Making a place for Aboriginal students

DR. MAURA HANRAHAN became the special adviser on Aboriginal affairs just three months ago.

What she’s discovered since taking on the job and meeting with deans, directors and senior executive across the university is openness, willingness to act and recognition that Aboriginal students and staff bring much to the university experience.

“I’m so impressed with the goodwill that’s out there,” says Maura, a graduate of Memorial’s Faculty of Arts, who received her MA from Carleton University in sociology and anthropology and was a Rothermere Fellow at the London School of Economics where she completed her PhD.

In her new role, she’ll work closely with faculty, Aboriginal groups and senior administrators on matters relating to a university-wide cultural change toward Aboriginal students.

Maura’s position is the first of its kind for Memorial University and stems from a recommendation contained in the 2009 Presidential Task Force on Aboriginal Initiatives. She was hired not only to implement the report’s 22 recommendations, but to build on them and go further in her work.

She has a to-do list already well underway; finding a dedicated Aboriginal space, where students can gather to study, drum, dance and support each other is a priority.

Maura is also working with university staff to create more scholarships for Aboriginal students, introduce a bachelor of Aboriginal studies program and look at designating seats for Aboriginal students.

“I want to make attendance at Memorial University the goal for young Aboriginal people in the province,” says Maura. “That’s where we’re heading.”

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You might remember that last year we held extensive consultations on a new research framework, and teaching and learning framework.

Over this fall and winter, Memorial will develop an engagement framework. As you know, we have a long history of community engagement that dates back to the founding of Memorial University College. We have a special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that we can be proud of, and build upon. Our engagement framework will connect to the research and teaching and learning frameworks to ensure that we are better able to link our efforts in these areas with the needs and opportunities that exist across the province and beyond.

I also want to draw your attention briefly to some changes recently approved by the Board of Regents. These are changes that will make the university more responsive to the needs of a growing, multi-campus institution with more students, more faculty and evolving priorities.

Memorial’s vice-president (academic) is now the provost and vice-president (academic). Dr. David Wardlaw assumes pan-university responsibilities for institutional operations. The new position carries with it responsibilities for ensuring that the university’s budget, policies and administrative structures are aligned in support of its academic mission and strategic priorities.

The board also approved conversion of the title of director and associate director of academic units to dean and associate dean. The use of the title-director for academic leaders of units has been discontinued. The new titles are in keeping with similar structures at other Canadian universities, and apply to the Schools of Human Kinetics and Recreation, Music, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Social Work.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to build the Memorial of the future, and appreciate all that you do to make this university a great place to work.
WHEN KAREN ALEXANDER agreed to sit on the national board of directors for Habitat for Humanity back in 2004, she had no idea there was a coveted national leadership award in her future.

Karen is the co-ordinator of Emergency Management Services for Memorial.

The Kenneth J. Meinert Leadership Award sits in a prominent position in Karen’s office, a testament to her role as a builder of policies for the national organization. It’s an award that recognizes individuals who have significantly advanced the mission of Habitat for Humanity in Canada.

Karen received the award this past May, during Habitat’s annual general meeting in Vancouver. The recognition also came with a $10,000 cash donation that Karen was free to give to any Habitat chapter project across the country.

She chose Cabot Habitat’s Restore in Logy Bay.

An active volunteer with Cabot Habitat since 1994, Karen was recruited to serve on the national board of directors because of her background as a social worker, and her experience developing policies for families in need.

In her seven years as a national board member, Karen developed hundreds of policies for the organization; she helped build a solid policy foundation for others who follow in her stead. Her leadership award recognizes that legacy.

“I’ve had previous volunteer activities, but nothing fits me so well as Habitat,” says Karen. “It’s amazing when you hand the keys to a new home over to a family – the look on their faces … a new home stabilizes a family, allows them to get better education, better jobs … what a volunteer experience!”

Very well, in fact, as you may have noticed if you were at the official opening of Memorial University’s Community Garden on Aug. 10. The turnout was great, in spite of the cool, rainy weather in early August.

To celebrate the occasion, Kent Decker, vice-president (administration and finance), planted a tree. Here, he’s cheered on by James Quinlan, chair of the community garden’s board of directors.

How does your garden grow?

