial’s Labrador Institute. “I spent a summer in Arviat, Nunavut, doing oral history research on Inuit land use. It was my first experience in the Arctic and I was hooked.”

Since then, Dr. Procter has devoted her research and career to Northern issues, expanding her expertise to include concerns affecting this province.

Born and raised in Toronto, she completed an undergraduate degree in anthropology at the University of Toronto before graduating with a master’s in natural resource management from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. During that time she visited Nunavut to do research. Armed with her second degree she began working in 2000 for the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, a non-governmental environmental agency based in Montreal. That’s when she started travelling to — and living in — Labrador. It’s also when she fell in love with the Big Land.

“I lived in Hopedale for a month in the winter of 2001, and in the Straits for the summer, and then the following year I spent time in Nain and then lived in Sheshatshiu for the summer,” Dr. Procter explained. “I just fell in love with Labrador — and with Newfoundland, once I went there!”

In 2005, Dr. David Natcher, who at that time was Memorial’s Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies, encouraged her to complete a PhD at Memorial on Arctic indigenous issues. She jumped at the chance and completed research on how indigeneity — or what constitutes Inuit-ness — developed in Labrador and how it now plays a role in environmental governance in Nunatsiavut, the Inuit region of Labrador.

“I was also very excited to work with two greats in the field of anthropology — Jean Briggs and Adrian Tanner, as well as with August Carbonella, who exposed me to new ways of thinking about political anthropology,” Dr. Procter added.

As a post-doctoral fellow at the Labrador Institute, her current research is focused on ideas of reconciliation between indigenous and non-indigenous people in Labrador. She’s also investigating historically changing ideas about gender and race in southern Labrador. And she’s working with a number of community groups while teaching a course called Resources, Aboriginal Rights and Social Justice in Labrador.

“So many of today’s major issues are happening in the North — Aboriginal self-government, large-scale mining and energy developments, new transportation links, international sovereignty issues,” she said. “So much wealth is generated in the North, but communities really see very little tangible benefits. I think these are issues that all Canadians should be concerned with if we are to continue enjoying the wealth of this land.”

Since moving to Labrador, Dr. Procter and her husband, Dr. Jamie Skidmore, associate professor in the Department of English, as well as their seven-year-old daughter, have quickly grown to appreciate the incredible opportunities at their fingertips.

“Living here has been fabulous,” she enthusiastically noted. “It’s a learning experience for all of us. And of course it’s beautiful. We live right near the Churchill River, or as some people here call it, the Grand River, and it’s amazing to see it change with the seasons. Goose Bay also has excellent cross-country skiing — with real snow — and a great theatre scene, so we’ve been having lots of fun.”
Tourists and residents alike were entranced by the icebergs that glided by the Newfoundland and Labrador coast last year. Small bergy bits, awe-inspiring ice arches and massive slabs dotted horizons up and down the eastern coast and showed the world some of the natural beauty of the province.

Researchers at Memorial were called upon by international media to discuss the phenomenon that brought so many icebergs to our shores, but that’s just the tip of Memorial’s expertise in Arctic and Northern regions.

Our physical location on the edge of the North Atlantic provides a rich, living laboratory right outside our front door. In this place, where the cold waters of the Labrador Current meet the warm Gulf Stream, sea life and natural resources abound – spawning innovative thinking, academic excellence and world-class research in Arctic and Northern regions.

Dr. Gary Kachanoski, president and vice-chancellor of Memorial University, says Memorial’s Arctic expertise is a natural extension of the university’s special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.

“Environment, geography and climate has defined Newfoundland and Labrador’s culture and economy for centuries and it continues to do so today,” he said. “At Memorial, we see that reflected in the expertise that has emerged in Arctic and Northern regions in virtually every faculty, school and campus.”

For example, in the Faculty of Arts, Dr. Trevor Bell, M.Sc.’87 is the principal research partner for SakKijânginnatuk Nunalik: the Sustainable Communities Initiative (SCI) of the Nunatsiavut Government. Dr. Bell and the SCI team are tackling issues central to community wellbeing and sustainability in the context of climate change.

“I’m really passionate about the idea that what we do in a university needs to matter,” said Dr. Bell.

The SCI team is diverse, with members ranging from recent Memorial graduates to senior executives, from community researchers to the first minister of the Nunatsiavut Government.
Qikiqtaaluk: The view from a small, sheltered bay across from the hamlet of Qikiqtaaluk, Nunavut in September, 2014. Dr. Trevor Bell and his team were anchored overnight to escape high winds that persisted during their mapping of seabed bathymetry in the region. The purpose of that work is to facilitate safe navigation and anchorages and to describe the seafloor habitats to assist the community in local fishery assessment. Icebergs pictured here were forced up against the shoreline by the same strong winds that hampered the research trip. Cabins and dog enclosures in the foreground belong to local Inuit.
One of the projects they are focused on is addressing the challenge of healthy homes in Nunatsiavut with a blueprint for culturally appropriate and environmentally adapted housing.

“What a great legacy for Memorial in the North,” said Dr. Bell. “With the assistance and expertise of our researchers, we are helping Inuit build thriving, sustainable communities across the Arctic.”

In December 2013, Dr. Bell and the SCI team were awarded an Arctic Inspiration Prize valued at $350,000. The team is using the funds to build and monitor Nunatsiavut’s first sustainable, multi-unit residential dwelling; a model that is culturally relevant, affordable, energy efficient, technologically advanced and adapted to climatic and environmental changes.

“Memorial is very proud of Dr. Bell’s socially responsible leadership,” said Dr. Kachanoski.

“His interdisciplinary research has helped us better understand a complex issue that is both locally important and internationally significant. Most importantly, he is bringing tangible benefits to Northern communities.”

Researchers in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science are also focused on developing innovative solutions to challenges in Arctic and Northern regions.

The Joint Center of Excellence for Arctic Shipping and Operations, made up of researchers from Memorial, Aalto University in Finland, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology and the University of Helsinki in Finland, is taking a holistic view of the challenges associated with Arctic shipping.

Dr. Brian Veitch, B.Eng.’88, M.Eng.’90, a Memorial engineering professor in the Center of Excellence, says there are a number of factors to be considered when shipping in the Arctic.

“One of the concerns of shipping through any region is unintentional discharges. In the Arctic, we’re particularly concerned about oil spills, because Northern regions are quite different from more southern marine environments and it’s likely that a spill would behave differently in Arctic regions,” he explained.

“It’s important that we understand how flora and fauna would be impacted and the challenges that may exist when trying to access, contain and clean the site. On the other side of the equation, we need to understand how a ship designed for a more temperate climate may operate differently in the North.”

The research team plans to use the information they discover to develop a risk-based design framework. Ultimately, this will be used to create ship design protocols that are based on a deep understanding of ships in Arctic environments.

“Given the things that could happen, and their consequences and probability, we want to determine what we can do beforehand by design to either prevent these events from happening or mitigate their impact to an acceptable level,” said Dr. Veitch.
With a $3 million investment from Lloyd’s Register Foundation, the project is creating opportunities for PhD students to spend time at the partnering institutions and enhance both their educational experience and professional network.

“While we provide the strategic direction, the bulk of the work is being done by PhD students,” continued Dr. Veitch.

“We are teaching the next generation to conduct their research holistically or in context. Our prediction is that 15-20 years from now, these people will be thought leaders in this sector. Some will be teaching, some will be policy makers or working for government or industry. With a shared understanding of the issues of Arctic shipping and operations, we hope they will continue to work together and advance their knowledge in different regions and organizations.”

