The Ocean Sciences Centre has a secret, and it’s well kept. This cold ocean research facility houses laboratories for research on the North Atlantic fishery, aquaculture, oceanography, ecology, behaviour and physiology. The secret involves very low turnover and a culture of family-like community. Shown here is a vital group of nine long-serving employees, their experience totalling 300 years (l-r): Bob O’Donnell (32 years), Delores Wheeler (36 years), Dr. Margaret Shears (27 years), Connie Short (27 years), Jim Devereaux (37 years), Jerry Ennis (29 years), and Dr. Garth Fletcher (39 years); missing from photo: Dr. Ray Thompson (37 years) and Damien Whitten (36 years). The secret now will be holding on to this vast institutional knowledge for as long as possible.

John Harvey has get-up-and-go

Sometimes it seems Memorial Athletics’ John Harvey is everywhere at once. As the unit’s marketing co-ordinator, he works hard behind the scenes of the Sea-Hawks franchise planning special events and community projects, all the while promoting the sporting experience for athletes and fans alike. John and the entire Athletics’ team work to support the sports of basketball, cross country running, soccer, swimming, volleyball and wrestling. This former Sea-Hawk basketball player can be found at every event and appears to do it all. Ready, set, go to www.goseahawks.ca to see what John and the Sea-Hawks do best.
I’M NEW and thrilled to be here. In some ways, it feels like my early days as a student studying business at Memorial. I officially started work as director of Human Resources on Jan. 31 and over the past several weeks I’ve been listening to people’s experiences in and with Human Resources to learn more about Memorial and the needs of those we serve. This process has been enlightening as I hear people’s perceptions about how we can provide more proactive, supportive services to all academic and administrative departments. I am particularly impressed with the many people I have met and their total commitment to the university.

I was attracted to Memorial by the important role the university plays in the fabric of what makes this province great. I was interested in this particular leadership role as I am a strong believer that the people here are key to the university achieving its objectives. Human Resources should play a critical role in ensuring this happens. I will use my 25 years experience in human resources management to revitalize how we engage in human resources management to revitalize how we support people, which is the foundation to Memorial’s success. I am also eager to learn about the university and I am appreciative of the great support I have already received from colleagues.

As I become better acquainted with what the university wants and expects from its human resources department, I believe we need to have further conversations that are focused on creating greater employee value. I look forward to increasing the involvement of all stakeholders as we work as partners to refine strategies, programs and services that support Memorial. We’ll work together to make it happen. More on specific process, timelines, implementation and evaluation will be shared over the coming weeks.

This is my first column for The Communicator and I look forward to providing my thoughts and updates on key developments in the future. I also look forward to meeting and speaking with many of you in the coming weeks and months.

Meanwhile, please feel free to reach me at 864 4615 or stephen.dodge@mun.ca.

I am also eager to learn about the university and I am appreciative of the great support I have already received from colleagues.
Can’t wait for spring! The community garden is ready and waiting

IF YOU WANT to tend a part of Memorial’s garden on the St. John’s campus, be sure to apply before March 25. Gardening experience is not required. The garden will provide students, staff and faculty with a space to grow food and an opportunity to learn skills and sustainable practices. Located between Queen’s College and Long Pond, the garden has 50 plots available for the 2011 growing season. Users pay a small seasonal fee for individual plots; there are several communal plots for special projects such as experiential learning activities, research endeavours and contributions to the university food bank.

Iolanda Wiersma, assistant professor of biology, (left in photo) got involved because she’s interested in local food production. “I see what you eat as one of the more significant political and environmental choices one can make,” she says. “Getting people to understand what goes into growing food gives an appreciation for the energy that goes into what we often take for granted. It’s really important for me that my kids understand that food doesn’t just come in a package from the grocery store.”

“I really respect the gardening and preservation skills that used to be so common,” says Rebecca Cohoe, communications co-ordinator with the Harris Centre (shown at right). “Somehow, in the past couple generations, a lot of those traditions have been lost. Both my grandmothers had huge gardens that they used to make pickles, jams, you name it. I want to know how to do those things so I don’t always need to rely on someone else to supply my dinner.”

If you’d like to get involved in tending the garden, visit www.mun.ca/communitygarden. To receive updates on garden activities, join the garden listserv by emailing listserv@mun.ca and typing subscribe community-garden-l in the body of the message.