YOU CAN HELP with Memorial’s recycling effort by using the new blue recycling units that have been installed in public places throughout the University Centre. The new units have sections for beverage containers, paper and garbage. For information on what you can and cannot recycle in these bins, visit www.mun.ca/sustain.
Memorial alum takes ACEnet by the reins

RAY MILLER WALKS through the halls of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial and still recognizes some familiar names on office doors.

“There are people here who taught me,” says Ray, the director of ACEnet, who earned his degree in electrical engineering back in 1980 before going off to work in private industry for Newfoundland Telephone and then for X-wave, the IT division at Bell Aliant. “It’s nice to be back on campus.”

Every September, Student Affairs and Services holds a two-day orientation for nearly 2,000 new incoming students. Ray, along with Meghan Mitchell and Sandra Cook of Student Success Programs, comprise the ultimate orientation team. They are responsible for planning, co-ordinating, implementing, and delivering the entire scope of orientation programming and events. With a couple of student staff and an army of dedicated volunteers, they pull off the largest on-campus event outside of Convocation.

Last year, Memorial’s fall orientation was redesigned to better meet the needs of the students, explains Sandra, student leadership co-ordinator and lead behind the new look and feel for orientation.

Research and evaluation resulted in a new format that gives students the flexibility to find the information they need, but also to get many of their essential tasks done before the startup of classes.

“This new format allows us to better meet the needs of a growing, and increasingly diverse audience,” says Sandra.

None of that would be possible without help — lots of it. Student Engagement Co-ordinator Meghan Mitchell recruits, trains, and schedules more than 150 dedicated volunteers who give up their Labour Day weekend to make sure that orientation is an excellent experience for everyone involved.

Like a two-day wedding for 2,000 guests

IF YOU HAD WALKED in on a planning meeting for Orientation 2011 this past August, you might have felt like you had just stepped into the situation room at the White House. Timelines, event scenarios, budgets and schedules covered tables and whiteboards.

Of course there was no cause for alarm — everything was well under control.

“Planning orientation is like planning a two-day wedding for 2,000 guests,” says Dr. Amy Butt, who manages Answers, the one-stop-shop for students.

Infact Ray’s office at ACEnet is in the Earth Sciences Building, a close neighbour to Engineering.

ACEnet stands for Atlantic Computational Excellence Network. It’s a high performance computing consortium for universities in Atlantic Canada that offers the horsepower equivalent of 6,000 computers, all working together to serve the needs of researchers.

“It’s a partnership and all the major institutions have teamed up on this. That’s a huge step forward. High performance computing clusters are expensive,” says Ray, pointing out that the network is funded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), and all four provincial governments in the region.

“Researchers come up with new ideas, and we’re here to support them,” says Ray, whose top priority is development of a strategic plan that will set a course for future growth.

“We want to make it easier for the university community to avail of our services. There’s great potential and we are looking for ways to add value and assist the research community.”

Ray can be reached at ACEnet at 864-3302.

Tales from the library

Anne Bowden has not worked at the Marine Institute for very long, but she insists she’s been at MI long enough to develop a great fondness for the post-secondary institution.

Anne is a library technician in the MI’s Dr. C.R. Barnett Library. Most days, you can see her at the circulation desk handling inquiries from faculty, staff and students. She’s been at the Marine Institute since the fall of 2009.

“I like the small atmosphere of MI. I like seeing the same people on a daily basis and getting to know them,” says Anne. “I’m usually on a first-name basis with a lot of the students, which is nice.”

Anne grew up in St. John’s and worked in the St. John’s public library system for a few years, handling a variety of duties ranging from story time with children to helping senior citizens.

“You had to be open to working with two-year-olds and 92-year-olds. It was a wide range of age groups and needs and I enjoyed working there,” she says.

Considering that she’s always had a love of reading, Anne says it’s no surprise she pursued a career as a librarian. Her literary interests are broad and diverse, and she enjoys just about any type of book.

“I’ll read anything. I’ll read mysteries, non-fiction, family stories … anything that catches my eye.”

ANNE BOWDEN has not worked at the Marine Institute for very long, but she insists she’s been at MI long enough to develop a great fondness for the post-secondary institution.

