ACADEMIC JACKPOT A Biblical scholar is off to Oxford as the 2014 Rothermere Fellow.

SPRING CONVOCATION Six individuals will be recognized for extraordinary achievement.

KEY PIECE A newly opened facility at Grenfell Campus will focus on soils, plants, air and water.

Varsity athletics holds 54th annual awards ceremony
By Michelle Osmond

ATHLETES, COACHES, administrators and supporters of the Sea-Hawks were on hand at one of Memorial’s oldest awards ceremonies held April 3. Seven graduating student-athletes were inducted into the Athletic Honour Society, which recognizes those that have made an outstanding contribution to the athletic program at Memorial University. Election to membership in the society is the highest athletic award that can be conferred on a student at Memorial.

This year’s inductees were Lauren Windsor (soccer), Dayna Hogan (swimming), Angela Peddle (volleyball), Samantha March (volleyball), Adrienne Fenney (volleyball) and Brittney Dalton (basketball).

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This year’s recipients of the Butler Trophy for the male and female varsity athletes of the year were swimming’s Gavin Dyke and cross-country’s Caroline McIlroy. The recipient of the Dr. J.D. Eaton Coach of the Year Award was Walt Marvin of the women’s soccer team.

The winner of the Sea-Hawks Cup, which recognizes the varsity team that best combines athletics, academics, community initiatives and fitness scores, was the women’s volleyball team.

The Michael “Beecher” Smith Heart Award, presented to the student-athlete that goes above and beyond the call of duty in sport, was Caleb Gould of the men’s basketball team. Mr. Gould also received the Graham Snow Memorial Award, presented to the student who combines prowess in varsity athletics with high academic achievement.

Goal alignment
University-wide consultation on Enrolment Plan 2020
By Sandy Woolfrey-Fahy

MEMORIAL’S provost and vice-president (academic) has released an advanced draft of the Enrolment Plan 2020 for university-wide feedback.

“Enrolment Plan 2020 is a comprehensive, pan-university, multi-year enrolment document,” explained Dr. David Wardlaw. “It has undergraduate enrolment targets including certificate, diploma, and MD and graduate enrolment targets for the seven-year period 2014-15 to 2020-21 inclusive.”

The plan calls for maintaining undergraduate enrolment in the vicinity of current levels and continuing to grow graduate enrolment, which has doubled in the last decade, at an average annual rate of 4-5 per cent.

See ATHLETES story on page 10
See GOAL story on page 4
The Port au Port Bay Fishery Committee was recently formed to help address concerns of the local fishermen, other interested individuals in Port au Port Bay, including the examination of the abandoned oil drilling sites, and climate change impacts on the marine and coastal ecosystem, including coastal erosion, tidal surges and extreme weather.

“The committee wants to form a collaborative team, which includes local fishermen, other interested individuals in Port au Port Bay, the university, provincial government, federal government and others who could help us understand and deal with these issues in a comprehensive way,” said Mr. Diamond. “We want to put resources together in a collective manner to address the issues with our marine environment, and we feel that working with the university to complete thorough research would help us achieve our goals.”

Interested in learning more about this project? Amy Tucker, co-ordinator of knowledge mobilization at the Harris Centre, would love to tell you more. Call her at 709 864 6115 or email her at amy.tucker@mun.ca.

The opportunity:

The committee is looking to Memorial for help examining three specific research areas: the potential causes of the collapse of the scallop fishery, pollution risks to the marine environment of the Port au Port Bay, including the examination of the abandoned oil drilling sites, and climate change impacts on the marine and coastal ecosystem, including coastal erosion, tidal surges and extreme weather.

The committee is also concerned that there are local pollution issues and a lack of remediation and environmental restoration at abandoned drilling sites. These sites were once on land and are now offshore due to high rates of coastal erosion.

Originally from St. John’s, Dr. Kevin Tracey (B.Med.Sc ’79, MD’81) is known across Canada for his contributions to nuclear medicine. He is recognized for advocating the benefits of positron emission tomography (PET) scanners for medical imaging and diagnosing patients. Gazette contributor Elizabeth Furey spoke with Dr. Tracey about his work.

**EF:** Why did you decide to go to medical school?

**KT:** It was a combination of things: the idea of helping people and doing good and my love of the sciences, along with several of my peers and mentors already being in medicine who steered me towards that career path.

**EF:** What was it about nuclear medicine that drew you to that field?

**KT:** While at Memorial’s medical school, there was a very well-known physician named Dr. Adel Mattar who was head of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at the time. Because of Dr. Mattar and his excellent teaching, a large number of people from Newfoundland got involved in nuclear medicine. We were exposed to the field in a very dynamic way that other places didn’t get the benefit of.

**EF:** What has been your involvement in PET scanning since you left Memorial?

**KT:** While studying nuclear medicine in Edmonton in 1990, I was sent to UCLA for training, and was one of the first people to get formal training in PET scanning when it was just being developed. I started a steering committee in Ontario and commissioned a report for the Council of Medical Imaging to do the roll out of PET scanners across the province. Currently, I’m head of nuclear medicine for all hospitals in the Windsor area, and I also operate a clinic called Precision Diagnostic Imaging, which is a mobile positron emission tomography/computed tomography (PET/CT) scanner clinic, the first of its kind in Canada. It is the new frontier for diagnosing patients, looking at the body in a different way rather than just anatomically.

**EF:** Why is PET scanning so important? What makes it different from other medical imaging technology?

**KT:** PET scanning is now a standard test in the initial workup of many patients with cancer, particularly lung cancer and lymphoma. It’s also very important when cancers come back, because we want to know quickly if they’ve recurred, and PET/CT scanning has an advantage over other testing like computed tomography (CT) and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), because it picks up things much earlier and more accurately than the other techniques.

**EF:** Newfoundland and Labrador is supposed to get its very first PET/CT scanner next year – why is it important to have this machine?