Get going: St. John’s campus transportation survey results available

MORE THAN 700 staff and faculty, including employees of separately incorporated entities, participated in a survey on transportation practices and issues for employees and students of the St. John’s campus. More than 2,600 students responded to the student survey. The survey was conducted in April 2010. To view the complete results, go to www.mun.ca/sustain and click on the Sustainability Office link for transportation survey results.

Support the Campus Food Bank by recycling beverage containers

MORE THAN $5,000 is donated each year to the Campus Food Bank from beverage container recycling on the St. John’s campus. The more containers recycled on campus, the more support the university community provides to the food bank. The Marine Institute alone contributes $2,000 each year from beverage container recycling.

“Recycling is a steady and substantial part of our revenue base and we would love to see it increase,” explains Pradeep Bobby, vice-president of the Campus Food Bank board of directors. “All proceeds are used to buy fresh, nutritious and essential food items for those who need it most.” It’s easy: simply label bags and drop them at the entrance to recycling centres. To find out which containers are recyclable on campus, go to www.mmsb.nl.ca/recaccepted.asp. Remember to remove caps, straws and liquids from beverage containers before placing them in recycling bins.

C&C green team

WHEN YOU want something done right, they say it’s best to do it yourself. Folks in Memorial’s IT unit are taking this to heart. This Computing & Communications (C&C) Sustainability Committee was created in September 2010 to help implement and promote green initiatives related to information technology. The committee’s ideas and initiatives are presented monthly to the Advisory Committee on Sustainability and C&C’s senior leadership team.

A priority of the C&C green team is to facilitate the communication and implementation of new ideas and initiatives to and from C&C staff. Current initiatives being discussed are paperless request forms, power management and ink cartridge recycling. Previous initiatives supported by C&C include online course registration, course listings, online telephone directory, online university Calendar, cell phone recycling, C&C paperless flex time requests, modification of standing offers to include Energy Star and low consumption power supplies, hardware replacements to reduce power consumption, and virtualization of servers to reduce hardware usage. Find out how you can get involved in reducing our carbon footprint at www.mun.ca/cc/sustainability. Other Memorial employees who have ideas about how technology can be used to help sustainability are encouraged to contact angela@mun.ca.
Shave for the Brave

Debbie McGee of DELT participates in Memorial’s Annual Shave for the Brave. The student-organized event raised approximately $11,000 for Young Adult Cancer Canada. Debbie, shown here, raised almost $2,200 for her shave, which was in honour of her sister Robin. DELT colleagues contributed more than $500 of that amount. Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB6bBb49Ytc.

CAUBO conference keeps on giving

Last summer delegates to the Canadian Association of Business Officers conference were invited to rock the common at Memorial during the annual gathering of the organization. Long after the conference wrapped, surplus funds from the event have continued to create positive reverberations. An endowed scholarship and bursary has now been established for dependents of current, retired or deceased staff members of Memorial. The funds will be awarded each year by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards. Thanks to the 80 volunteers who helped make the conference a success and made these endowments possible. Here, Financial and Administrative Services Director Debbie Collis, Alumni Affairs and Development Director Penny Blackwood and Vice-President (Administration and Finance) Kent Decker make it official.

CAUBO conference keeps on giving

Susan McNicholas (left) and Daphne Lilly, members of the St. John’s chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) are pictured here during their February book collection blitz at the Arts and Culture Centre. The women are gearing up for a giant book sale at the centre from April 29-30. Money raised from the sale is used to fund scholarships for students at Memorial and the College of the North Atlantic, art programs in the province’s schools, Kiwanis music bursaries, Memorial’s campus food bank and a school in Nairobi, Kenya. If you would like to get involved with the CFUW, call 570 7596 or email cfuwstjohns@gmail.com. High school students and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers Matthew Clarke (left) and Alexander Russell are shown helping out.

GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

Maybe you have an interesting story or photo? Perhaps you know someone who has been recognized with an award? Any new babies or retirements in your area? Let us know – we’re always interested to hear from staff, faculty and retirees. Contact editor Shannon O’Dea Dawson at sodawson@mun.ca or 682 0540. Drop a line to The Communicator, Department of Human Resources, Arts and Administration Building, Room 4031, St. John’s, NL, A1C 5S7.