Dr. Kachanoski says Memorial’s leadership in Arctic and Northern regions is evident.

“Memorial is far and away the leader in the Atlantic region when it comes to facilities, expertise, projects and initiatives related to harsh environments and Northern regions.

“For example, 70 per cent of all mariners in Canada are trained at the Marine Institute’s state-of-the-art facilities. The Ocean Sciences Centre is unique in the world in its ability to study cold-ocean and deep-sea creatures. Researchers at our Grenfell Campus are investigating the viability of oil and gas development and extraction off the northeastern Grand Banks. The Labrador Institute is continually expanding its programs and activities that benefit Labradorians.”

The university’s expertise hasn’t gone unnoticed, and recent government-industry collaborations have set the stage for future developments.

The Hibernia Management and Development Company, along with the federal and provincial government, committed more than $6 million to create the Hibernia Offshore Operations Simulator Facility at the Marine Institute. The new simulator will train workers in some of the toughest situations they can face offshore in a risk-free environment. It will also enable research in ice navigation, equipment design and simulation development.

“Investments from the public and private sector are creating new opportunities for researchers and students. It’s just one example of the activity happening on our campuses to support Memorial’s goals of doubling research activity and increasing graduate student enrolment by 2020.”

Ultimately, says Dr. Kachanoski, the challenges and opportunities inherent in the North create an ideal environment for research, teaching and learning and public engagement.

“Our students benefit from Memorial’s easy access to Arctic and Northern regions and learn from world-class scholars. They are regularly given opportunities to work in the field, or apply their knowledge to real-world situations.

“We are helping a generation of innovative thinkers come into their own. They won’t just change our province, they’ll change our world.”

Dr. Brian Veitch, professor of ocean and naval architectural engineering and Husky Energy Chair in Oil and Gas Research, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.
By Laura Woodford, BA’90

Graduate of Inuit bachelor of social work program finds balance between traditional and current approaches to health care in her hometown of Nain.
Danielle Baikie, BSW’13, knew she’d be back. When she left Nain, Labrador it was to fulfill a goal that she set for herself in high school — to become a social worker and make a contribution to her hometown. Following that calling began with the first-year university program at College of the North Atlantic in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, and then came a move to St. John’s for the pre-social work program at Memorial University.

It was at that time she learned of a unique bachelor of social work program being offered by Memorial closer to home, back in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, especially for Inuit beneficiaries.

In 2009 the Nunatsiavut Government contracted Memorial and its School of Social Work to deliver a fully accredited four-year bachelor of social work degree program in Labrador. The program's design emphasized the standard social work program of study but with traditional Inuit knowledge and cultural norms interwoven into the courses and teaching methods.

“I was skeptical at first that it would be a knock-off program but it was a full program because it’s accredited,” said Ms. Baikie. “It was different in that there were smaller classes and of course the traditional Inuit knowledge was interspersed. In addition, we got the full bachelor of social work program that Memorial offers in St. John’s.”

Many of the program's students also shared the desire to help make changes in Labrador communities and felt that completing this program, unique to Labrador Inuit, would give them the skills required to do so.

The ultimate goal of the program was that graduates would return to Labrador to work with fellow Inuit, developing a culturally relevant path to healing and health.

That’s exactly what Ms. Baikie did. Immediately after graduation, she accepted the first-ever social work position at the Nunatsiavut Government’s Department of Health and Social Development in her hometown of Nain. The position, along with two others — one in Hopedale and one in Goose Bay — was created by the Nunatsiavut Government after the institution of the Inuit bachelor of social work program. The other two positions are filled by Ms. Baikie’s classmates.

Dr. Donna Hardy Cox, BSW’83, dean, School of Social Work, explained the benefits of this groundbreaking partnership.

“This collaboration with Nunatsiavut Government, Labrador Institute, College of the North Atlantic, other Memorial departments and community partners has provided an opportunity for many people to learn from each other,” said Dr. Hardy Cox. “It has helped develop new ways to contribute to the social work body of knowledge and to increase cultural understandings and has resulted in a collaborative model of undergraduate social work education. We hope the people of our province, in Labrador, will reap the benefits of the knowledge of these graduates.”

To integrate traditional knowledge and cultural norms, elders from the community visited classes to share their wisdom and to support student learning. Ms. Baikie said she found this part of the program particularly useful in her subsequent practice.

“Wisdom from the elders is ingrained in Inuit culture,” she said. “It didn’t really mean that much to me while I was in school and I disliked the theory part. In hindsight, though, it really helped me. I find myself referring to that knowledge and going back to my books to guide my practice now.”

Ms. Baikie's days are full as a social work liaison in Nain. She helps co-ordinate services with her own department’s mental health team, offers one-on-one counselling and helps to case-manage services for individuals from outside agencies. She is the contact person for different agencies in Nain, such as Child, Youth and Family Services, Victim Services, the Women’s Transition House and Labrador Grenfell Health.

“I know the people, I know the issues, I know what to expect,” she said. “I know everybody in Nain and everyone knows me. Sometimes I wish I could come to my job with a fresh slate and a fresh mind. You know, ignorance is bliss. It can be hard to separate myself from this history, but I’d say it works in my favour more than it doesn’t.”

Ms. Baikie is also working with the community freezer program Going Off, Growing Strong which sees youth “going off” (the local term for travelling out onto the land to hunt and fish) with mentor harvesters (community members) who gather, hunt and harvest fish, wild meat and berries to distribute to elders in the community. The goal is to have a positive impact on both youth and elders. She is undertaking clinical evaluations that will determine whether this grassroots initiative is working for the youth involved and what this positive change looks like.

On top of that, Ms. Baikie is working with the Mental Health Commission of Canada to help develop a curriculum for a mental health first-aid program geared to Inuit in the North. She is providing input about Newfoundland and Labrador Inuit to the national project.

Ms. Baikie is optimistic for the future.

“I'd like to see more social workers within our department,” she said. “And I’d like to believe that in 10 years we will have a healthier community here in Nain. I am seeing a lot of positive changes already.”
Justin Dearing, B.Sc.’05, Adv. Dip. in ICOM’07, wants us all to care a little bit more about our world.

Raised in Newfoundland and shaped by its coastlines and communities, he has committed his career to ocean and environmental advocacy with the aim of empowering and motivating more of us, particularly Canada’s youth, to protect what’s around us. As manager of education and alumni programs with the international foundation Students on Ice (SOI) — a role he’s held since February 2014 — he’s taken young people on exhilarating ocean adventures to the Northern and Southernmost tips of the globe. SOI’s mandate is to provide students, educators and scientists from around the world with inspiring educational opportunities at the ends of the Earth and, in doing so, help them foster a new understanding and respect for the planet.

Mr. Dearing’s role with SOI is a match made in heaven. He brings students to the front lines of climate change realities and powerfully connects them to nature.
The view through his lens in this unique photo essay for Luminus captures a series of photographs from SOI’s Arctic 2013 expedition. The group began in Kangerlussuaq, Greenland and then sailed northward to visit Itilleq, Ilulissat, and Uummannaq before crossing the Davis Strait. The trip also featured various stops in Nunavut, including Auyuittuq National Park, Pangnirtung and Iqaluit.

“I’ve been awakened in a whole new way, as if all over again, to just how beautiful our world is,” said Mr. Dearing. “In one moment it humbles me, in the next, it’s reminding me of how important we all are. It empowers me to make a difference.”

LEFT: Sailing in to visit Auyuittuq National Park, the view was breathtakingly peaceful and serene in Pangnirtung Fjord.