**KT:** PET/CT scanners are now being recognized in mainstream medicine for a number of reasons: when you look for cancer with a PET scanner, you don’t just look at what things look like in the body, you look at what they’re doing in the body before they change within the body. PET scanners are also being used in areas like heart disease and diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease — we have the only way of accurately diagnosing Alzheimer’s disease in living patients now. Before using PET scanners, we had to wait until someone died to do an autopsy, but now, we have a very accurate test that can rule it out while a patient is alive. A big benefit to Newfoundland and Labrador having its own PET scanner is that patients will no longer have to travel outside the province to have access to the technology.
A GRADUATE student in Memorial’s Department of Religious Studies has, academically speaking, hit the jackpot.

Trevor Pomeroy is the recipient of this year’s Rothermere Fellowship, one of the most prestigious and lucrative scholarships offered at Memorial University.

He will be spending the next three years completing a PhD at Oxford University.

Mr. Pomeroy discovered his true calling as a scholar after exploring several different career paths, including a full-time position in the military, a stint as a live music promoter and studying to be a priest for the archdiocese of St. John’s. It was during that period, according to Mr. Pomeroy, that he “fell deeply in love with the academic study of the Bible.”

During a volunteer stint on an archaeological dig in Israel, he was asked by one of the team how a person could worship a God who would command the sort of violence evident in the Old Testament.

The lack of a satisfying answer to that question inspired his master’s thesis, which uses a sociological perspective to explore warfare in the ancient Near East and in the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament).

“I fell deeply in love with the academic study of the Bible.”

Dr. Kim Parker, head of the Department of Religious Studies, is Mr. Pomeroy’s master’s supervisor.

“Trevor is certainly a very easy supervision — he works well on his own, writes well, has original ideas and presents his ideas forcefully and clearly,” he said. “I really feel very honoured to be his supervisor.

“His achievement reflects very well on the department, especially as he did his undergraduate with us and is now moving on to one of the best schools in the world. We are all very proud of his accomplishments.”

A major part of the Rothermere Fellowship is to reward students who are committed to Newfoundland and Labrador. Applicants must provide a written letter on that theme and how this commitment is reflected in their research.

In his letter, Mr. Pomeroy tied his research to Memorial’s own legacy as a living monument to the war dead of Newfoundland and Labrador, to Dr. Elliot Leyton’s work on violence and Dr. Gwynne Dyer’s work on military history.

“I want to be part of that legacy. What I’m doing adds a religious and theological dimension to their work,” said Mr. Pomeroy, who hopes to see Memorial develop a program on peace and conflict studies. “We definitely have the resources to provide this specialty — the ARTS on Violence initiative has proven that.”

The ex-military man also has strong feelings on the importance of studying the humanities and social sciences.

“Universities were founded not just to educate people on how the world works but on the hopes of building people of character who contribute to, and participate in, society. And to become people who hopefully care enough to pass that on to others,” said Mr. Pomeroy.

“The modern university in general is guided by an overemphasis on the practical.”

THE 2014 PROVINCIAL budget marks a major victory for advocates of affordable education in Newfoundland and Labrador. Not only was there a renewal of the tuition freeze that has been in place since 1999, student loans in the province have now been officially replaced by grants. Up-front, non-repayable grants. Needless to say, people are celebrating.

And so they should. Newfoundland and Labrador has just become the leading province in Canada in terms of providing students with affordable post-secondary education.

Celebration is definitely in order.

I hope the individuals and groups who fought for affordable tuition in this province will never let it be taken for granted. Before I transferred to Memorial, I was paying almost $6,000 a year in tuition and student fees at the University of Victoria. Without financial support from my family, I managed to pay for my first year of university with scholarships and worked to save up enough money for my second. By the end of the first semester of my second year though, it became clear that getting through my degree without turning to student loans would be impossible. Many of my friends from back home have accumulated nail-biting amounts of debt in order to pay tuition. Others who are choosing not to take out loans are going to school only part time and taking six years to complete their undergraduate degrees.

There are still students in this province who aren’t in favour of the tuition freeze. There is no doubt in my mind that the elimination of loans will meet similar resistance. After all, people are different and have different perspectives. We’re not all going to agree and there will always be room for varying opinions; hopefully after the celebrations are over, those who support affordable tuition in this province take it upon themselves to work with student groups across the country.

Come From Away’s like myself, who have benefited from Newfoundland and Labrador’s tuition freeze and may benefit in the future from the elimination of loans, would also do well not to take the opportunity lightly. Students need to keep in mind that not everyone is able to relocate thousands of kilometres. We need to give back what we can to this province in terms of our skills and community involvement. We need to do what we can to support local business and the many arts and cultural groups throughout this province. We also need to take the time to educate ourselves on provincial issues and perspectives and take what we learn forward into our future lives and careers. Furthermore, we need to remember what it’s like for students in our home provinces.

Hopefully the rest of the country will do its best to follow Newfoundland and Labrador’s example. The changes this province is making to make education more affordable could have a huge impact on the rest of Canada – but only if this victory is seen as a first step and not the finish line.

Shannon Page is a fourth-year double major in English and classics major at Memorial. She can be reached at spep60@mun.ca.
Leading by example

Education scholar named 3M National Student Fellow

By Lisa Pendergast

AN EDUCATION student has been recognized as a 3M National Student Fellow. One of only 10 recipients across Canada, Heather Carroll is the first female from Atlantic Canada to receive this fellowship.

“I am honored and humbled to be named a fellow, but it is truly a reflection of the people and groups who have encouraged, challenged and inspired me,” said Ms. Carroll, who is in the fourth year of her bachelor of primary/elementary education (integrated French immersion) degree. “I’ve received incredible support from various on-campus groups, such as the Student Innovation Fund and the Student Volunteer Bureau, but namely the Academic Advising Centre which really values students’ contributions and voices.”

The 3M National Student Fellowship (www.stlhe.ca/awards/3m-national-student-fellowship) recognizes 10 full-time undergraduate students across Canada who demonstrate leadership in their program. Ms. Carroll is passionate about teaching both locally and globally. She spent time as a volunteer teacher at a school in Fiji and an orphanage and school in Cambodia.