Ray can be reached at ACEnet at 864-3302.
EXERCISE HAS been a part of Paula Kelly’s life for as long as she can remember. Paula, who is a lecturer with the School of Nursing, started her swimming career at age eight. At 15, she qualified for the 1988 Canadian Olympic team. Unfortunately, she didn’t get to compete in Moscow that year because of the boycott protesting the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

But Paula’s dreams were not completely dashed. Athletes were sent to Hawaii and Japan to compete in swim meets that summer. Paula won gold in Japan, and she went on to swim for the Canadian national team for another summer. “It was such a thrill to qualify and be chosen for the Olympic team,” she says. “Plus that summer offered me many opportunities such as competing in other countries. But it was also a missed opportunity as I often think of what I could have accomplished if I did compete in the Olympics back in 1980. I find I think of that even more when the Olympics roll around every four years.”

As a teenager, Paula stopped competing to focus more on her career path and because, she says, athletes tended to peak at a much younger age back then. But she still exercises every day.

She’s run three marathons, some half marathons and several 10 km runs. She’s also participated in the Tely 10 a few times. “I decided to give triathlons a go as I could swim and run. I just needed some practice on the bike. It’s great fun. I love how one event becomes three; it keeps me from getting bored.”

Memorial bids adieu to a dynamic director

THIS FALL, Ann Marie Vaughan began a new stint as the president of College of the North Atlantic (CNA), taking a hiatus from her East Coast roots and upbringing, and moving to the West Coast in Stephenville.

Ann Marie became director of Distance Education, Learning and Teaching Support (DELTs) in 2001.

She never spoke publicly without acknowledging the talent, creativity and dedication of her team at DELTS. Her expectations were large, and her dedication and drive brought many successes. Only her devotion to her family, husband John Oliver and daughter Kathleen, trumped her dedication to her work!

Her farewell gathering in the DELTS production studio was complete with a slideshow to the tunes of ABBA, and roasts from former colleagues.

Memorial’s loss is CNA’s gain – and while we’ll miss her terribly, we wish her all the best on her new journey.

Good luck, Ann Marie!

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Professor Patricia Dold has spent most of the summer working in her beautiful St. John’s garden but she did find time to squeeze in a screening of the 2010 Hindi film Raavan at Congress 2011, held in Fredericton, N.B. in May.

A modern re-telling of the Ramayana, one of the epics of Indian literature, Patricia Dold says she was captivated by the look of the film. “It is stunningly beautiful – although it does seem to be raining constantly!” she laughs, adding that there is a great deal of interplay between ideas of good and evil and hero and villain. “In the film the villain is actually fighting for a good cause.”

GENEROUS DONATION

The Department of Computing and Communications recently donated $4,000 to support Memorial University’s Campus Food Bank. Barbara Dawson, C&C’s associate director of client relationships, presented the donation to Noel Veitch, who chairs the food bank and just happens to be Barbara’s dad. Funds raised came from a successful conference held in 2010.

Memorial University’s Employee Newsletter
International Centre connects with rural Newfoundland school

WHEN Lindsay Schaefer, a co-ordinator with Memorial’s International Centre, was approached by an elementary school teacher from Dildo, Trinity Bay, to collaborate on a learning experience after March’s devastating earthquake in Japan, she jumped at the chance.

Coincidentally, Lindsay had been a part of a fundraising drive for the citizens of Japan that took place in the spring on the St. John’s campus. She had met two students who she knew would embrace the idea of working with the class, and suggested the three of them head out on the highway for a visit to the rural community.

“Elizabeth Drover, a Grade 5 teacher at Woodland Elementary, had just wrapped up a cultural unit about Japan with her students,” says Lindsay. “They had read the book Sadako and The Thousand Paper Cranes, and when the earthquake struck, the children wanted to help by fundraising. They were so interested in learning more about the country. Ms. Drover contacted us to see if we could partner on a project.”

Through her work at the International Centre and the International Student Advising Office, Lindsay arranged to travel to the school with Japanese students Matthew Mine-Golding, an engineering student, and Hakukan Hayashida, a master’s student in physical oceanography.

Students folded paper cranes and boats, learned some Japanese phrases and asked many questions about Mr. Mine-Golding’s and Mr. Hayashida’s experience in Japan.

In addition to creating a memorable day of community outreach, the outing also raised $500 from the sale of the children’s paper creations.

A perfect fit

MARLENE POWER says she has a lot of reasons to like her job at the Marine Institute.

Marlene, an international program officer with MI International, has worked at the MI for just over three years.