ABOVE: Looking out from the picturesque community of Ilulissat, Greenland to the harbour where floating ice spans the entire horizon.

ABOVE: Students and staff hike to the Ilulissat Icefjord, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to experience the massive island-sized iceberg looming in the distance.
ABOVE: Students gather on the bow of the MV Sea Adventurer to watch the coast of Greenland edge closer and closer.

BELOW: Waking from its nap, this polar bear watches curiously from the ice floe it had taken up temporary residence on (northeastern coast of Nunavut).

RIGHT: A lone Greenlander pilots his small vessel through the ice-filled fjord of Ilulissat.
LEFT: Coinced as the ‘Heart of Greenland’, Uummannaq’s name means “heart-shaped like” in Greenlandic after the mountain that watches over this small fishing community.

BELOW: Students gather to watch eagerly for seals, whales and polar bears off the coast near Pangnirtung, Nunavut.

ABOVE: A team of staff and students embark in zodiacs to explore the immense icebergs off the northwestern coast of Greenland.
SAVING THE OLD MAN OF THE SEA

It glides slowly through the darkest, deepest waters of the far North, a behemoth that rivals the Great White in size and can live as long as 200 years.

PHOTO: Paul Nicklen/National Geographic Creative
The Greenland shark is rarely observed in its natural habitat, but the importance of its role at the top of the sub-Arctic food chain is in plain sight for Dr. Scott Grant, PhD’00.

An instructor and senior fisheries biologist with the Marine Institute’s Centre for Sustainable Aquatic Resources, Dr. Grant is also a recognized shark expert. One focus of his research is bycatch reduction of the Greenland shark in Nunavut’s inshore turbot longline fishery.

As part of that larger research project, Dr. Grant and his team recently carried out a major scientific study in Davis Strait to determine whether Greenland halibut (a.k.a., turbot) could be captured in baited pots, a possible alternative for fishermen that would also protect the sharks. He is continuing to collect biological data and information on Greenland shark feeding behaviour to better understand how they live in Arctic waters.

“Baited pots may prove to be the proverbial silver bullet,” explained Dr. Grant. “If we can demonstrate that baited pots capture commercial quantities of Greenland halibut, then pots would end the destruction caused to Greenland sharks by both longline and gillnet fisheries alike. Our goal is sustainable resource use. We want to preserve the unique Arctic ecology and also support the economies and food security of Arctic communities.”
I first met Dr. Keith Chaulk, PhD'06, during a workshop in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in 2008. He was roughly six months into his new role as director of the Labrador Institute, Memorial’s multi-disciplinary unit responsible for stimulating, co-ordinating and supporting the university’s research and academic programming in the region. He beamed about his new challenge and the more than 100 projects underway at the institute focused on everything from population dynamics to climate change. Fast-forward almost a decade and he’s just as energized about the institute’s leadership role in Northern research and education, as well as its bright future. An ardent champion of Labrador and the North, Dr. Chaulk is dedicated to strengthening Memorial’s research, innovation and education in the region while cultivating a tremendous amount of Labradorian and Northern pride.

LUMINUS: Tell me a bit more about yourself. Where were you born and where did you study?
CHAULK: I was born in North West River, Labrador, and obtained a B.Sc. in biology from Dalhousie University and a M.Sc. in biology from Acadia University. I completed my PhD in cognitive and behavioural ecology at Memorial in 2006.

LUMINUS: You have a fairly new role with the University of the Arctic — tell me about it.
CHAULK: It’s a part-time secondment to UArctic to act as their vice-president (Indigenous). I was appointed in October 2013. This new role will allow me to bring my own academic experience, the resources and expertise of Memorial and my own cultural values to the team that will guide UArctic over the next several years. It’s more work, more emails, questions, networking, documents, meetings and a big learning curve but I enjoy it.

LUMINUS: Tell me more about UArctic and its stakeholders.
CHAULK: UArctic is comprised of some 170 universities, colleges and other organizations committed to higher education and research in the North. Our overall goal is to create a strong, sustainable circumpolar region by empowering Indigenous peoples and other northerners through education, training and shared knowledge. We have both northern and non-northern students who come from all walks of life. I think many people would have an interest in learning more about the north and the people who live there.

LUMINUS: How does your new position affect your role at Memorial?
CHAULK: Essentially, they are separate but ultimately there’s an expectation my role with UArctic will elevate Memorial’s...
credibility as a player in Northern research and education, plus it’s likely I will see opportunities for Northern partnerships we might not otherwise be aware of. My role is to help others be successful in teaching and research.

**LUMINUS:** Tell me about the program of studies and the way this unique institution operates.

**CHAULK:** UArctic is essentially a consortium of Northern institutions. It does not grant degrees. That said, the circumpolar studies program can be used as electives by member institutions. There are also numerous field schools and some graduate programs currently under development.

**LUMINUS:** What do you hope to take away from your experience with the University of the Arctic?

**CHAULK:** A greater appreciation for the struggles northern people share, regardless of where they hail from. Many of the big issues are intrinsically the same – resource extraction with little reciprocal investment and decisions made by remote southern governments with limited northern voices.

**LUMINUS:** Tell me more about the growth of the Labrador Institute and the important role it is playing in Northern research and academic programming.

**CHAULK:** The institute has recently undergone significant expansion. We’ve had tremendous support from Memorial’s president, Dr. Gary Kachanoski, as well as our vice-president of research, Dr. Richard Marceau. They are both great champions of what we are doing here. Our growth is also due in no small part to our provincial government partners, RDC and ACOA, as well as our indigenous organizations such as the Nunatsiavut Government, NunatuKavut and the Innu Nation. We also get great support from our internal partners such as the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education and the Marine Institute, their respective deans and vice-presidents and Memorial’s other support agencies such as the Office of Research, Computing and Communications, Finance, MUN Libraries and others. Today we have four different offices in three different communities in Labrador, 16 full-time staff and an annual base-operating budget of $1.2 million.
“Each day the presence of Memorial grows in Labrador and by so doing we meet our special obligation to the northern people of our province.”

But the success of the Labrador Institute mostly results from the hard work of the staff of the institute, the people you don’t often see or hear about working behind the scenes.

LUMINUS: Can you tell me more about the staff and researchers?
CHAULK: They are the engines of the Labrador Institute — working to enhance our library, supporting the development of children’s books, organizing courses and outreach events and so on. We also have a new group of dedicated faculty and research associates conducting innovative programming on the ground in Labrador — projects as diverse as cultural history, suicide prevention, indigenous education, food security, environmental contaminants, fisheries research, economics and history. I am hopeful the future holds more of the same. Each day the presence of Memorial grows in Labrador and by doing so we meet our special obligation to the northern people of our province.

LUMINUS: Do you have a book, photo or piece of art that reminds you of the North or that you think tells the story of the Canadian North?
CHAULK: I look at my father’s snowshoes and komatik or the skin mitts and boots my grandmother made and see the North in those things all the time.

LUMINUS: What do you like to do in your time off to explore the regions you’re researching and working in?
CHAULK: I recently had a research leave and I travelled through North America including the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, as well as overseas to Finland and Iceland. I also had the chance to explore some southern locales. Seeing the world in all its forms is really appealing to me right now at this stage of my life.

LUMINUS: If you could meet one important player in the North, who would it be and why?
CHAULK: I don’t know if there is one person in particular. I meet so many interesting people — from indigenous leaders, to academics, to moms and dads. They are all important players in ensuring a sustainable North. I think I am most interested in the next generation of leaders: the students in small Northern remote communities, waiting for a chance to leave home and learn about the world so they can come back and advocate for their people.