“My time in Fiji and Cambodia allowed me to understand that education is empowerment, and empowerment is a privilege that children in the developing world do not often have access to. Because the Faculty of Education is committed to improving the human condition through education, I am trying to incorporate an international development component to the B.Ed. program here at Memorial.”

One of Ms. Carroll’s nominators, Jennifer White, co-ordinator of Student Relationship Programs at the Academic Advising Centre (AAC), met her when she became a peer advisor with the Establishing Student Relationships Program within the AAC. Ms. White was impressed with her knowledge about the programs and services available to students.

“Ms. Carroll is passionate about teaching both locally and globally. She spent time as a volunteer teacher at a school in Fiji and an orphanage and school in Cambodia. One of Ms. Carroll’s nominators, Jennifer White, co-ordinator of Student Relationship Programs at the Academic Advising Centre (AAC), met her when she became a peer advisor with the Establishing Student Relationships Program within the AAC. Ms. White was impressed with her knowledge about the programs and services available to students.

“Heather has the drive, determination and desire to improve the services provided to students,” said Ms. White. “I am confident that she will embrace this opportunity with the same energy and enthusiasm as she has demonstrated in her role within our office.”

3M Canada and the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) will honour the 10 fellows at an awards ceremony on June 18. The fellows will also attend the 33rd Annual STLHE Conference at Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., to discuss the theme, Transforming Our Learning Experiences, and participate in the 3M National Student Fellowship Program retreat.

Con’t from GOAL on page 1

This would result in a further increase in the graduate population of 32-37 per cent by 2020-21 over the current level. “The planned increase in graduate enrolment will have a direct impact on research and scholarly activity, productivity and intensity,” noted Dr. Wardlaw. “The graduate growth strategy embodied in Enrolment Plan 2020 will be transformational for Memorial and is unprecedented and will be a key driver in realizing the proposed Strategic Research Intensity Plan.”

The plan also proposes that recruitment and retention strategies be adapted to help achieve targets while simultaneously improving student academic success.

“Further, the enrolment objectives align the province’s emerging Population Growth Strategy, while continuing to fulfill the special role and obligation that Memorial has for Newfoundlanders and Labradorians as the only university in the province,” said Dr. Wardlaw.

In terms of overall university targets, the plan calls for maintaining undergraduate enrolment in a corridor of 15,000-15,400, which encompasses the most recent three-year average, and for increasing graduate enrolment at a rate of 4-5 per cent per annum from the 2013-14 enrolment of approximately 3,550 to a range of 4,725 (4 per cent growth) to 4,875 (5 per cent growth) by 2020-21. The plan contains an organizational framework to guide and facilitate implementation.

The creation of this document to date involved consultation with individual deans and directors, deans council, senior academic administrators group, student representatives and Senate. Feedback has been valuable and has significantly shaped the document since the first version was circulated in mid-February. Formative consultations preceding the written document included all faculties and schools on the St. John’s campus, and the Grenfell and Marine Institute campuses.

A consultation period for the entire university community has begun. Your feedback and suggestions will ensure the plan reflects the goals of the entire university community. Feedback will be accepted until 12 p.m. on Monday, April 14, via email rhaynes@mun.ca, or internal mail, Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic), A-3047, St. John’s campus.

The plan can be viewed at www.mun.ca/vpacademic/Enrolment_Plan2020_vers_3.pdf.

NOTABLE

Eleanor Swanson was re-elected as vice-chair of the Board of Regents at the board’s March 13 meeting. The appointment is for a two-year term.

Dr. Alisa Craig was appointed head of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts, for a three-year term effective Aug. 1, 2014.

Dr. Luke Ashworth was re-appointed head of the Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts, for a three-year term effective July 1, 2014.

Lindsay Glynn was appointed division head of the Health Sciences Library for a three-year term effective Jan. 6, 2014.

Dr. Cory Thorne was appointed head of the Department of Folklore, Faculty of Arts, for a three-year term effective July 1, 2014.

A paper co-written by Dr. Shawn Leroux, assistant professor in the Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, has been published in the journal, Nature Climate Change. The paper, Arctic Ecosystem Structure and Functioning Shaped by Climate and Herbivore Body Size, appeared in the March 23, 2014, issue.

OBITUARY

Dr. Priscilla Renouf

Dr. Priscilla Renouf, a faculty member with the Department of Archaeology, died April 4, 2014. She was 61.
MEMORIAL RESEARCHERS looking for research funding have a new tool at their disposal.

The research website, www.mun.ca/research, features a searchable database of funding opportunities that have been received by Research Grant and Contract Services and CREAIT, CRC and CFI services.

“To do great research, you have to work on great problems — and this often requires significant financial support,” said Dr. Richard Marceau, vice-president (research). “Our researchers have been increasingly successful in securing external investments through tough, peer-review competitions. To continue this success, it’s important that we enhance supports for researchers to obtain funding and increase our co-ordination and communication of relevant opportunities.”

The searchable database includes both internal and external funding competitions. Each entry includes information on the requirements of that competition, internal and external deadlines and contact information.

“The funding opportunities database is an excellent resource for researchers at all career stages. To date, more than 200 entries have been posted and new entries are added regularly,” said Dr. Marceau.

The database includes entries from the tri-council funding agencies, Canadian and U.S. government agencies, non-profit groups and Memorial’s internal funding programs. Faculty and staff can subscribe to a weekly listserv of upcoming and recently added internal and external funding opportunities using their Memorial login information. This tool will replace the current system of email distribution.

“The Strategic Research Intensity Plan 2014-2020, currently open for community consultation, calls for doubling scholarly output by 2020,” said Dr. Marceau. “The funding database is an excellent example of the type of improved support for research administration that will help us as we grow our research activities and impact.”

The draft Strategic Research Intensity Plan is available for review and comment until April 14, 2014. It can be downloaded from www.mun.ca/research/2014_university_consultation.pdf. Feedback can be submitted via email, vp.research@mun.ca, or internal mail, Office of the Vice-President (Research), A-2013, 2013, St. John’s campus.