“MI International is a perfect fit. I can see the world and work in international development while still getting to be home in Newfoundland with my family,” says Marlene. “It keeps me connected to the world. My job allows me to see other countries and see how people live, and I’ve always enjoyed that.”

Marlene grew up in Placentia before traveling to Antigonish, N.S. after high school to attend St. Francis Xavier University. After earning a degree in political science, she completed her master’s in political science at Queen’s University.

Since then, Marlene has worked steadily in international development for a number of organizations in many different countries.

“Everything I’ve done has been internationally based. Even in university, my concentration was international relations,” says Marlene. “When I finished my master’s, I headed straight to Asia and lived in Korea for a year and then Japan for three months. After that, a lot of the work I did was related to refugee issues.”

Marlene lived in Turkey while she worked for the United Nations and later found herself in the Democratic Republic of Congo working with Doctors Without Borders.

“I met and married my husband Tony in Congo and then I wanted him to see Canada, so we’ve been here since 2007. He loves it here,” she says.

And while she loves travelling the world doing business for MI International, Marlene insists her heart is never far from her home province.

Making sure you get paid!

MAXINE HEDDERSON joined Memorial in 1989, starting in the typing pool and moving a year later to work in payroll.

She’s been a payroll officer ever since – doing the work that it takes to make sure people get paid is what she loves.

She’s one of eight payroll officers in the Department of Human Resources, which is responsible for paying more than 4,000 full-time and part-time employees.

Maxine looks after the Faculty of Arts, the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation, the School of Music and the Leslie Harris Centre for Public Policy and Development. She also does bi-weekly payroll remittances to the Receiver General.

“There are lots of things to do,” she says. “We’re dealing with inquiries, re-classifications, student employment... tracking down information, looking up forms and records of employment and processing time sheets... It’s not just about taking out CPP, EI and taxes. We’re on a strict deadline and we have to get things done on time.”

When she’s not at work, Maxine enjoys crocheting, quilting and spending time with her husband John at their cabin. She’s also a proud grandmother and this fall will visit her youngest grandchild in Edmonton, Alta.

Maxine’s oldest child Cordell is a warrant officer with Lord Strathcona’s Horse Regiment in Edmonton and was posted to Afghanistan last year.

“T really had a difficult time when he was gone,” remembers Maxine. “I was so relieved when he came home last fall!”

Cordell’s son, who turns five this winter, is Maxine’s fifth grandchild. Her daughter Sonya is a mother of four and lives in Port de Grave. Maxine’s youngest child, Melissa, has just started her first year of engineering at Memorial.

Rock and a hard place

WHILE IN Denmark for Fifth International Outdoor Education Research Conference, Dr. TA Loeffler presented Between a Rock and a Hard Place: Outdoor Education in Newfoundland. A professor in the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation, TA also took the opportunity to add to her extensive mountaineering list... and pose with the local livestock.

She climbed Denmark’s highest point, where her only companions were of the bovine variety. The peak was just 170.86 metres above sea level, a warm up for her next climb.

And in keeping with the theme of her presentation, she also travelled to France to climb Mont Blanc, Western Europe’s highest peak at 4808 metres.

“As a climb, it is challenging but it didn’t require nearly the commitment as some of my longer expeditions,” she says. “It was incredible to visit the birthplace of modern alpinism and observe how both France and Switzerland manage their outdoor recreation resources and risk management/search and rescue. As so many people recreate in the Alps, I was interested to learn how they approached such things in light of huge participation rates.”
MEMORIAL’S ANNUAL CELEBRATION, from Oct. 20-25 at the St. John’s and Marine Institute campuses, and Oct. 18-22 at Grenfell Campus, is designed to stimulate, invigorate and inspire! Look for some exciting new changes this year. After an extensive survey about all things MUNdays, organizers have decided to introduce some new activities along with the favourite and familiar.

I ❤️ MUNdays

What’s new:
It all begins with a free PANCAKE BREAKFAST on Thursday morning from 8-9 a.m. in R. Guthie Hall. Visit www.mun.ca/mundays to register for the event and save your seat (space is limited). Immediately following the breakfast is the MUNdays launch and the new spirit parade. On Kindness Friday, highlights include the university-wide FILL-THE-SQUARE project, and a CONCERT at the Breezeway. On Sunday we’ll warm up with a five-kilometre run, a great way to prepare for the new HEALTH CHALLENGE on Tuesday when we plan on setting a world record ... of some sort!