Checking in with Health and Safety

SHEILA MILLER, director of the Department of Health and Safety (DHS), and her staff at 208 Elizabeth Ave. have been busy since they moved to their new digs almost a year ago. Sheila says that in order to create a culture of safety, her department has been hard at work engaged in the re-development of Memorial’s health and safety program.

This re-development has involved improvement and change in several areas. Some examples are a partnership with the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation to increase ergonomic assessments; improvements in fire safety such as recruiting volunteer emergency wardens and correcting deficiencies in residence houses; ensuring all work undertaken by all contractors is compliant with university policies and health and safety legislation; and launching online training for radiation safety.

“Managing the risk, you have to understand it,” says Sheila. “It’s all about strategy, communication, training, team-building, prevention and performance measure. We’re all in this together.”
FROM A VERY EARLY AGE, Finley Beaton knew what he wanted to do for a living.

Finley was raised on a farm in the community of Mabou, a small village on Cape Breton Island, N.S. With a plethora of tools, equipment and gear that needed regular maintenance and repairs, he developed an interest in electronics and engineering.

Those interests eventually led him to become the head technician on the Atlanticat, a catamaran boat used by MI’s School of Ocean Technology for ocean mapping.

Upon completion of high school, Finley enrolled in the electronic engineering technology program at the Nova Scotia Community College Institute of Technology in Halifax. He joined the Marine Institute in August 2010.

“So far, it’s been great at the Marine Institute,” he says. “It’s very interesting work.”

Among his duties on the Atlanticat, Finley is responsible for maintaining the ocean mapping equipment and occasionally operating the equipment. Given the complexity and importance of the gear, Finley plays an important role in MI’s ability to collect the vital information available via ocean mapping.

In the spring of 2010, the Marine Institute purchased state-of-the-art ocean mapping equipment. These advanced tools are used by students in the ocean mapping program, offering them the opportunity for at-sea training they could not receive at any other post-secondary institution in Canada. The chance to be part of such groundbreaking work means a lot to Finley, who relishes the opportunity to help MI advance ocean mapping in Newfoundland and Labrador.

“It’s quite the job opportunity to come in and work with equipment of that level,” he says. “Every time we go out in the boat to do some work, I’m amazed at the return and the quality of the results we get.”

MI technician enjoys time with the Cat

MUSIC AT MEMORIAL is on the edge of new worlds with a season that concludes with Opera’s in One, MUN Jazz Ensemble, Omnivorous Furniture, Human Interface, and New Adventures. Sylvie Proulx, chair of the Concerts Committee that selects the nationally and internationally acclaimed artists that appear on the series each year, teaches classical guitar at the School of Music. Like many other faculty members and students, Sylvie performs regularly and has just released a CD of her own. For daily updates and listings of all concerts, ring the hotline at 864 4455 or visit www.mun.ca/music/concerts/index.php.

Meet Memorial 2011

THE MEET MEMORIAL series of open houses for staff and faculty continues this summer with all new sites. Every Wednesday from May 25 - Aug. 17, you are encouraged to meet the people, see the resources and open your eyes to all that’s happening at Memorial.

For more information, check out www.mun.ca/meetmemorial/meet/ or contact Shannon O’Dea Dawson at sodawson@mun.ca.

Grenfell Campus renovations ongoing

GRENFELL CAMPUS maintenance staff Larry Brake, above left, and Will Gay were busy with renovations in the old faculty/staff lounge in the Arts and Science Building recently. In about two weeks, the space took on a new shape and atmosphere with fresh paint, new flooring, and new lighting. Pictured (l-r) in the updated lounge are staff members Madonna Day and Glennis Keats of the Grenfell Bookstore and Jeannette Kerrivan of Community Education and College Relations. And it’s not finished yet. There are still some cosmetic changes left to come, such as planters and new furniture. Stay tuned!
A group of international students is keen to learn all they can about working in Canada and Jennifer White, Professional Skills Development Program Co-ordinator with Student Affairs and Services, is teaching all she can. Jennifer leads a program to prepare international students for employment in Canada. She focuses on communication skills, culture and career preparation, and volunteer and networking opportunities. This program instills a level of Canadian job search knowledge and preparation that will assist students throughout their academic study and after graduation.

The seven sessions in this program focus on intercultural communication, the job search process, interview skills, resume and cover letter writing, and workplace etiquette. The program also includes networking events to get students outside of their comfort zone; by attending career fairs, trade shows or employer information sessions they practice introducing themselves, highlight their skills, and increase knowledge of employers and community members. There is a mandatory volunteer component where students learn how employers perceive community involvement and they are able to experience getting off campus, meeting new people, get to know their community and improve their communication skills. Participation in a mock interview and submission of a resume and cover letter for critique are required in order for students to receive the completion certificate.