Nursing students trade running shoes and uniforms for formal wear fundraiser

By Marcia Porter

STUDENTS, faculty and staff from the School of Nursing (SON) and the Centre for Nursing Studies (CNS) donned sequined dresses, high heels, dangly ear-rings, smart suits and ties at the 16th annual, and very popular, Nursing Charity Ball recently.

Besides glitter and glamour, the evening included a silent auction, live entertainment, special guest speakers, dinner and dancing — all in the name of a great cause. It’s a yearly tradition that has resulted in thousands of dollars raised and donated to local, community-based charities.

The recipient of this year’s event is Street Reach, an outreach service of Thrive, part of the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador’s Community Youth Networks (CYN). Street Reach helps people struggling with housing, hunger and other social issues in downtown St. John’s.

Special invited guests to the Nursing Charity Ball included Debbie Forward of the Newfoundland and Labrador Nurses’ Union and Lynn Power of the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador.

At the end of the night, the students estimated they had raised over $8,000 — funds that Thrive will put to good use.

“Donations help staff to go the extra distance it sometimes takes to support marginalized populations, because the level of social and systemic isolation is so great,” said Ellie Jones, director of programming for Thrive.

Along with monetary contributions, there are other benefits that come from community involvement such as ones like the Nursing Charity Ball, says Ms. Jones.

“Through community partnerships and connections, we are able to raise awareness and provide an avenue to engage future professionals in the conversation. It promotes the social change that is so key to creating a province where the most vulnerable people are protected.”

The Nursing Charity Ball is one of the ways that nursing students come together to give back to the community.

“We work so hard to pull it together and there’s such a feeling of accomplishment because of that,” said Megan Carey, who co-chaired the event along with Kayla Tobin.

“We are really proud to be part of this tradition.”

“I think street reach is an important community service and it’s so great for both schools to be able to help raise funds for them,” said Ms. Tobin.
IT MAY FEEL LIKE WINTER, BUT ANOTHER SURE SIGN OF SPRING IS NEAR.

Memorial University will hold spring convocation on May 9 in Corner Brook and May 27-30 in St. John’s. Along with the hundreds of new graduates expected to cross the stage during convocation, Memorial University will also present six outstanding people with degrees honoris causa at spring ceremonies.

Honorary degrees will be awarded to broadcaster and author Michael Enright; social justice leader and community volunteer Jocelyn Greene; former Grenfell doctor of laws degree at the session of convocation in Labrador, Michael Enright will be awarded an honorary Canada and the literary scene in Newfoundland and

For his significant contribution to broadcasting in Newfoundland and Labrador, Michael Enright will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree at the session of convocation in Corner Brook on May 9.

Mr. Enright’s celebrated journalistic career has spanned 50 years, during which he has held key positions in Canadian media. He has hosted many of CBC Radio’s flagship programs: This Country in the Morning, As It Happens, This Morning and, currently, The Sunday Edition. He was managing editor of CBC Radio news, and held editorial positions with publications such as Time and Quest magazines. At Maclean’s, he oversaw the magazine’s shift from a monthly to a weekly publication. He was a political writer for the Toronto Star and Washington correspondent for the Globe and Mail. He received a Southam Fellowship for Journalism in 1979, and studied Chinese history. He has been recognized as an advocate on behalf of people with intellectual disabilities.

An occasional resident of Salvage, Bonavista Bay, Mr. Enright has also become a regular contributor to Winterfest in Summer, the literary festival in Eastport.

As executive director of Stella Burry Community Services, she has led the organization’s mission to build inclusive communities and provide leadership in the community for the development of supportive housing. During her tenure as executive director, the organization has grown to provide support and assistance to a diverse client base through a myriad of services that include Emmanuel House, a residential program for individuals who have experienced abuse, violence, addictions, psychiatric difficulties and/or who have come into conflict with the law, Naomi Centre, an emergency shelter for young women who require safe and supportive housing, and Carew Lodge, a supportive housing project which was nominated for a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation National Housing Award.

Ms. Greene graduated from Memorial University with a bachelor of social work in 1975 and a master of social work in 1999. She has 30 years of experience working in the fields of corrections and mental health.

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Ms. Greene is also a founding member of the Premier’s Council on Social Development.

In 1996 Ms. Greene was awarded the YMCA Canada Peace Medal for her work in the development of services in her community. In 2005 she received the Canadian Association of Social Workers’ Distinguished Service Award to acknowledge her significant contribution to the profession; in 2007 she was awarded Memorial University’s Distinguished Alumni Award for Outstanding Community Service.
Honorary degree recipients announced

KATHY LEGROW
For her long service and profound impact on her province and country, Kathy LeGrow will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree at the 10 a.m. session of convocation on Wednesday, May 28.

A social worker by training, Ms. Legrow attended Dalhousie University and Memorial University. She also has a long and impressive history in business, as the director of INTRA LeGrow’s Travel for a decade and, since 1997, head of the K.A. Pratt Group.

However, it is in community service that Ms. Legrow is perhaps best known. A long-time leader in the community and philanthropic organizations, she is the creator, chair and financier of the Pratt Foundation, which supports research and program development and implementation to ensure that children at risk have the opportunity to live resilient lives.

She has served the boards of the Health Care Corporation of St. John’s, the St. John’s International Airport Authority and the Premier’s Council on Social Development, just to name a few.

But it was Ms. Legrow’s passion for education that thrust her into the provincial and national spotlight. She has served school boards in various roles for years, as chair of the Avalon East School Board, president of the Intergated Education Council, and as president of the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association; she led the fight to reform the denominational education system.

Among her many accolades, Ms. Legrow received the Newfoundland and Labrador School Boards Association Leadership Award of Excellence in 2008, the Canadian Teacher’s Federation Public Education Advocacy Award in 2003 and was named a member of the Order of Canada in 2005.

DR. JOHN GRAY
In recognition of his dedication to medical education and service, Dr. John Gray will be awarded an honorary doctor of science degree at the 10 a.m. session of convocation on Thursday, May 29.