UARCTIC: MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY FAST FACTS

- Memorial hosted UArctic’s 2014 annual board of governors meeting in St. John’s in October.
- During fall 2014, nine students from Greenland, Iceland, Sweden and Norway completed exchanges at Memorial as part of the North 2 North exchange program organized by UArctic.
- Memorial has been a member of UArctic since 2006.
- Two Memorial students — Zachary Anstey and Caitlyn Baikie — are members of the first-ever group of UArctic Student Ambassadors. They were amongst 14 students appointed by UArctic’s Board of Governors in the fall of 2014. The program aims to train student leaders to represent the UArctic network, in addition to their academic institution, on and off campus. Ambassador appointments are for a three-year term.
- The motto of UArctic is: “In the North, for the North, by the North.”
THANK YOU
TO ALL OF OUR PARTNERS AND EVERYBODY WHO ATTENDED

I love MUNdays
Oct 23-28

For more information on MUNdays and how you can celebrate your time at Memorial call (709) 864-2322, email reunion@mun.ca or visit mun.ca/mundays
Dr. Margot Duley, BA (Hons.) ’66, story with Memorial University begins in the trenches and on the battlefields of the First World War.

On Jan. 22, 1915, Cyril Duley, the man who would become her father, answered the call to serve in the Newfoundland Regiment. He was quickly thrust into heavy fighting at Gallipoli where he was company quartermaster sergeant. Over the next two years a series of near misses allowed him to survive.

A chance administrative assignment as a newly minted second lieutenant kept him away from the front line on the fateful morning of July 1, 1916, at Beaumont Hamel, but he had the grim task of burying the dead, friends and comrades the next day. Later that fall, in fighting at the French village of Les Boeufs, he sustained multiple gunshot and shrapnel wounds — one just a half-inch from his heart. Those injuries effectively ended his active service on the front. He returned to St. John’s, where he was regimental adjutant, retiring with the rank of captain in June 1919. In recognition of his war service, he was named a member of the Order of the British Empire.

RETURNING HOME

Following a return to civilian and business life, Cyril Duley married Florence Pitcher of St. John’s in 1941. A few years later they welcomed a daughter, Margot Iris Duley.

“I was always aware of my father’s service in the Newfoundland Regiment,” said Dr. Duley. “I don’t recall a specific moment of revelation in my life about that. The health problems he suffered throughout his life were a constant reminder because he dealt with pain as a result of the wounds he received and the shrapnel that remained in his body. I was only eight years old when he died in 1952, so you can imagine that a greater understanding of what it all really meant came later for me.”

A moment Dr. Duley does credit for revealing the weight of her family history came when she was an undergraduate student at Memorial.

“My freshman year coincided with the opening of the campus on Elizabeth Avenue,” she said. “Around that time I recall seeing the name of my uncle Lionel in the Book of Remembrance that now sits in the foyer of the Arts building. He was my father’s youngest brother and was killed just weeks before the end of the war. Of course I knew about him and his story, but that made it very personal. It was around that time in my life that I began to appreciate how deeply the regiment’s fate affected the entire social, political and economic history of Newfoundland and Labrador.”

EDUCATIONAL PATH

Upon completion of a bachelor of arts (honours) at Memorial, her next steps would be a master of arts in South Asian history at Duke University in North Carolina and a PhD in South Asian and British imperial history from the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. A successful academic career followed, with appointments to a number of progressively senior administrative roles at universities in the United States. She retired in 2009 as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and professor of history at the University of Illinois at Springfield, positions she
had held since 2004. Currently, she divides her time between Michigan and Pouch Cove, writing and doing research. Her current focus is a historical analysis of women and agricultural work in Newfoundland and Labrador and a biography of her aunt, novelist Margaret Duley.

A theme that emerges from talking to Dr. Duley about her life and work is her sense of duty, which includes embracing opportunity and enabling the success of others. She credits the influence of her family.

“My father carried on his life after the war in a spirit of idealism,” she said. “He never let the pain of his injuries slow him down, and believed very strongly in an obligation to improve the country he fought for. Both he and my mother were committed to public service and charitable causes, especially those in the area of economic uplift and child welfare.

“I’ve designated a gift to Memorial in memory of my parents, to support a scholarship for a student of Innu or Inuit heritage. That reflects my father’s interest in Labrador and my own interest in indigenous cultures. I am troubled by the marginalization of those cultures, so this award is about recovering tradition, giving consideration to a young person who wants to make a difference in his or her community.”

**LEGACY EVENT HELD ANNUALLY**

Each year a Legacy event is held at Memorial to celebrate and thank individuals like Dr. Duley who have made a planned gift to the university. Last year, Bert Riggs, BA (Hons.)’77, B.Ed.’77, MA’12, head of Archives and Special Collections at the Queen Elizabeth II Library, gave a special presentation at this event about some of the untold stories of the Newfoundland Regiment. In doing so, he highlighted a number of unique connections with the regiment that exist among this group of donors — one of those being the story of Cyril Duley.

“Margot Duley’s connection to this university is quite remarkable,” said Mr. Riggs. “This institution is a living memorial to both her father and uncle, one a survivor of the war and the other killed in action. Her aunt Margaret is one of Newfoundland’s first great novelists and a Parks Canada historic plaque to her memory is attached right outside the entrance of the QEII library. The university has also been a great resource for her research, in particular for the book she published in the ‘90s on the history of women’s suffrage in Newfoundland and also her more recent work. And she is also engaged as an alumna and donor to Memorial.”

In telling the story of Cyril Duley, Mr. Riggs referenced a letter sent from a French hospital in 1916 while Duley recovered from his wounds. To his friend Captain Hugh Anderson, Duley wrote: “I had a pretty narrow squeak another ½ inch & one piece [of shrapnel] would have gone thru the heart instead of stopping between my chest bones — However, a miss is as good as a mile.”

“That are prophetic words,” said Mr. Riggs, “from a man recognized for his outstanding ability and resourcefulness, and one who had served his country well.”

*Cyril and Margot Duley, circa 1947*
Teachers seek opportunity and experience in the North

BY LISA PENDERGAST, B.Comm.(Co-op)/06

Bundling up to face temperatures as low as -55°C was often how Audrey Barnes, BA(Ed)’72, M.Ed.’91, started her workday in Leaf Rapids, Man. It was a job hazard uniquely paired with the second chapter of her teaching career. In 2004, Ms. Barnes put retirement in the rearview mirror and left Newfoundland’s Burin Peninsula for a town called God’s Lake Narrows in Northern Manitoba. Accessible only by air or boat, the town had a population of less than 100 people. Over the next nine years she also spent time teaching in Berens River, Man., and Fond-du-lac, Sask.

She is one of many teachers who have found opportunities in the North. That first experience in God’s Lake Narrows saw her join 13 other teachers from Newfoundland and Labrador who were working in the area, 11 of whom had also retired from previous teaching careers.

“When you are retired, there are still expenses, but you also have a desire to continue working and experience new things,” said Ms. Barnes. “I think the other side of that is the excellent reputation that teachers from Newfoundland have in that part of the country. The principal at the school where I taught in God’s Lake would often comment on the strong work ethic of teachers from Newfoundland.