Kindness Friday:
Kindness never goes out of fashion. The all-day kindness marathon on Friday, Oct. 21, is devoted to wearing your heart on your sleeves, and letting students and co-workers know how much they are appreciated! This year’s university-wide initiative is to FILL-THE-SQUARE at Paton College with food to benefit the Community Food Network, and Memorial University’s Campus Food Bank.

International Bazaar:
Sample your way around the world on Monday, Oct. 24, and try out some flavourful foods from around the globe. Travel was never so easy! You’ll also have a chance to purchase exotic jewellery and crafts.

Health Challenge:
The former Health Circus has been changed this year to get more people involved than ever before. On Tuesday, Oct. 25 the Memorial community is invited to take part in a university-wide Health Challenge from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. in the Field House. Doors are open to anyone who can walk, roll or run around the track. The goal is to set a record for the greatest distance we can travel on the track as a university community. We’ll also attempt to set a Guinness World Record! Check out all the great MUNdays events at: www.mun.ca/mundays.

What’s new:
Festivities this year run from Oct. 18-22, and begin with a PANCAKE BREAKFAST at 8 a.m. in the Grenfell Campus Student Union Food Court. Come celebrate and enjoy breakfast with the Grenfell community. Once you’ve had a good breakfast, you’ll be ready for GOTCHA, a new game where players can track down and eliminate their opponents until only one player remains. Watch everyone fall around you and be the last one standing. The game begins on Tuesday, Oct. 18, and continues throughout the week. Sign up before Friday, Oct. 14.

Campus Dash:
On Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 4 p.m., meet in the GCSU Food Court, and bring your sneakers! You can walk or run the one- or two-kilometre Campus Dash. Bragging rights for fastest dash will be claimed by the top three male and female finishers, as well as for fastest residence, chalet and local school. High school students, Grenfell students, the public and faculty and staff are all eligible to sprint each other. Run, Grenfell, run!

International Night:
This highly anticipated celebration features different nationalities and cultures that are part of the Grenfell community. Students, faculty and staff don their national dress and serve up a sampling of their native cuisine. Artwork and symbolic pieces will be on display and international music will put you in the mood to groove. The fun starts at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 20, in the GCSU Food Court.

Teddy Bear Picnic:
The Western Regional School of Nursing invites the kiddies out to give beloved Teddy a checkup and munch on some snacks while taking part in fun-filled activities. Help the little ones put a Band-Aid on their snuggly toys’ ouchies. After Teddy’s ticket is going strong, go for a splash in the pool. It all takes place at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, in the Arts and Science gymnasium. Log onto www.grenfell.ca/celebrate for a full schedule of events.

“The Celebrate Memorial/I love MUNdays program just marked its 10th anniversary, and we wanted to make sure we were meeting our objectives,” says Jessica Fisher, MUNdays’ chief organizer. “This year we have fewer, but larger events that have a wider target audience. We’ve also changed the date to coincide with Convocation celebrations. And to create a homecoming feel, we have more activities taking place over an entire weekend.”
Building an intercultural workplace

INTERNATIONAL student enrollment at Memorial University is increasing steadily as students from all parts of the world make the choice to come to our province and our campuses. In this new academic year the international student population is expected to top 1500. Continued growth means that most staff and faculty will come into frequent contact with a wide variety of cultural norms that differ from their own experience. While learning about new cultures can be exciting and positive, it can also be challenging to each side of a cultural interaction.

Every year since 2003, Memorial employees have signed up for the International Educators Training Program (IETP) offered through Queen’s University. For the first time, this program will be offered in St. John’s from Nov. 16-18 to Memorial staff from all three campuses.

The program is directed at staff that work with international students and researchers, and would like to learn more about working in a cross-cultural environment. Participants will gain a broad understanding of the trends toward cross-cultural workplaces, the challenge of intercultural communication, and the challenges and opportunities of interacting with other cultures. They’ll learn how to make the intercultural – international workplace flourish and not be hampered by the naturally arising conflicts.

Wayne Myles, director of the Queen’s University International Centre, along with two of the top intercultural experts in Canada – Todd Odgers (Norquest College) and Kyra Garson (Thompson Rivers University) will facilitate the three-day program.

This professional development opportunity is offered through a partnership between the Department of Human Resources and the International Centre.