Dr. Gray received his education in his hometown at the University of Nottingham, U.K., and at St. Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College, University of London, and University of Glasgow before arriving at the Grenfell Mission as a young intern where he served for the next 25 years.

Originally posted to Cartwright, Dr. Gray later moved to St. Anthony where he served as chief of medicine at the Curtis Memorial Hospital. He was appointed clinical associate professor of medicine at Memorial University following the opening of the medical school.

While in St. Anthony, Dr. Gray also initiated a residence project for seniors and today, the long-term and continuing care facility in St. Anthony bears his name. The family left Newfoundland in 1981 when Dr. Gray joined the staff of Dalhousie University where he established the Division of Geriatric Medicine. An area of special interest, both in service and research, was dementia, with particular reference to Alzheimer’s disease.

In Nova Scotia he was a founding member of the Alzheimer Society, and served on the boards of the Gerontology Association of Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Geriatric Society, serving as vice-president. He was awarded the Queen’s Jubilee Medal in 1977.

JOYCE CHURCHILL
For her long and effective service to the community, Joyce Churchill will receive an honorary doctor of laws degree at the 10 a.m. session of convocation on Friday, May 30.

A registered nurse, Ms. Churchill received her education at Memorial University, St. Clare’s, the Grace and General Hospitals in St. John’s and St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto and spent much of her nursing career at St. Clare’s as a critical care nursing instructor.

Ms. Churchill’s volunteer accomplishments include serving the Avalon Consolidated School Board Trustee from 1989-96, the Association of Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador — Professional Association from 1976-96 and the Town of Portugal Cove where she was elected mayor in 1985 and served a four-year term.

It was as a founding member in 1982 of the Autism Society of Newfoundland and Labrador that she made perhaps her most significant volunteer contribution. She served as society president from 1997-2010 and was one of the driving forces behind the provincial government’s decision to fund a provincial office for the Autism Society.

In 2005, after an extensive and time-consuming fundraising campaign led by Ms. Churchill, the Elaine Dobbin Centre for Autism opened, providing programs and services including employment programs, adult Asperger's social programs, music therapy and occupational therapy, just to name a few.

For her contributions, Ms. Churchill was honoured with the Rotary International’s highest award to a civilian, the Paul Harris Award, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Award in 2012 and was inducted into the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame in 2013.
A MEmorial student recently returned from the United Nations (UN) where she acted as an advisor on a Canadian delegation.

Brittany Tibbo, 24, was one of six young women from across the country to serve as Canadian advisors to the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, N.Y., attended by representatives of UN member states, UN entities and non-governmental organizations from all over the world. She participated from March 9-13.

“For me personally, it was a really great learning opportunity just to be at the UN, and actually participating in UN meetings was a lifelong dream of mine,” she said.

Ms. Tibbo is a bachelor of business administration student and also holds a bachelor of science from Memorial.

She was selected to join the commission based on her work as vice-chair of the YWCA in St. John’s. She begins her term as a board member on the national YWCA body in June.

“1 am honoured to have been selected for the Canadian delegation, and that my ideas and experiences were recognized as significant,” she said. “It was definitely a highlight.”

Ms. Tibbo participated in sessions focused on engaging men and boys in gender equality, women in politics and early, forced and child marriage. She calls the experience eye-opening.

“Being a young woman from Canada and having the kinds of opportunities that I’ve been presented [with], is something I’ve often taken for granted,” she said. “Listening to a young woman, who was forced into marriage at the age of 10 and unable to continue her education, has made me more appreciative. When you learn about other issues facing women and girls around the world, it kind of makes you stop and think.”

In 2013 Ms. Tibbo was named one of Atlantic Canada’s top 50 emerging leaders under 35 by 21Inc and she won the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal for her work with women in politics. She plans to focus on a career in public policy.

Supportive communities
Preventing mental health and addiction issues in youth

By Heidi Wicks

RISEING MENTAL HEALTH and addictions issues among North America’s youth is a troubling trend.

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health states that 18-25 per cent of all Canadian adolescents will experience a mental health issue in any given year — likely depression or anxiety. Symptoms of many mental disorders begin in adolescence and young adulthood, with a correlation between mental illness and substance abuse among youth.

A 2012 Newfoundland and Labrador drug use survey of middle and senior high school students revealed a significant number of students who had used alcohol and cannabis — 47 per cent consumed alcohol and 30 per cent used cannabis in the previous 12 months. Although the use of such drugs as LSD, mescaline, and inhalants was at its lowest since 1996, the use of MDMA (ecstasy) had significantly increased among students since 2003.

However, the future is far from hopeless. The answer to these widespread issues may very well be solid support, prevention, and intervention plans at the community level, says a faculty member of Memorial’s School of Pharmacy.

Dr. Lisa Bishop, who is cross-appointed with the Faculty of Medicine, and an interdisciplinary team of health-care providers and community representatives, their goal is to design, implement and evaluate an intervention program that will include prevention, detection and management of youth mental health and substance abuse problems, and to develop a community-based action plan to address those concerns.

She believes that community-based research is a more effective way to create public awareness of the severity of these issues and to encourage prevention.

“This is about strengthening the overall health and well-being of youth,” she said. “Working with the members of the community ensures that we are developing a strategy that is appropriate to that community’s context and values. It’s not just some framework that we’re pulling from research studies. It’s about working with the people to determine how we prevent these issues and deal with them if they arise.”

Dr. Bishop recognizes that there are barriers to those who may need help.

“Whether it’s because of peer gossip, lack of services, or non-receptiveness to external supports, there appears to be barriers to seeking help,” she said, adding that some solutions could include the formation of programs that tap into community networks.

Mental health diagnoses can come at a late stage, says Dr. Bishop. Some of the factors in late diagnosis could include poor identification of at-risk youth in the school system, lack of family and/or community support and inaccessibility to mental-health resources.