He used to say, ‘When I get a Newfoundland teacher I know I’ll get a day’s work.’ "

Two closely related but independent communities share the name of God’s Lake Narrows. The God’s Lake Narrows First Nation Reserve and the other non-treaty community on nearby provincial Crown land are fly-in communities, located 547 km northeast of Winnipeg. Photo taken on the reserve, looking across “the Narrows” to the island (which is not reserve land).
It’s a trend not limited to retirees starting second careers. Many first-time teachers also see great value in the northern experience.

Knowing that finding full-time employment in Newfoundland and Labrador can be a challenge for new graduates, Lisa Murphy, BPE(Hons.’13, B.Ed.’14, began applying for jobs in the North before completing her degree at Memorial. With multiple offers awaiting her upon graduation, Ms. Murphy accepted a full-time teaching position with the Athabasca Delta Community School (K-12) in Fort Chipewyan, Alta. She felt that this school and community were just what she was looking for.

“It was a small community, appeared to be very close knit, had a hockey arena and I related strongly to the values of the Northland School Division and the school,” she said. “They were looking for someone who loved the outdoors, believed in experiential education and was capable of incorporating outdoor education into their teaching practice.”

Ms. Murphy moved to Alberta in August 2014 to attend first-year teacher’s training, where she met two fellow Newfoundlanders from St. John’s. Since then, another teacher from Newfoundland and Labrador has joined her in Fort Chipewyan. Ms. Murphy plans to live and work there for the near future.

“I would like to work here for a few years to really become a part of the community and to give the students a real opportunity to get to know me and trust me,” she said. “At the same time, Newfoundland and Labrador is my home and I would love nothing more than at some point to move back and settle in a small community to teach for the rest of my career. But for now I am very excited and happy to be where I am.”

The opportunity offered by the North is one that Dr. Kirk Anderson, B.Sc.’78, B.Ed.’81, M.Ed.’87, knows very well. The dean of Memorial’s Faculty of Education spent eight years teaching in Labrador at the beginning of his career.

“As I am sure many of our students feel today, I originally wanted to stay and teach in St. John’s, in the same context where I learned to become a teacher,” said Dr. Anderson. “I wish I could say that I saw this offer I had back then with wonder and opportunity, but that came later. I will say that I was very appreciative of the work and the chance to make something of myself.”

Dr. Anderson said he gained a new appreciation for the people and place when he began working in Labrador. “When I first got to Makkovik and then Cartwright in my second year, naively thought that I was going there with all the answers,” he said. “I went in with ideas to change all kinds of things, but I soon realized that the real change was in me. For that reason alone I always encourage my students to take advantage of opportunities like this. It can be a life-changing experience.”

It’s a sentiment echoed by Ms. Barnes. She reflected on the experience as a cultural awakening, one that exposed her to many wonderful people and traditions, and prompted her to rethink what it means to be both a student and a teacher.

“Go with a very open mind and don’t expect to radically change things,” she said. “There are ways to make a contribution, but you have to take baby steps. You don’t change the North — the North changes you.”

Lisa Murphy on a successful fall moose-hunting trip in Fort Chipewyan, Alta.
1 | **TODD RUSSELL**, BA’02, was presented with the Aboriginal Order of Canada at the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples 43rd Annual General Assembly in Ottawa this past fall. Mr. Russell is the president of NunatuKavut Community Council (an organization representing southern Inuit in Labrador) and former member of Parliament for Labrador. The Order honours those in the aboriginal and non-aboriginal community who have made significant and lasting contributions to the aboriginal peoples of Canada.

2 | **JENNIFER MARTIN**, B.Rec.’05, is currently working for the city of Iqaluit as the assistant director of recreation. Her role is to develop recreation programs that help support Iqaluit’s goal to enhance the quality of life for all Iqalumiut.

3 | **NELSON DOUCETTE**, B.Voc.Ed.’91, Dip.Voc.Ed.’91 is committed to lifelong learning. After his retirement in 2007 following a 43-year career in the social work field, he went back to school and completed a Bachelor of Social Work at the University of Manitoba in 2009. It marked the completion of a major personal goal and was an affirmation of his philosophy that you are never too old to learn. Since then he has continued to embrace knowledge, pursuing other personal interest courses, including art and music.

4 | **TERRY HUSSEY**, B.Eng.’03, MBA’05, is the founder and chief executive officer with Vigilant Management Inc., a project management consulting company in the construction industry. Vigilant were recently named to Progress Magazine’s list of Fastest Growing Companies in Atlantic Canada, ranking 4th in Atlantic Canada and 1st in Newfoundland and Labrador.

5 | **GINA COLBOURNE**, BN’12, was named the 2014 Red Cross Young Humanitarian of the Year for Newfoundland and Labrador. This recent nursing graduate is also a soon-to-be doctor, currently in her third year of medical school at Memorial University.

6 | **DUSTIN SILVEY**, M.Sc.(Kinesiology)’14, has a passion for photography. His pursuit of great pictures has taken him to some of the most breathtaking locales in the world. A selection of those photographs are now on display as an exhibit in the First Space Art Gallery in the Queen Elizabeth II Library on Memorial’s St. John’s campus. Mr. Silvey also writes about his travels and was recently published in the Globe and Mail.

7 | **DANIEL HOYLES**, B.Comm.(Hons.)(Co-op.)’10, is front and centre in a recent issue of FaceForward, Memorial’s online publication focused on the people and stories from our university. Mr. Hoyles is the chief operating officer of Grey Island Energy, a St. John’s-based company that’s developing a technology to harness the ocean’s wave energy with the goal of powering everything from a house to a massive offshore oil rig. Learn more at mun.ca/faceforward.

8 | **DR. ELKE DETTMER**, PhD’93, operates Points East, a year-round guesthouse that is also her home. Since the late 1990s, she has welcomed hundreds of tourists from all over the globe to her charming 124-year old heritage house in Pouch Cove, N.L.
IN MEMORY

(RECORDED FROM NOVEMBER 2013 – AUGUST 2014)

DORAL ABBOTT, BA(Ed.)*73
Dec. 26, 2013

DR. ROBERT EDWARD ADAMEC
professor emeritus, Dept. of Psychology
Feb. 11, 2014

MARTHA IONA ANDREWS (NÉE HILL)
MUC’42
May 20, 2014

ALFRED ANSTYE, BA(Ed.)*60, BA’63
Nov. 24, 2013

LILIAN B. BADCOCK (NÉE WARFORD)
MUC’39
Nov. 10, 2013

EDWARD CLAUDE BARRETT, BA(Ed.)*71, BA’75
Nov. 21, 2013

RICHARD BEATON, BA’13
Nov. 17, 2013

PLEMAN E. BESSEY, MUC’48
Nov. 30, 2013

REV. CANON RALPH BILLARD, BA’80
March 2, 2014

HOWARD CECIL BROWN
BA(Hons.)*74, MA’85
Jan. 8, 2014

STEPHEN ARTHUR BROWN, BA’80
July 2, 2014

PROF. NORMAN JOHN PEPPIN BROWN
founder, Dept. of Philosophy
April 19, 2014

JENNIFER MARIE BRUCE
BA’04, B.Comm.(Co-op.)*04
Nov. 20, 2013

MONA WINIFRED DOREEN CALLAHAN
(NÉE RALPH)
BA(Ed.)*60, BA’69
Nov. 22, 2013

MARGARET ROSE CARRIGAN
BA(Ed.)*67, BA’86
March 26, 2014

GARY CHURCHILL, BA’77
July 8, 2014

ADRIAN JOHN (A.J.) CLEARY, BN’04
March 8, 2014

ELSIE COLE (NÉE SHEPPARD)
BN’77, M.Ed.’80
July 30, 2014

PHILIP GEORGE COLE, B.Sc.’77
May 26, 2014

LILIAN MARY COLLINS (NÉE GREENE)
MUC’41
Feb. 5, 2014

LESLIE COOMBS
MUC’44, MUC’47, BA(Ed.)’52
Aug. 5, 2014

STEPHEN GERALD COOMBS, B.Sc.’96
April 6, 2014

MABEL PHYLLIS CURTIS, BA(Ed.)’74
June 11, 2014

DR. MOHSEN DANESHITALAB
associate dean, graduate studies and research, School of Pharmacy
May 16, 2014