“...My main goal is to help the students succeed,” says Jennifer. “I’d like them to get more involved and feel more comfortable. They learn quickly about the job search process, job market and career opportunities. Now it’s about networking experience and comfort level.”

If you’re interested in getting involved with this program, contact Jennifer at jwhite@mun.ca or 864 2033.

The whole is greater than the sum of its parts

DO YOU LOVE NUMBERS? Really love numbers? If so, you’d have a lot in common with Paul Chancey, director of the Centre for Institutional Analysis and Planning (CIAP). Paul is a self-professed information junkie whose job it is to analyze data, identify trends and occasionally debunk institutional myths. He is always on the lookout for the broader context of things and enjoys digging deeper to find what the numbers really mean.

At the CIAP, located on the first floor of the Arts and Administration building, Paul leads a team of six people that is responsible for Memorial’s academic program review, course evaluations, providing support to the vice-presidents’ offices through report generation, analysis, resource allocation review and survey research. As well, the work of the CIAP helps inform others and supports decision making. It works at the institutional, strategic level on planning and budgeting and also provides general information to all areas of the university. The centre produces the annual Fact Book, academic performance profiles and other regular reports. It recently facilitated the university’s strategic planning process, which led to Memorial’s most recent plan Five Pillars.

Having been a student at Memorial in the late 1970s, and an employee since 1984, Paul enjoys continuing to learn about the organization of the university and is sometimes surprised by new information and meanings he discovers.

“I’m usually one of the first people to look at results from a survey,” says Paul. “That, and working with the great bunch of talented people here in CIAP, are the best parts of my job.”

Holiday Clarification

All in the family

WORK IS ALL about relationships. And commitment. And friendship. You’ll find this and more in the three generations of Fraize women.

Shirley Fraize, mother and grandmother, began her 27-year career with Memorial in 1969. Shirley worked for 16 years with the Institute of Social and Economic Research, 10 with the Faculty of Arts and her final year with the Learned Societies Secretariat. Shirley joined her husband in retirement in 1996.

Shirley has three daughters who work at Memorial: Linda Kirby began in 1976 and works with Family Medicine; Susan Hicks began in 1980 and works with the Faculty of Education; and Beverly Fraize-Roche began in 1982 and works across the hall from Susan in Education. Linda’s daughter and Shirley’s granddaughter, Heather Kirby, is a 22-year-old student at Memorial studying folklore and classics. She intends to pursue journalism and travel after graduation.

Shirley Fraize was recognized with a Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association Tribute Award during a luncheon reception on Dec. 16, 2010, hosted by President Kachanoski. Shirley was recognized for her long-standing commitment and leadership. Linda earned a President’s Award for Exemplary Service Award in 2007, and this May, Susan and Linda will be recognized for 30 years of service at the annual Employee Service Awards Ceremony. Together they have created a legacy of loyalty, professionalism and well-being. Success never looked so good.

Wishes can come true

SOMETIMES you should be careful what you wish for. When Lori Pike, associate director of budgets with Financial and Administrative Services, hoped to one day volunteer and support the Janeway Children’s Hospital and cancer research, she had no idea how her wish would eventually materialize. In 2007, one month before her oldest son Adam turned five, he was diagnosed with medulloblastoma. Doctors had discovered a tumour in the little boy’s brain the size and shape of a kiwi fruit. Since the initial diagnosis, Adam underwent a nine-hour surgery, a month of recuperation in the Janeway, six weeks of radiation, nine rounds of chemotherapy, countless checkups and regular MRIs. Today, he is nine years old and three years cancer-free.

Adam is this year’s Janeway Telethon child and champion child. Each year the Champion Child Program organizes a trip to Ottawa, Ont., to meet other champion children and their families from across Canada. In November, Governor-General David Johnston and his wife Sharon hosted a private party at Rideau Hall for the group. Highlights of the trip included meeting Vancouver 2010 gold medal athletes Brian McKeever and Heather Moyse, touring the Royal Canadian Mint, experiencing the Eternal Flame on Parliament Hill and watching Justin Hines, a Canadian singer-songwriter who has a rare genetic joint condition, perform. The group then travelled to Florida to meet the champion children from the U.S. and to take in Disney World.