In case of emergencies, the plan is in hand

TO SUPPORT Memorial’s new emergency plans that take effect in a few months, the university has launched an awareness campaign that uses humour to catch your attention.

Posters are going up on walls and television screens around the St. John’s and Grenfell campuses, and stickers with emergency information have been placed on lockers. Emergency information and telephone numbers have been included in orientation packages for new students, staff and faculty.

The emergency plans contain information about an individual’s role and responsibility in case of an emergency, and how university personnel should be prepared in order to minimize risk.

“The new campus plans are based on four emergency management pillars: preparedness, prevention/mitigation, response and recovery,” said Karen Alexander, co-ordinator of Emergency Management Services. “Emergency planning has a wider scope than simply how to respond to an emergency. We are emphasizing this wider approach, one that encourages all employees and students to be more aware, to be proactive and to make plans in advance of adverse events.”

What’s your role? Go to www.mun.ca/emergency to find out. You’ll find telephone numbers and instructions to follow in case of an emergency. From a building evacuation to a hazardous chemical spill to a bomb threat, the plan is in hand.

All emergency information is also accessible on mobile devices via Memorial’s new mobile website, www.m.mun.ca. For more information, please see www.mun.ca/emergency or call 709-864-7544.

Approved this past spring, the new emergency plans will come into effect in January 2012. Similar emergency plans are under development for the Marine Institute and the Harlow Campus.

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Development in cross-cultural workplaces.

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IN HIS DAY JOB, Craig Lush works as a PC consultant with the Marine Institute’s (MI) Information and Communication Technologies department.

But he spends many a night on stage, with a close-up view of the crowd that has come to watch him play. As lead singer of the band, Dungarvan, Craig frequently performs at local pubs and festivals, enjoying himself as much as those in the audience enjoy his music.

“I like seeing people have a good time and it’s nice when they come up to you afterward and say, ‘You did a great job, when are you playing again?’ It’s so rewarding to get that feedback from people.”

Craig and his band mates, Al Samms, Kurt Bambury, Chris Hodder and Mike Slade (an instructor at MI’s Offshore Safety and Survival Centre), often perform in downtown pubs, with regular shows at Shamrock City. They also play private parties, including weddings and conventions.

“We have three singers, and we all have different music types, so we can provide a nice mix. People like to hear different genres, wherever we are playing,” said Lush. “Rock, a little country, we do a lot of different types of music. We may play Brown-Eyed Girl, King of the Road and Whiskey in the Jar in the same set.”

Craig started the band in 2001 and has remained the lead singer ever since. He also plays banjo and guitar and often shares the vocals with his band mates.

“I just enjoy playing music and I’ve loved singing for most of my life.”

Plucky pastime

Next to the weather, radio announcers frequently like to report moose sightings in daily conversations with their audiences.

And it’s no wonder. On average there are 600-800 moose-vehicle accidents across the province every year.

A mobile application for iPhones and Blackberries makes reporting moose sightings to the Twittersphere quick and easy and was developed in part by Levin Mejia, a multimedia specialist with Memorial’s Distance Education, Learning and Teaching Support (DELS) unit, and co-creator Matthew Hann.

Launched in July, Moose Watch is a real-time, location-based application that highlights recent moose sightings on Newfoundland Labrador roads and highways via Twitter users using #moosewatchdl.

“The app is a way for the public to share sightings with each other in an effort to raise awareness and prevent accidents,” said Levin. “Too many moose collisions have resulted in fatalities, leaving families to cope with the loss of loved ones, while the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is left facing extensive health care costs. The public has spoken and the pressure is on to find a solution.”

Visiting www.moosewatchdl.com gives access to the mobile website for smartphones, mapped location points for recent moose sightings, location pins showing the time and location of moose sightings, and a Twitter feed showing public moose sighting reports.

Levin and Matthew’s iPhone app has been downloaded over 3,500 times, and the website has been visited over 30,000 times.

If you’re interested in helping support the app’s future developments, email donations@moosewatchdl.com.

Next time

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CORRECTION In the last issue of The Communicator, we got a little ahead of ourselves when we reported the completion dates for the new residence towers on the St. John’s campus. The west tower of the new residence on the St. John’s campus will be completed for the fall of 2013. Each tower contains 250 beds.