“If these issues aren’t prevented, mental illness and substance abuse can lead to poor academic performance, family conflict, unemployment and crime. From a theoretical approach, community-based research methods are of particular relevance for family physicians and other primary-health clinicians, like pharmacists, who serve particular communities.”
Ice mechanics chair appointed

By Jackey Locke

THE FACULTY of Engineering and Applied Science has a new research chair.

Dr. Rocky Taylor has been appointed the new Centre for Arctic Resource Development (CARD) Chair in Ice Mechanics.

The chair is funded by CARD, a centre of excellence for medium- to long-term Arctic research and development. CARD was founded by the Centre for Cold Ocean Resources Engineering (C-CORE) in 2011 with a core funding of $12.5 million over five years from the Hibernia and Terra Nova projects. The new chair will be funded using $500,000 over five years from the CARD program.

Building upon one of the three streams in CARD’s five-year research and development plan, the chair will work in partnership with CARD and industry to establish, promote, maintain and seek additional funding to grow a world-class research program that will strengthen Memorial’s research capability involving ice loads on offshore structures and challenges associated with Arctic oil and gas development.

“It’s a real privilege to take on a leadership role in this very important and interesting field of work,” said Dr. Taylor. “Ice loads are a dominant consideration for ships and structures designed for operations in ice-prone offshore regions, and our research spans multiple scales of the ice-structure interaction process. This work ranges from fundamental investigations of the physical mechanisms that limit ice forces during interactions to the development of robust probabilistic methods that can be employed in design practice.”

“New frontier regions here in Newfoundland and Labrador, as well as throughout the Arctic, hold vast resource potential and yet they 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.”

Dr. Richard Marceau, vice-president (research), said the appointment is the result of academia and industry working together to have huge impact.

“The Arctic is an ecologically important region, yet there is so much to learn, and many unique challenges have yet to be overcome,” said Dr. Marceau. “The establishment of the new CARD Chair in Ice Mechanics will allow Memorial University to increase our understanding and research capacity in this critical area while solidifying Memorial’s position as a leader in ice and Arctic-related research.”

“C-CORE was created 38 years ago to address the technological challenges of oil and gas development offshore Newfoundland and Labrador,” said Dr. Charles Randell, president and CEO, C-CORE. “Two years ago, again with the help of industry, we founded CARD to address the challenges of hydrocarbon development in even higher latitudes and to foster the next generation of Arctic experts. We believe creating the CARD Chair in Ice Mechanics will support that effort very effectively.”

“The study of ice mechanics will build on current ice-zone technology and help develop innovative solutions to the challenges associated with offshore oil and gas drilling, development and production in Arctic and harsh environments,” said Sandy Martin, vice-president, East Coast, Suncor Energy, operator of the Terra Nova oil field. “We see tremendous value in both the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science’s and CARD’s work, and expect that the appointment of Dr. Taylor will further advance this important research.”

Dr. Taylor will lead research programs, build a team of full-time researchers and graduate students and develop collaborative relationships with other academic and industry-based researchers. Dr. Taylor will also contribute to a strong academic program in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science by teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, supervising student projects and theses and providing academic and professional service.

Engineering students advance to international competition for first time

By Jackey Locke

THANKS TO A strong performance at the 2014 Canadian Engineering Competition (CEC), engineering students from Memorial will represent Canada at the international level of the event for the first time.

From March 13-16, undergraduate engineering students competed at the CEC at the University of Western Ontario in London. Memorial’s team came away with a second-place win and qualified for a spot at the International Engineering Competition in Calgary, Alta., this September.

Students Brandon Baker, Brian Peach, Collin Rice and Jake Parsons competed in the senior design category. Their challenge was to protect a fictional Canadian city located at the intersection of three rivers from a potentially devastating flash flood. Their design employed strategically placed dams, a reinforced bridge, wetlands and a visual alarm system for the residents. Judges were particularly impressed by their well-structured design philosophy and their decision to employ a risk matrix to quantify the consequences of an event versus its effect.

“Overall, we gave it a solid effort and it was a great experience,” said Mr. Peach. “The competition is a great opportunity to meet some like-minded people and hone some engineering skills that you don’t really get to test in the classroom.”

Other competitors included Richard Bonnell and Erin Lundrigan, who placed third in the re-engineering category. Their challenge was to modify a Google Glass wearable computer so that it could be used in both the civilian and military medical fields.

John Constantine also competed in the communications section of the competition.

CEC 2015 will be hosted by Memorial University, and members of the organizing committee travelled to London to gain some insight on how the competition is structured.

Robert Quigley is one of the co-chairs of the event.

“I’m very proud of our three teams who made it to CEC 2014. This is not an easy task, let alone placing in the top three,” he said. “As co-chair of the 2015 competition, I hope to have teams competing on home soil for the first time in over 10 years.”

Prof. Andy Fuerst, associate dean, undergraduate engineering, has high hopes for Memorial next year.

“We were very proud of how well our students did at Atlantic Engineering Competition, and even prouder of their success at the Canadian Engineering Competition,” he said. “The hard work and preparation that goes into competing in these types of competitions is very impressive given their full-time school work schedules. We are looking forward to hosting CEC in 2015, and having the opportunity to cheer our students on from the sidelines.”
Spurring innovation

$8.1 million Boreal Ecosystem Research Facility opened at Grenfell Campus

By Melanie Callahan

IT WAS ANOTHER day of celebration at Grenfell Campus as the Boreal Ecosystem Research Facility was officially opened on March 28. Many industry representatives, dignitaries and community partners attended the official opening.

The new 500-square-metre facility will provide high-level research resources to support or inform federal, provincial, university and private sector research priorities in forestry, agriculture and the environmental sector. The facility, with its three interconnected analytical research laboratories, will build capacity in analytical research with a particular focus on soils, plants, air and water.

Memorial invested $4 million in the construction of the facility, and a further $1 million in equipment. The facility will house five new research professors, including an agronomist, soil scientist, plant/crop specialist, agriculture/forestry resource economist and hydrologist. The Government of Canada, through the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, contributed more than $2 million towards the initiative. The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador contributed $1 million through the Department of Innovation, Business and Rural Development.