“It’s so inspiring to see this group of children,” says Lori. “All they’ve gone through and they don’t let it get them down. It’s all about what’s inside shining through.”

As part of their Janeway fundraising efforts, Lori, husband Jason, Adam and six-year-old Lucas collect pennies every year to donate to the telethon. So far, Adam and Lucas, along with family and friends, have contributed more than $6,200. This year, since Adam is the Telethon Child, there’s even more involvement as part of the Janeway community.

As well, to help with the different pressures families experience with a critically ill child, Lori also volunteers with the operations committee of the Ronald McDonald House of Newfoundland and Labrador. She feels grateful that Adam was able to receive all his expert treatment at home and knows other children and their families are not as fortunate.

“I’ve been there and can understand and help others.”

“This is a way for us to give back some of what was given to us,” says Lori. “I’ve been there and can understand and help others. Your world can fall apart when your child is seriously ill. It’s essential to keep families together during an emotionally and financially draining time. The Ronald McDonald House can help with that.”

Now, Lori has a new normal. “You don’t change as a person,” she says. “Your life changes. You look at everything differently. Our life is richer now because of the experiences we’ve had, the people we have met, and our involvement with the Janeway. I feel a special bond with families going through this and I don’t take one minute for granted.”

In the end, Lori’s wish of volunteering and supporting the Janeway Hospital came true. She had no idea she would experience first-hand the devastation that can come with a serious diagnosis, but is grateful her family is helping make wishes come true for other sick children, who are all champions in her eyes.
FOR 31 YEARS, Brian Mallard has been finding the best space on the St. John's campus for people. He is the facilities and summer accommodations supervisor, responsible for all non-academic facility bookings for staff, students, faculty and external clients. Brian is also responsible for campus summer accommodations. Basically, if you need a room between April and September, you’ll be speaking with Brian.

“While we're bustling at the seams,” says Brian, “we do our best to accommodate all requests.” Brian is responsible for 82 meeting spaces in science, chemistry, engineering, arts and education buildings. He also books out space in R. Gushue Hall, Pri's Place and West Hatcher House. R. Gushue Hall is popular for conferences and weddings.

For employees, students and external clients, meeting space can be secured through Brian. All academic bookings go through Wanda Parrott and Theresa Doyle in the Registrar’s Office, unless it’s an after-hours tutorial or session in which case Brian confirms the space. While demand varies, Brian typically manages about 200 requests for space each week.

Brian is responsible for summer accommodations on campus for external clients, such as schools and sport groups, casuals and conference delegates.

“We have been hosting Festival 500, Shad Valley and SIFE Memorial for many years,” says Brian. “I do my best to make sure everyone gets a comfortable bed and any meeting space they require while on campus. From May until August this year, we’re involved with more than 30 groups.”

As the main contact for summer accommodations, Brian confirms the space, hires and supervises summer student staff, and prepares invoicing. Brian and his team are committed to excellent customer service.

Due to renovations in Squires House and Burke House this summer, Memorial’s residence capacity is approximately 1,100 beds.

Brian’s own view will be different next year as he is contemplating retirement. He says he’s enjoyed speaking with tourists about Newfoundland and all it has to offer throughout his career. From wherever he is, he promises to continue to be an ambassador for Memorial and Newfoundland.

If you wish to book space or explore summer accommodations at Memorial, Brian can be reached at conferences@mun.ca or by phoning 864 7657 (toll free at 1 877 730 7657).
Memorial’s resident rockers punk out in their off hours

WHILE THERE are many of us here at Memorial who might like to take in live music in our off hours, there are some who like to make music in their off hours – and sometimes into the wee ones, too.

Doug Rowe (left), customs agent with Financial Administrative Services, and Peter King, research lab co-ordinator at CREAT, are half of the rock band Two Guitars Clash. Although the two knew each other prior to becoming bandmates, it wasn’t until they attended the same tender opening on the St. John’s campus that they realized they were co-workers as well.

Their mutual love for rock punk – as they describe their musical style – has kept the band going strong since Peter joined the group in 2009. He says, as an engineer, he needs the band to balance out his work life.

“Music is always something I’ve done, since I was in high school. When you work in a technical field you need to have a creative outlet,” he says.