DAVID WILLIAM DAWE, B.Eng.’79
May 15, 2014

MICHAEL (BRIAN) DUGGAN
Cert. in Bus Admin.’00, BA’12
Feb. 13, 2014

PATRICK F. DUTTON, BA(Ed.)’63, BA’65
Nov. 13, 2013

JANET EDWARDS, BA(Ed.)’59
May 23, 2014

JOHN FISHER, B.Sc.’71
Jan. 27, 2014

KEITH FOLLETT, B.Comm.’76
June 28, 2014

MATTHEW JOHN FOSTER
(ret.) professor and director, Dept. of Physical Education & Athletics
Nov. 3, 2013

DR. WILLIAM SEFTON FYFE
Honorary D.Sc.’89
Nov. 11, 2013

ELSIE BEATRICE GARLAND (NÉE PERFECT)
BA’70
Dec. 26, 2013

LINDA EILEEN GIBBONS, BA’82, B.Ed.’82
April 29, 2014

DR. EDYTHE GOODRIDGE, Honorary LLD’98
June 4, 2014

MARY GOSSE (NÉE SUTTON), BA(Ed.)’79
Aug. 24, 2014

FRANK GRANT, MUC’49
May 18, 2014

DR. MARIAN ELIZABETH GREENE, B.Med.Sci.’75, MD’77
Nov. 7, 2013

MARGARET ANNE HAMMOND (NÉE LITTLEJOHN)
BA(Ed.)’83, Dip. in School Res. Svcs’86
July 3, 2014

PATRICK J. HANRAHAN, BA(Ed.)’62, BA’67, M.Ed.’74
Nov. 10, 2013

DR. CHARLES U. HENDERSON
MUC’41, professor emeritus, Faculty of Medicine
June 10, 2014

OWEN HEBER HEWITT, BA’74, BA(Ed.)’74
Feb. 2, 2014

CAROL ANN HISCOSK (NÉE CANTWELL)
BA(Ed.)’71
April 21, 2014

ELLEN JANE HOUSE, BA’68, M.Ed.’72
May 3, 2014

DARREN CHRISTOPHER HYNES
BA(Hons.)’92, M.Phil.’94
March 1, 2014

SUSAN HELENA JACKSON
BA’67, MA’73, B.Ed.’78
April 25, 2014

IMELDA EMMA JANES (NÉE SLANEY), BA(Ed.)’76
May 15, 2014

PETER DAVID KEARLEY, Cert. in Bus. Admin.’96, BA’03
Aug. 30, 2014

PAUL CLARENCE KENNEDY, BA’89, B.Ed.’89
April 16, 2014

MYLES MICHAEL KENNEDY, B.Sc.’77, B.Ed.’77
March 21, 2014

PETER EUGENE KENNEDY, BA’79
Jan. 21, 2014

THOMAS WILLIAM KIERANS
(ret.) professor, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science
Nov. 22, 2013
CHRIS LANG, B.Eng.’86
July 21, 2014

DR. GRACE LAYMAN
MUC’42, (ret.) instructor, Faculty of Education
Jan. 13, 2014

MONICA LEDWELL, BA’86, B.Ed.’86
July 17, 2014

ELIZABETH LOUISE MACFARLANE (NÉE GOODYEAR), MUC.’43
May 7, 2014

Marilyn Marsh (NÉE LeCKIE), BN’69, M.Ed.’83
Feb. 11, 2014

Joan Marshall (NÉE BUSERY), MUC’40
April 30, 2014

Dr. Arthur William May, OC
B.Sc.(Hons.)’58, M.Sc.’64, Honorary D.Sc.’89, president emeritus
Jan. 30, 2014

Phyllis Agnes MCCANN, BA’81, B.Ed.’85
May 9, 2014

Duane McCarthy, B.Sc. ’91
June 28, 2014

Marilynn Ann McGRATH, BA(Ed.)’75
Oct. 11, 2013

David mckinnon, B.Sc.’78
Jan. 7, 2014

Emily Frances Mullett (NÉE WICKS)
BA(Ed.)’82, BA’84
June 14, 2014

Dr. CHÂU NGUyÊN
Assistant professor, Faculty of Medicine
Aug. 18, 2014

Veronica May NOFTALL, BA(Ed.)’86
Jan. 7, 2014

Dermot Nolan, BA(Ed.)’80
Jan. 2, 2014

Stephen Norris, B.Sc.’71, B.Ed.’71, M.Ed.’75
Feb. 18, 2014

Michael (Mike) O’BRIEN, Dip. Eng.’55
April 21, 2014

Sister Margaret O’Gorman
BA(Ed.)’67, M.Ed. ’70
Aug. 31, 2014

Robert John Olivero, BA’59
Aug. 22, 2014

Carol Jean O’RAFFERTY, B.Comm.’78
Nov. 18, 2013

Lawrence Carl O’REILLY, Dip. Voc. Ed.’79
Jan. 12, 2014

Robert (BOB) Charles Parrott
BA(Ed.)’67, M.Ed.’75, BA’80
Aug. 24, 2014

Oscar Parsons, BA(Ed.)’72, BA’74
Nov. 27, 2013

Dr. Brian Wallace Payton
(ret.) professor of physiology/surgery, Faculty of Medicine
April 19, 2014

Christopher Robert Peddigrew, BA’93
Feb. 6, 2014

Gordon Joseph Pittman, BA(Ed.)’72
March 29, 2014

Hector Pollard, BA(Ed.)’62, BA’63, M.Ed.’70
July 10, 2014

Kelly Lee Hyde-Pope, BA’12
April 11, 2014

David Francis Power, B.Comm. (Co-op.) ’98
Aug. 11, 2014

Sister Marion Power, BA(Ed.)’72, BA’75
July 1, 2014

Olive May Pieroway (NÉE DOANE)
BA(Ed.)’78
Nov. 24, 2013

Dr. Priscilla Renouf
BA’74, MA’76, professor, Department of Archaeology
April 4, 2014

Lloyd Rodgers, BA’70, B.Ed.’71
April 8, 2014

Jacob Rogers, BA’59
Jan. 6, 2014

Dr. Ronald George Rompkey, OC, CD
BA’65, B.Ed.’66, MA’68, professor emeritus, Faculty of Arts
July 31, 2014

Koreen Reid, B.Ed.’93
June 6, 2014

Evelyn Roach, BA(Ed.)’73, BA’75
March 12, 2014

Mary Bernice Ryan, BA(Ed.)’84
June 23, 2014

Sidney Morgan Shears, MUC’44
Feb. 17, 2014

Doris Patricia Small (NÉE Pelley)
BA(Ed.)’61, BA’65, MA’70
June 12, 2014

Dr. Janet Steer Story, ONL, Honorary LLD’04
Dec. 3, 2013

Brenda G. Murrin squires, B.Sc.’81
June 28, 2014

Boyce Hayward Taylor, B.Comm. (Hons.) (Co-op.)’86
April 22, 2014

William Claude Taylor, BA(Ed.)’71, BA’73
May 5, 2014

Janet Lynn Tucker, B.Sc.’87
Feb. 18, 2014

Alexander Cornelius (Neil) Van Allen
(ret.) professor, School of Music
July 15, 2014