Stay active

New and experienced runners from the Marine Institute stick to nearby trails at Long Pond and Rennies River to keep them active, and train for events such as the Tely 10. The group gets encouragement from MI’s Recreation and Sports Assistant Rose Hatfield, who has them running three days a week! Way to go!
Obituaries

Dr. Harrison Hedley Way, a retired faculty member in the Faculty of Education, passed away on July 16, 2011. He was 74.

Madonna Jean King, a retired staff member from the Ocean Sciences Centre, passed away on July 31, 2011.

Donald C. Meiwald, a staff member at Grenfell Campus, passed away on Aug. 3, 2011. He was 74.

Baxter Noftall, a retired staff member with Facilities Management, passed away on Aug. 5, 2011. He was 74.

Dr. Denes Szvetko, a retired faculty member, passed away on April 22, 2011. He was 76.

Dr. Clive Mellor, retired faculty member with the Faculty of Medicine and former chair of psychiatry at Memorial, passed away Aug. 24, 2011.

Jim Dooley and Tony Roche, (L-R) custodians in the Arts and Administration Building, were feted by a crowd of well-wishers at a retirement party last June. All the best, Jim and Tony!

Sue Murray, field education co-ordinator in Memorial’s School of Social Work, retired on Dec. 31, 2010 after 18 years on the job. A celebration hosted by her colleagues at the school was attended by friends, family and colleagues.

Elaine Boone, administrative assistant for the Department of Computer Science, has retired from Memorial after 38 years. She first joined the math department and later the computer science group, which became the Department of Computer Science in 1978.

Art Taylor, histology supervisor in the Faculty of Medicine’s Medical Education and Laboratory Support Services (MELSS), has retired after 31 years with Memorial. Colleagues including Judy Foste, MELSS manager, helped him celebrate the occasion.

Ray Thompson, a faculty member with the Ocean Sciences Centre (OSC) and the Department of Biology, has retired from Memorial after 37 years with the university. He’s joined here by Dr. Garth Fletcher, director of the OSC, who presented him with a giant ceramic mussel shell! Ray’s specialty is mussel research!

Dennis Wasserman, the director of administration and finance at Grenfell Campus since 1998, retired from his post this past summer. His retirement party was attended by many friends and colleagues, including Dr. Mary Bluchardt, vice-president, Grenfell Campus.

Belated retirement best wishes to David Warren, anatomy technician with Medical Education and Laboratory Support Services (MELSS) for more than 35 years. David officially retired from Memorial two years ago, after suffering from a stroke. His colleagues say that David was an enthusiastic and tireless employee. All the best to David and his wife.

Evan Stephen O’Brien was born March 21, 2011 to Stephanie and Jody O’Brien. Proud (first-time) grandmother is Cynthia Cleary, who works in The Office of the President. Congratulations!

Caitlin Elisabeth Harvey was born on June 3, 2011 to John Harvey, marketing manager for the Division of Marketing and Communications and his wife Kiersten. Caitlin weighed in at 7 lbs. 14 oz. and is growing every day. Congratulations!

Jayden Alphonsus Kielly was born on June 25, 2011 to parents Jenny Hickey, a staff member in Facilities Management, and her husband Keith Kielly. Congratulations!

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National payroll week

Memorial’s payroll division in the Department of Human Resources celebrated National Payroll Week (September 12 – 16) with chocolates and carrot cake. Pictured from (L-R) are Susan Hann, Ashley Hickey, Patsy Burry, Connie Hatcher, Linda Cooper, Maxine Hedderson, Sandy Baird, and Carmel O’Reilly. Missing are Mary Lake and Rhonalee Sharpe. Now in its 17th year, National Payroll Week seeks to build greater awareness of the size and scope of payroll and its impact on business, government and employees across Canada.
Memorial welcomes new vice-presidents

MEMORIAL’S TWO new vice-presidents are settling into their respective roles at the St. John’s and Grenfell campuses.

Dr. Mary Bluechardt, the vice-president (Grenfell Campus), was first to arrive. She officially started her position on July 1. Dr. Bluechardt has an extensive background in applied health research and education, and comes to Grenfell from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) in Oshawa. She’s also served as director of the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation at Memorial. “I’m looking forward to meeting as many of Grenfell’s stakeholders and supporters as possible,” she said.

“Continuing to build on the relationships that Grenfell has with its surrounding communities and partners will remain an important purpose in the future.”