Doug lives and breathes music, too. When on stage, he says the band can be counted on to give 200 per cent – something their dedicated fan base appreciates. He’s even invited some of his co-workers to take in a Two Guitars Clash show and to listen to some of their recordings.

“A few of them bought our 2008 release Heart and Brain,” he says. “I found it funny because they all came back and said that it didn’t sound like me. I guess when you’re belting out Slash ‘n Burn you’re not the same guy from the office.”

Two Guitars Clash’s latest album, The New Economy, is upbeat and positive, and tackles a wide range of themes varying from human trafficking to globalization to labour exploitation at home and abroad. Peter, who plays bass, says the album focuses on delivering “solid guitar driven music with an even more solid message.” It is due on shelves in April.

“We put a lot of effort into this and I think it will show,” says Doug. “We are all very proud of the result.”

And asked whether or not anyone in the CREAT offices is aware of his other job, Peter has this to share: “I don’t think so, though I guess some of them may find out for the first time from this article.”

To find out more about Doug and Peter’s music, visit www.twoguitarsclash.com, check them out on YouTube or visit their Facebook page.

Ergonomic assessments

“MY MUSIC PLAYER tells me that the last seven songs I listened to are by Andy Palacio (Garifuna music from Belize), Anthrax (metal, due to the bad influence of Yvan Rose, one of my colleagues in the linguistics department), Magazine (post-punk), Son Volt (alt. country), Howlin’ Wolf (blues), Glenn Gould (playing a Mozart piece) and Cuarteto Coculense (one of the very first Mariachi bands, from Cocula, Mexico).

If there’s a pattern to emerge from that (something vaguely Mesoamerican, perhaps?), I’m not sure what it’d be. I’ve been listening to a fair amount of West African stuff of late – some of those Ghanaian percussionists are well beyond astounding. I’m really liking Adesa (from Ghana, but now based out of Germany, I think) and guitarist Ebo Taylor who’s in his mid-’70s, but can still out-James Brown James Brown in his prime. The only genre of music that I can think of that you’ll never hear coming from my office is show tunes.

Generally, though, you’ll hear noisy rock music. My sentimental soft spot is Motörhead. I’ve been to a number of universities where the campus radio station is . . . well, bad, but Memorial isn’t one of them. I find CHMR to be a good starting point for seeking out other music I might like.”

DOUG WHARRAM
Assistant professor and co-ordinator
Aboriginal Studies minor program
Department of Linguistics
St. John’s campus

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GINNY RYAN, director of Memorial’s Writing Centre on the St. John’s campus, recently fulfilled a lifelong dream: recording an album of her own original music.

Great Wings in Flight, released in December 2010, is a collection of folk songs Ginny wrote over a period of many years. Together with her producer, the legendary folk musician and Memorial honorary graduate Pamela Morgan, the album features songs that range in topic from the province of Newfoundland and Labrador to Ginny’s mother to the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.

In order to finance the project, Ginny saved every cent she could throughout the years, squirreling the money away in a dedicated bank account. There were other challenges, too. She was obliged to devote countless hours to restoring sufficient nimbleness to her fingers in order to accompany herself on guitar. One song even required the assistance of retired QEII librarian and Gaelic speaker Dorothy Milne to provide a translation of the English lyrics to Gaelic and a proper pronunciation of the words.

“I’m immeasurably glad to have fulfilled this dream, but I’ve realized that even now I am not done,” she says. “A huge box of CDs still sits in our spare room. Contained in them are many stories, but recording those stories doesn’t fulfill my promise to them as I had thought it would. Now I need to make sure that they get heard.”

A LASTING LEGACY in memory of “the whale man,” became finalized on March 4 at a reception on the St. John’s campus. The endowed scholarship will enable an entering graduate student to pursue studies in marine animal behaviour, marine conservation, coastal community revitalization, or the solution to a current fishery challenge. The first scholarship will be awarded in 2012. A cheque for $3,000 was presented and the winner of the special painting “In Good Hands” by Toby Rabinowitz, was announced.

MEMORIAL has one of the largest and most innovative work forces in the province with cutting-edge research, award-winning teaching, outstanding service to the community and so much more. Career milestones were celebrated, contributions recognized and quality of work measured on three of our campuses between Nov. 30, 2010 and March 4, 2011.