Calvin Vardy, B.Sc.’67, B.Ed.’67, M.Ed.’79
July 23, 2014

Ian Alan Vaughan, B.Sc.(Pharmacy)’12
April 21, 2014

George Whey, B.Comm. (Hons.)’78
Aug. 6, 2014

Nicola Sylvia Quilliam (NÉE White)
B.Comm.(Co-op.)’94
Nov. 27, 2013

Dec. 26, 2013

Dennis B. Williams, Dip. of Tech. ’95
July 9, 2014

Dorothy Jean Williams, BA(Ed.)’87, BA’97
June 4, 2014

Terence (Terry) Michael Williams, B.Sc.’68
Jan. 11, 2014

June 24, 2014

Walter John Young, BA(Ed.)’69, BA’70
April 20, 2014
On Oct. 8, 2014, one of the two halls comprising the new residential complex at Memorial University’s St. John’s campus was named after Frances Cluett, a woman who had attended summer school at the Normal School located at Memorial University College in 1926.

Born in Belleoram, on the island’s south coast, on June 25, 1883, Frances Cluett was the daughter of Matilda Grandy and Arthur M. Cluett. After completing her schooling at the Church of England School in her home town, she opted for one of the few career paths open to women in turn of the century Newfoundland: teaching. In the summer of 1901 she travelled to St. John’s where she underwent a teacher training program, receiving certification as a qualified teacher (third grade) on June 21, 1901, just four days before her 18th birthday.

Upon completion of this training she returned to Belleoram where she spent the next 15 years teaching in the local school and volunteering in the work of her church, including as president of the Guild of St. Perpetua, which looked out to the altar and chancel at the church.

With the outbreak of war in 1914 Cluett became president of the Belleoram branch of the Women’s Patriotic Association (WPA), established to co-ordinate the work of women throughout the island in preparing bandages and care packages to be sent to the members of the Newfoundland Regiment overseas. Two years later, in 1916, she decided to join the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), an organization that had been founded in 1909 when the British Red Cross Society joined with the order of St. John of Jerusalem to co-ordinate the work of volunteers in British hospitals.

There is no indication why she took this drastic step at the age of 33: it may have been a reaction to the slaughter of so many Newfoundlanders at Beaumont Hamel on July 1 of that year. Or it may have been a desire to make a greater contribution to the war effort. Whatever the reason, on Oct. 2, 1916, she received a telegram from Adeline Browning, one of the WPA officials in St. John’s, simply stating “Expect you this week.” Cluett left Belleoram a few days later on the SS Glencoe for Placentia, where she caught a train for St. John’s. After several weeks in the capital city attending training sessions and lectures, and getting a passport, a number of inoculations and the clothes and other personal effects she would need in England, Cluett and three other VADs – Henrietta Gallishaw of St. John’s, Clare Janes of Hants Harbour and Bertha Bartlett of Brigus – took the train to Port aux Basques, crossed the Cabot Strait to Nova Scotia and then went on to New York by train.

After several days there they boarded the SS St. Paul, which carried them across the Atlantic to Liverpool. Then it was on to London by train, where they spent more time being trained for work in a military hospital.

Cluett’s first posting in England was at the 4th Northern General Hospital in Lincoln, where she was assigned to ward duty, looking out to British soldiers, including some Newfoundlanders, who were sent there to recuperate from war wounds.

She obviously impressed her superiors, for at the end of March 1917, less than four months after beginning ward duty, she was informed that she was being transferred to the 10th General Hospital in Rouen, France. That she was chosen over other VADs who had more seniority and experience are indications of her efficiency, adaptability and maturity.

Frances Cluett spent the remainder of the war at the casualty hospital in Rouen. By the summer of 1919 she was back in London, but rather than demob and return to Newfoundland, as many of her VAD colleagues had done, she agreed to spend a year in a British military hospital in Constantinople (Istanbul).

She eventually made it back to St. John’s, via London, in November 1920. Once there, she acquired a grade two teaching certificate and returned to Belleoram to resume her career. During the summer of 1926, she went back to St. John’s to complete an advanced teacher training course at the new Normal School, where she received a grade one teaching diploma, the highest available, on July 1, 1926. The Normal School eventually became Memorial University’s Faculty of Education, thereby making Cluett, retroactively, an alumna of this university.
Cluett spent the remainder of her life in Belleoram, teaching primary school and operating a small general store. She remained quite active in her church and as a result of her ‘medical’ training was often called upon for advice or assistance when anyone in the community became sick.

During her time in Europe, Frances Cluett maintained a regular correspondence with her mother and her sister Lillian, as well as writing occasional letters to relatives and friends back in Belleoram. Twenty-eight of the letters she sent her mother and three of those to her sister Lillian have survived. There are indications from both internal references in some letters and from the large gaps of time between some others that there were probably some that were lost or destroyed.

Those that do exist, however, provide unique insights into the experiences of a young woman who, in the course of six months, was catapulted from a Newfoundland fishing community into a world war. Within weeks of leaving Belleoram in October 1916, she had been exposed to St. John’s, Sydney, Boston, New York, Liverpool and London.

A few months later she was off to France, where she spent most of her time in Rouen but also visited Cannes and Paris, and as far east as Turkey, before her tour of duty ended. Her letters home give a realistic account of her activities during her time away.

At the beginning, this account is one of wide-eyed innocence; she wrote of her arrival in St. John’s: “Mrs. Browning, Lady Davidson’s secretary and Dr. Patterson’s wife were at the station to meet me. You can imagine what I felt like. They were dressed to kill and I had on my flake boots and old blue coat. Mrs. Browning had on a fawn suit and brown velvet hat and furs.”

Her introduction to New York is filled with awe: “We have certainly travelled up and down Fifth Avenue. I was in one store today. Really I thought to myself that the floor we were on was nearly as large as half of Belleoram. I never could in all my life imagine anything like it.”

She soon adapted to the realities of life in the military hospitals of England and France. She had little choice. Perhaps it was growing up in a Newfoundland outport that gave her the courage and stamina to do the difficult work she had volunteered for in the war hospitals. In one of her letters she wrote: “Next evening I was told to watch a man until his last breath went. I never thought mother that I could do what I have done. I went behind the screens and stayed with him until he died. Oh the pitiful sights, the worn faces: one man asked just before he died when he could see his mother.”

Shortly after her arrival at the casualty hospital at Rouen she relayed what can be considered the very personal and private effects that her experiences were causing, something she knew her mother would be able to understand: “This is a very wicked world mother: you cannot realize what sufferings there are: Some of the misery will ever live in my memory: it seems to me now as though I shall always have sad sights in my eyes.”

Her letters home were a catharsis from the horrors of war she encountered on a daily basis. She was fortunate indeed to have had such an understanding mother, sister and friends to whom she could unburden her cares, even if they were thousands of miles away.

The friends she made during her time in Europe, especially the three other VADs who were part of her cohort when she embarked on this perilous journey, became permanently entwined in her life. Bertha Bartlett succumbed to the Spanish flu epidemic in October 1918, but Frances maintained contact with Henrietta Gallishaw and Clare Janes until their deaths in 1945 and 1948 respectively.