“The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador continues to invest in our students and in our post-secondary infrastructure as we know a vibrant economy depends on it,” said Premier Marshall. “This new facility will help attract students and train them for the forestry and agriculture sectors. It is also a key piece to continuing to build world-class research capacity within.”

The development of the facility at Grenfell Campus is an essential element in a multi-faceted approach designed to build research capacity, create expertise in strategic sectors, attract highly qualified personnel to enhance Grenfell’s teaching and research reputation, develop new graduate programs in environmental sciences and attract an increasing number of new students. In May 2013 Memorial signed a collaborative research agreement with Natural Resources Canada, regarding sharing of expertise and resources in the forestry field — an important step in fostering research partnership at Grenfell.

Dr. Kachanoski said that a part of the university’s investment includes a donation from the McCain Foundation; a gift of $100,000 is earmarked for lab equipment.

“The facility will spur innovation, enhance co-ordination and collaboration, and attract and train graduate students to build on that knowledge base,” said President Kachanoski. “We are grateful to our federal and provincial governments for their vision and their support of research and research-based teaching.”

From left are Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Premier Tom Marshall and President Kachanoski.

Con’t from ATHLETES on page 1

During the ceremony, President Kachanoski indicated that in response to the recommendation from the 2013 President’s Task Force on Competitive Sport, the university is investing $275,000 in varsity athletics. The new investment will mean funds to hire a full-time volleyball coach, an additional $50,000 for athletic scholarships, increased support for off-season competition and more resources for recruitment. Grenfell Campus will also establish a competitive sport co-ordinator. President Kachanoski also put out a challenge to business, industry and the community that he would match contributions for support of athletes made by outside individuals and groups up to an additional $25,000.

The 2013 President’s Task Force on Competitive Sport at Memorial University: Recommendations for Future Success was released in November. The task force conducted a thorough review of competitive sport at Memorial.

“Our athletes and the varsity program are a very important part of who we are as a university,” said Dr. Kachanoski. “They are out there in the community, they are mentors and they represent our commitment to community engagement and to the people of the province.”

For a list of other awards and scholarships, visit www.goseahawks.ca.

NEWS & NOTES

Listed below is a selection of the funding opportunities for which information has recently been received. For links to further information on these items, visit Grant Funding Opportunities on the research website at www.mun.ca/research/funding/opportunities.

- Canada Council for the Arts – Killiam Research Fellowships
- Canada-Latin America and the Caribbean Research Exchange Grants (LACREG) 2014
- Competition Launch
- CIHR Banting-Flood Prize for Health Sciences and Policy Research
- CIHR Canadian Immunization Research Network
- CIHR Cancer Prevention Research Grants

- CIHR Chair: Applied Public Health
- CIHR E-Res-2: Innovative Therapeutic Approaches
- CIHR Foundation Scheme Pilot Registration
- CIHR ECRH Community Development Program Grants
- CIHR Partnership Award 2014
- CIHR Research Catalyst Network: Rare Diseases
- CIHR Team Grant: DSEN Collaborating Centre for Prospective Studies
- Collaborative Health Research Projects (LOI) – CIHR/NFRC Partnered
- NSERC Collaborative Research Training Experience (CREATE) Program
- NSERC Strategic Network Grants
- SSHRC Aid to Scholarly Journals

IMMINENT DEADLINES

April 15
- Canada Council for the Arts – Project Grants for Organizations in the Visual Arts
- Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute – Prevention Research Grants (Full Application)
- The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada – Gold Medal Award (nominations)
- Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council – Synogxy Awards for Innovation (call for nominations)
- Alexander von Humboldt Foundation

April 30
- Annaliese Maior Research Award
- March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation – Research grants (letter of intent)
- Scottish Rite Charitable Foundation of Canada
- Major research grant May 1
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Partnership award (nominations)
- K.J.R. Wightman award for scholarship in ethics May 5
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- Canadian Council for the Arts – Killiam research fellowships
- Grants to Media Arts Organizations: Initiatives May 15
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research – Partnership award (nominations)
- Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute – Travel Awards May 23
- Huntington Society of Canada – Navigator research program
- New pathways research program

By Melanie Callahan

From left are Dr. Mary Bluechardt, Premier Tom Marshall and President Kachanoski.

Liam Kelly, left, presents the Wrestler of the Year award to Ian Janes.

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www.mun.ca/gazette
OUTANDABOUT

BALD IS BEAUTIFUL
Grenfell nursing student Amanda Ellsworth said goodbye to her beautiful locks for Shave the Brave, an initiative that raises money to help young adults in Canada deal with cancer through supportive and informative programs.

Wednesday, April 9
Understanding Personality Types in the Workplace, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., BN-4019, Sponsor: Gardiner Centre

Thursday, April 10
Self-tuning One-class Support Vector Machines for Data Classification, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., EN-2022, Sponsor: Department of Computer Science

Why Privacy? What Literature Tells Us About Being By Ourselves, 7-8 p.m., A-1046, Sponsor: Department of English

Friday, April 11
Metamorphic and Geochronological Study of Anatectic Aluminous Gneisses: Insights on Evolution of the Hinterland in the Central Grenville Province, 1-3 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Four Modes of Exposure: A Social and Political Enquiry, 12-1:30 p.m., A-4049D, Sponsor: Department of Sociology

The Effects of the CO2 Tax on B.C. Gasoline Demand, 2:30-4:30 p.m., ED-1014, Sponsor: Department of Economics, Scholarship in the Arts

Monday, April 14
Detection Techniques for Alternate-Belaying Co-operative Communication Systems, 1-3 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

First Year Students and Their Learning, 9:20 a.m.-12:30 p.m., A-5012, Sponsor: First Year Success Program

Alzheimer’s Disease and the Olfactory System: Recent Findings, 1-2 p.m., Health Sciences Centre, Lecture Theatre D, Sponsor: Division of BioMedical Sciences

Performance Coaching and Development, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., BN-4019, Sponsor: Gardiner Centre