Dr. David Wardlaw, Memorial’s new provost and vice-president (academic), began work on Aug. 1. He comes from the University of Western Ontario where he served as the dean of science. He brings wide-ranging experience in academic administration, a strong background in science and science promotion, together with a commitment to student learning initiatives and community engagement. “Memorial is poised to make some great strides in teaching and research in the next few years,” he said. “I’m looking forward to working with both the university community and the external community on the tremendous opportunities that we have before us.”

WHEN BARB WINSOR retired from Memorial this past summer, she left with the Glenn Roy Blundon Award tucked firmly under her arm.

“Receiving this award is the icing on the cake, for sure,” says Barb, who worked at the Queen Elizabeth II Library as the assistant technology co-ordinator with Distance Learning and Teaching Support Services (DELTs). “I was humbled by it, because it’s recognition from my peers and means more than anything money can buy.”

The institutional award for excellence in disability accommodation is presented annually to an individual or group for promoting equality and accessibility for Memorial students with disabilities.

“Each day, each minute held all kinds of possibilities to work with students in general, and with students with disabilities in particular,” says Barb, who enjoyed the diversity of her work. “The students taught me so much about getting on with life no matter what curve ball is pitched.”

It was through her work that Barb saw a need to share expertise, information and assistive technology training opportunities. She created the Adaptive Technology Support Network, which includes post-secondary institutions, agencies for people with disabilities, government offices, and of course, Memorial’s Blundon Centre.

“My last five years as DELTS’ student support have given me the opportunity of a lifetime. I have been blessed,” she says, thanking colleagues Shawn Pendergast and Glenn Gleeson for their encouragement and support.

While she’ll miss her colleagues at Memorial, Barb looks forward to watching her grandson play soccer, going for rides with her husband in their 1965 Mustang, and playing winter Scrabble games.

Hybrid cruising

KEVIN HOWARD, patrol officer with Campus Enforcement and Patrol (CEP), stands next to the first hybrid vehicle purchased for the CEP fleet. CEP purchased the vehicle to help minimize maintenance and gasoline costs, and reduce emissions. Providing 24-hour-a-day, 365 days-a-year mobile coverage can be costly! Equally important to CEP is reducing their environmental impact.

Barb Winsor

Retired DELTS staffer nabs Blundon Award
CONGRATULATIONS go out to Tom MacLaggan of the Department of Health and Safety, who correctly guessed the 2011 summer edition of The Communicator’s Days Gone By mystery photo!

Tom correctly identified the Canadian Officers Training Corp. as the organization that sent representatives to Memorial to participate in an open house demonstration in 1957 as the answer to our mystery photo contest. An honourable mention goes to George Lee, Ben Gardner and Arthur May for identifying Leonard J. Cowley as the gentleman pictured in the photo; a Canadian coast guard vessel now bears Mr. Cowley’s name.

Now, let’s move on to the next photo challenge. Take a look at the image to the left.

Send your guess to mlporten@mun.ca or mail it to us (complete mailing address on p.2) for a chance to win. The contest is open to all faculty, staff and retirees. The deadline for entries is Nov. 14, 2011. Remember, there’s only one entry per submission. Be sure to include your name, work or home telephone number and your department. A huge thank you goes out to Linda White, Archives and Special Collections Division, QEI library, for all her help putting together the contest.

Thanks and good luck!
Marcia Porter

“I AM AN ASSOCIATE professor in the School of Nursing and Faculty of Medicine, and I am currently seconded to the Centre for Nursing Studies. I am part of the leadership team at the centre that is working towards the consolidation of our nursing programs into Memorial. My knowledge of Memorial will be very beneficial in ensuring that the transition is as seamless as possible.

Prior to my secondment, I was teaching all academic units as well as leading inter-professional curriculum initiatives for undergraduate health and social care students in eight academic units. My research interests include breast screening effectiveness, management of chronic disease and quality of nurses’ work life.

The amalgamation of CNS into Memorial will mean that a full spectrum of nursing education will be offered from the practical nursing program to the current masters program and the soon to be launched doctoral program in nursing. CNS faculty, staff and students are excited about this evolution in nursing education in Newfoundland and Labrador and look forward to becoming part of the Memorial community.

On the West Coast, Western Regional School of Nursing will be incorporated into Grenfell Campus.”

ANNE KEARNEY
Director, Centre for Nursing Studies (secondment)