Frances Cluett was the middle of three children. Her father died at the age of 46 in 1897, when Frances was 14; her sister Lillian was 17 and her brother Arthur was nine. She never married. Except for her time in Europe, she lived with her mother until Matilda died in 1931. Lillian died a few years later in 1938.

After the death of Arthur’s wife in 1941 Frances lived with her brother and their ward, Vernon, until the latter went away to university in the late 1940s. After her brother Arthur died in 1963, she lived alone, under the watchful eye of neighbours who made sure her wood was chopped, her coal carried in and her walk shovelled in winter. She remained staunchly independent to the end of her life. It was the son of one of those neighbours who found her deceased in her home on November 12, 1969 at the age of 86.

In 2006, Flanker Press published Your Daughter Fanny: The War Letters of Frances Cluett, VAD, which brought her words and deeds to generations who know nothing of the courage and sacrifice of the Newfoundland VADs. The naming of the new residence at Memorial University after this early alumna is a fitting tribute to her and all Newfoundland women who took part in the war to end all wars.
Robin McGrath is a writer and printmaker living in Goose Bay, Labrador. She is the non-fiction reviewer for The Telegram, a columnist for The Northeast Avalon Times and a features writer for Labrador Life. She serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of the Newfoundland Quarterly.

TRAPPER TALK
I negotiate a new linguistic path
Striking up each word as I come to it,
Disarming the nouns and verbs,
Storing them in my mental prog bag.

I linger on a word like “narsel,”
As soft and furred as the nose of a caribou.

CIRCUIT JUDGE
He arrives home with a box of fish,
A bag of dirty clothing, falls into bed, sleeps.
Over the next two days, I filet, skin, and bottle
As much char as I can handle between
Doing laundry and soothing him back to life.
He notices now when a repeat offender has
Had a haircut, is oblivious to the new white paint
I have laboriously layered over bedroom walls.

The whole house smells of steaming fish,
Which smothers the odour of paint and sawdust.
On Monday, in the chill, dark dawn,
I drive him back to the airport, his bags
Full of law books and clean ironed shirts,
A fish sandwich in his pocket.

Home, making up my empty bed, I think
I could be married to a cold-cream salesman,
An itinerant preacher, or a prisoner on a
Temporary pass. All week I smell the fish,
Miss the back-country scent of airplane fuel,
Second-hand smoke and deep fat fryers,
Miss him and the salt air he breathes,
Wonder if it’s like this for the women
Whose husbands he has sent to jail.

THE BOY IN THE BARK POT,
BATTLE HARBOUR
His father had lowered the bark pot over his
wharf, so that when the tide came in, it would
fill with sea water and the whore’s eggs would
clean the old fat out of it. He’d had it in mind for
some years, to add it to the display on the patch
of ground in front of the house: the make-and-
break his uncle had used, the old treadle Singer
his nan had bought on the never-never plan, a
bucksaw he found rusting in the woods near Fox
Harbour. But some bright soul had been using
the pot to render down seal fat and even after
all these years the stench of it would knock a
dog off a gut wagon. So there it lay, under the
high tide and the boy was trailing a home-made
boat on a string up and down the rocks. Ten feet
away, his cousins were similarly employed, each
trying to sink the other’s craft with a well-aimed
rock. The splashes and shouts echoed over one
another, none seeming more alarming or louder
than the rest, but some instinct caused his father
to lean over and see the boy’s head, sleek and
dark as a seal, bob up from the bark pot, hands
gripping the rim. His father hauled him out,
more surprised than frightened, and his mother
took him inside to dry off, laughing at his
indignation. “That’s your first time,” his father
called after him, “but it won’t be your last.” He
grinned and shook his head at the folly of boys.
Up in the graveyard, a stone commemorates a
child who drowned off that very same rock in
1909, no bark pot to catch him. Such a fine line
between comedy and tragedy.
Hello from the Arctic. I am writing this Last Word from on board the MV Nuliajuk – the Government of Nunavut (GN) fisheries research vessel — on its science leg from Pangnirtung to Clyde River on the east coast of Baffin Island. Colleagues often mistake my marine research as a pleasure cruise; not that the 65-foot Nuliajuk is uncomfortable, but our particularly close living quarters for six crew and three scientists are not for the claustrophobic or socially challenged, especially in stormy Arctic seas.

One of our cruise goals is to map and sample the coastal seafloor to document submerged shorelines. This part of the Arctic experienced 50 metres or so of sea-level rise in only a short interval of geological time — since the end of the last glacial period. We will use our newfound knowledge, due in part to new sonar technologies, to help validate future sea-level projections for Baffin communities and to inform decision-making on coastal infrastructure and planning.

Another project that uses the Nuliajuk’s sonar technology focuses on clam habitat mapping to support a community fishery assessment in Qikiqtarjuaq. Partnering with the GN’s Fisheries and Sealing Division, we identify the best biological and geological indicators of clam density and characterize the vulnerability of clam habitat to various disturbances such as climate change or coastal development.

My research partnership with the Nunatsiavut government on their Sustainable Communities Initiative (see cover story) is a compelling example of how Northern communities and regions can be powerhouses of ingenuity and innovation when given adequate access to knowledge, resources and opportunities. Access is not always to the south: knowledge sharing between Northern regions is an important component too.

Memorial’s President, Dr. Kachanoski, recognizes the research and training potential presented by the knowledge needs of Northern regions (see cover story), as do many other universities. How then should Memorial distinguish itself as an Arctic/Northern research leader? First, it needs to recognize that many of the challenges facing Northern regions are complex and multifaceted (e.g., social-ecological); they need an integrated, interdisciplinary approach and a genuine research partnership to address them. Second, to be successful, a partnership needs to be co-led by the region and the research has to be co-designed by northerners. Third, training and capacity building in the North must be a prerequisite in any program design and a legacy of any successful partnership.

Memorial must prepare to take up these challenges.

Our institution is still largely traditional in its disciplinary structure, with few opportunities to grow truly interdisciplinary research teams that can address the complexity of Northern issues. We need flexible administrative structures that understand and support Northern research dynamics and university-community collaborations.

In this province, the Arctic is in our own backyard. Whether sea ice or icebergs, cold ocean or frozen ground, glaciers or polar bears, tundra or taiga, we have it all. Prehistoric Arctic cultures migrated farther south in Newfoundland and Labrador than anywhere else in the Northern hemisphere. Today we share our Arctic with Labrador Aboriginal groups who have a long and rich tradition of cold-climate adaptation. As a consequence of climate change, changing demographics, resource shifts and extraction, and globalization, our Arctic region is changing rapidly — not in some future time but now. There is an urgent need to understand the impacts of these changes and to support formal and informal adaptation processes and actions in ways that address local priorities, while simultaneously addressing larger-scale issues of social-ecological change. With Memorial’s special obligation to the people of the province, our Arctic legacy should be rooted in our own backyard, co-created right here in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Before I sign off I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my good friend and longtime colleague Professor Priscilla Renouf, FRSC who died last year. Priscilla was a world-renowned archaeologist who spent her summers “digging dirt” at Port au Choix on the Great Northern Peninsula. Her pioneering work captivated generations of residents and tourists, and has shaped how archaeologists view Northern hunter-gatherer relationships with the changing physical and social environment. We spent many hours discussing field observations, imagining prehistoric landscapes and sharing our delight in the sense of discovery.

It’s time to shift my focus to tomorrow’s tasks onboard the Nuliajuk. I hope you have enjoyed this issue of Luminus, reading about Memorial up North. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my experiences and thoughts on Northern research at Memorial — two subjects about which I am truly passionate. ■
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