Tuesday, April 15
Using StatsCan Data Sets to Uncover Drivers of Household Food Insecurity in Canada, 1994-2009, 2:30-4 p.m., LS017A, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Sponsor: Memorial University’s Research Data Centre

Nature and Nurture: The Role of Math Experiences and Personality Traits in Math Anxiety, 1-3 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Wednesday, April 16
All About Bones: Insights from Fossils and Embryos, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Hampton Hall, Marine Institute, Sponsor: The WISE NL - Statoil Speaker Series

Meet Kshama Roy: Award-Winning Memorial Doctoral Student, 1-2 p.m., online webinar, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Thursday, April 17
ARTS on Violence, 3-5 p.m., SN-2041, Sponsor: Faculty of Arts

Analysis of the Role of p7 Protein Function in Hepatitis C Virus Life Cycle, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Tuesday, April 22
Computer Simulations of Core-Softened Attractive Disks: Phase Behaviour and Inverse Melting, 12-2 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Wednesday, April 23
Immune Markers and Breast Cancer: Why They Matter, 5-6 p.m., Health Sciences Centre auditorium, Sponsor: Division of BioMedical Sciences

Mini-Med School 2014, 7-9:20 p.m., Faculty of Medicine, Health Sciences Centre, Sponsor: Faculty of Medicine

Analytical Investigation and Implementation of Carry and Forward based Routing Protocol for Vehicular Ad Hoc Network, 1-3 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Universal Design, Assessment and Technology, 2-4 p.m., ED-2010B, Sponsor: DELTS

Universal Design, Assessment and Technology, 2-4 p.m., ED-2010B, Sponsor: DELTS

Tuesday, April 29
The Beothuk Story: European and First Nations Narratives of the Beothuk People of Newfoundland, 1-3 p.m., IIC-2104, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

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FOR RENT One bedroom furnished apartment, five minutes walk to MUN. Suitable for a single graduate or professional, non-smoker, no pets, five appliances. POI, $600 per month. Contact 754 4855/229 1686.

OUTANDABOUT

For more on these events and other news at Memorial, please visit www.today.mun.ca

www.mun.ca/gazette
A FISHERIES technologist at the Marine Institute (MI) was recently named Memorial’s 2014 Staff Volunteer of the Year for her dedication to mentoring students and the public about ocean science.

Kiley Best’s passion is reflected through her work at MI’s Centre for Fisheries Ecosystems Research (CFER) and volunteerism at the Petty Harbour Mini Aquarium. For Ms. Best, her drive comes from wanting to promote careers and interest in marine biology and to eliminate negativity towards fisheries.

For the past 18 months, Ms. Best has volunteered as a member of the board of directors and secretary for the mini aquarium. She was instrumental in the aquarium’s opening and supported it through its successful inaugural season in numerous ways, such as preparation of the tanks, fundraising and recruiting.

Coupled with her position at MI, Ms. Best is also pursuing her master’s degree in aquaculture part time at Memorial. Despite her work and educational commitments, she manages to make volunteering and outreach a key priority within the university and the community.

“It is rewarding to inspire future ocean scientists,” she said. “I enjoy engaging children and parents who are interested in ocean creatures to help them understand the importance of taking care of our ecosystem. I consider the volunteer work I do to be an extension of my passions through which I can show how fulfilling it is to accomplish lifelong goals and help others reach theirs.”

Supporting community comes naturally to Ms. Best, who also volunteers with the Newfoundland and Labrador Aquatic Invasive Species Committee.

Her work with aquatic invasive species began with the discovery of the green crab in Newfoundland waters during her graduate research. Her efforts with the invasive species committee, Placentia Bay Integrated Management Committee and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans have helped in the monitoring and prevention of the spread of this species and other potential invaders.

Ms. Best has carried her passion for educating others on aquatic invasive species into CFER. During her time with MI she has been influential in educating youth at the institute’s annual Holyrood Marine Base open house event and the annual World Oceans Day exhibition held at the institute. She also plays a significant role in mentoring students by participating in high school recruitment seminars, MI Ocean Net youth conferences, judging at the 2014 Newfoundland and Labrador Regional Science Fair and acting as a project mentor for a high school science fair since 2012.

“Initially believed to be an entirely sporadic disease, Parkinson’s disease is the second most common neurodegenerative diseases with blueberries.

neurotransmitters, which relay signals between neurons and is critical for normal brain function.

Although the function of this gene is not well understood, studies suggest that it plays an important role in regulating the release of dopamine, a type of neurotransmitter critical for controlling the start and stop of voluntary and involuntary movements.

“This gene is proven to be the cause of inherited Parkinson’s disease in human families that have more of the gene, or an unusual form of it,” said Dr. Staveley.

“We’ve taken that gene and put it in fruit flies and found that causes a few defects including decreased lifespan and retinal degeneration.”

Evidence also suggests those with an accumulation of the gene are more susceptible to oxidative stress, an imbalance between the production of free radicals, which can cause cell damage or death, and the ability of the body to counteract their harmful effects with antioxidants. Together the combination may play a pivotal role in the progression of Parkinson’s.

Given their versatility, fruit flies can help unravel the role of oxidative stress in Parkinson’s disease and unveil potential antioxidant therapies; blueberries’ therapeutic potential in cancer and vascular disease has already been studied. As well, new studies in fruit flies suggest that plant extracts may be beneficial to individuals suffering from neurodegenerative diseases.

During their study, Dr. Staveley noted that the flies with the gene that were fed blueberry extract had up to an eight-day, or 33 per cent, greater median lifespan than those fed a standard control diet. In addition, the extract improved the eye defects caused by the gene.

Eight days “might not seem like much,” said Dr. Staveley, but one day in a fly is equivalent to about one year in a human.

“If you have a disease and you’re given an extra eight years of life, you’d probably be pretty happy with that.”

Dr. Staveley is hoping to soon begin working with Whitbourne-based Sedna Nutra to evaluate some of their wild blueberry and cranberry nutraceutical supplemental extracts.