CAREER SNAPSHOT:
5,519 employees on three campuses (508 at Grenfell Campus, 466 at the Marine Institute and 4,745 in St. John’s)
2,813 permanent employees
1,148 part-time contractual employees
28 part-time positions
1,296 full-time contractual positions
609 people are employed by separately incorporated entities and agencies

DEVELOPMENTS:
103 new hires
326 re-hires
30 employees transferred to another department
7 staff retired
11 faculty retired

Smoking Policy proposed revision

www.mun.ca/policy/status/Smoking.php
Contribute comments by March 30, 2011, to health.safety@mun.ca or 864 3786.

upcloseandpersonal

The Communicator helps put a face to a name in HR

JACKIE PITCHER-MARCH is a busy woman. Her role as executive assistant to the director of Human Resources keeps the director and the department organized and on track. But her day begins long before arriving at Memorial. She drives an hour and 20 minutes to work from Green’s Harbour, car-pooling with four others. She has been driving back and forth for so long, she doesn’t give it a thought.

Born and raised in Heart’s Content, Jackie lived in St. John’s for 15 years before choosing to live in Green’s Harbour. She bought a new house a couple of years ago and has been putting her larger garden to good use. She experimented with tomatoes, pumpkins, strawberries and blueberries last year. This year, she’s branching out to grow more vegetables, especially root vegetables – they’ll go great in her weekly jigg’s dinner. You may even see her roadside vegetable stand on the Trans-Canada Highway near Whitsome.

Five months of the year, her primary focus is employee service awards, which is rewarding and all-consuming. “I really enjoy the interaction with the 300-plus employees.”

Every year for five years, all recipients are different, many of whom Jackie knows or has heard of and now gets to interact with more closely.

“It’s exciting to be a part of what recipients deem to be a meaningful milestone.”

Jackie is also very involved in staff orientation sessions which are organized quarterly.

This is Jackie’s 30th anniversary of working at Memorial and I appreciate how much she improved my skills, having set the standard high.”

She reflects back to lessons learned when she first arrived in St. John’s. Jackie worked at the Faculty of Education and certainly received one, under the guidance of Bessie Ward.

“She played such an important role in my early years at Memorial and I appreciate how much she improved my skills, having set the standard high.”

An avid fisherwoman and handywoman, Jackie may not be able to do it all but she’ll give it a try. She loves being outdoors and keeping her hands busy. She loves being on the water, in the garden and spending time with husband Scott and their two sons, Nicholas and David. Jackie and Scott are big NASCAR fans. They’ve planned a special trip to the Barrett Jackson Auction in Las Vegas in September.

YOU’VE SEEN IT in the movies. You may even know someone who does it. Fencing is the next big new old thing. Dr. Theo Norvell, professor of engineering, and Michelle Osmond (pictured right), communications co-ordinator with Nursing, get together each week to duel, the old-fashioned way: they draw their swords.

“I began fencing in grade school,” says Theo. “A teacher in school was giving classes and my friends were doing it. I’ve kept with it my whole life. We began the fencing club in St. John’s in 2002 and while I’ve been the main coach, a number of people join who fenced before. And, it isn’t long before students get good enough to challenge me.”

Fencing is a challenging sport, combining mental and physical abilities. “You use your mind to figure out what to do,” explains Theo. “It’s a skill set that continually develops, requiring fast reaction and decision making. It’s good for every age, size and skill level. You can learn to use whatever you have to your advantage.”

Michelle took up the sport in 2005, being attracted to the elegance and the formality around the rules of fencing. “It’s a very graceful sport but at the same time, it suits my personality,” explains Michelle. “I am determined and strong-willed, so fencing lets me explore that too. My son thinks fencing is cool and has since begun classes, along with my husband. It’s something we’ll eventually be able to do together.”

Fencing is good exercise, requiring core strength, focus and balance. “And, it’s always great to learn a new skill,” says Michelle.

If you’re interested in learning more about the art and sport of fencing, go to www.uas.mun.ca/-fencing/ or email Dr. Norvell at theo@mun.ca (put fencing in the subject line). At about $70 per semester, including all equipment rentals, the sport will make you glad you drew your sword and made contact.

Jennifer Browne (Career Development and Experiential Learning), Glenn Myrick (Computing and Communications) and big brother Ryan are thrilled to announce the safe arrival of their precious son Brendan Francis Myrick on Jan. 3, 2011.

Katrina Mercer of Distance Education and Learning Technologies and Hiram Snow welcomed their son Matthew David Ralph Snow on Jan. 29, 2011.

Emily and Travis Wooley welcomed baby Evan Frederick Wooley on Feb. 17, 2011. Emily manages human resources for the Faculty of Medicine.

Medical education leader retires

AFTER 40 YEARS with Memorial University, Dr. Penny Hansen, Faculty of Medicine, has retired. A reception was held at the medical school in her honour on Feb. 24. Penny came to Memorial in 1970 as a research assistant with Dr. Ken Roberts, the first associate dean of medicine and professor of physiology for the new medical school at Memorial. She did her PhD at Memorial and set up her own physiology laboratory. In 1988 she took on the position of assistant dean for Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) and decided to close her lab and devote herself full-time to teaching and the work of UGME. She was the first faculty member at Memorial University to receive the prestigious 3M Fellowship for Teaching Excellence, awarded in 1990. Her excellence in teaching was also recognized in 2008 when she received the 16th Annual Arthur C. Guyton Physiology Educator of the Year Award from the American Physiological Society. During the last five years Dr. Hansen has served on the Medical Education Leadership Team which is leading the process of curriculum renewal in the Faculty of Medicine.

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CONGRATULATIONS go out to Human Resources Adviser Amy Carroll who correctly guessed the 2010 winter edition of The Communicator’s Days Gone By mystery photo! Amy identified the opening occasion of the Memorial University Art Gallery in the university library’s original location in the basement of the Henrietta Harvey building.

This time, we want you to take a look at the photo to the left. On Jan. 1, 1943, the 30-cent stamp was issued to commemorate the province’s most important memorial to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the First World War: Memorial University College. The mystery question is: In what year was the Memorial stamp surcharged due to a postal rate change and a subsequent shortage of two cent stamps?

Send your guess to mandyc@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 April 30, 2011. 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 Manuscripts Division, QE II Library, for all her help putting together the contest.

Thanks and good luck!
Mandy Cook

“I CO-ORDINATE the operation of the mass spectrometry laboratory housed within the Center for Chemical Analysis Research and Training (C-CART), a satellite of the CREAT Network. I maintain a variety of mass spectrometers and train both graduate and undergraduate students to use these instruments to assist them in their research efforts. Students use these instruments to study a broad range of compounds from very small molecules to large proteins and I work closely with users to determine the best approach to their particular research project.

“This facility is also used in the laboratory component of a number of courses offered by the Department of Chemistry. In addition to research and teaching support, I also analyze samples from government agencies and the private sector.

“A major part of my job is the day-to-day maintenance of the instruments and troubleshooting problems when they arise. In this aspect of my job, I am greatly assisted by Memorial’s Technical Services. One of the most interesting aspects of my job is the interdisciplinary nature of the work. I get to work with students from the fields of engineering, pharmacy, biochemistry, biology and chemistry. It is very interesting to see first-hand some of the research being conducted here at Memorial and very rewarding to play a part in it.”

LINDA WINSOR
Research laboratory co-ordinator | CREAT Network (Core Research Equipment and Instrument Training) | St. John’s campus

“What do you do at Memorial?”

“Social media sites are incredibly important to reach out to patrons and staff. Whether it’s sending event info on Twitter or Facebook, updating websites on WordPress, or posting videos or pictures on YouTube or Flickr, my job relies on social media to get our message out.”

TERRY RANDELL
Liquor services co-ordinator | Grenfell Campus Student Union | Corner Brook

“Oh, I like that we have Facebook on our website. It’s a place where everyone, whether you’re staff, faculty or a student, can share news and photos and other stuff. It brings us all closer together.”

SHARON TUCKER
Administrative staff specialist | School of Pharmacy | St. John’s campus

“Our Facebook fan page is simply one of the best ways to reach a wide audience. Updates appear directly in each fan’s news feed. Our fan base includes students, staff, faculty, alumni and people from all over the world. We use this media to advertise seminars and events, and to provide links to useful physics-related websites and news.”

FRED PERRY
Systems administrator | Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, Faculty of Science | St. John’s campus

“Social media and Twitter have been instrumental in helping us keep in contact with our students. We let them know about important academic deadlines, scholarship notices and fun events on campus. Social media helps us reach out to students using a medium we know they’re actively engaged with. You can follow me on Twitter @studentliaison!”

RHONDA MCMEEKIN
Student liaison officer | Academic and Student Affairs | Marine Institute | St. John’s