Sister act

NOT EVERYBODY at the Marine Institute is aware Lesley Bonsell and Judy Perry are sisters. However, once people find out, they are never surprised.

“We don’t tell everyone we’re sisters, but after a while they start wondering, ‘Why are these two so close?’ They start wondering why two co-workers get along so well,” Lesley says.

Lesley, pictured at far right, and Judy grew up in the west coast town of Pasadena, with Lesley moving to St. John’s in 1992 to attend Memorial University. Judy followed in 1996, first to attend Memorial and then the Marine Institute, where she graduated from the food safety program.

Judy was first hired to work at MI in 2001; Lesley joined the institute in 2002. Today, the sisters both work in the School of Fisheries, with Lesley serving as an instructor and Judy as a lab demonstrator.

The sisters actually work together a fair bit, with Judy acting as a demonstrator for many of the labs Lesley instructs.

“People think we’re together all the time because we’re sisters, but we’re kind of forced into it,” Lesley says with a laugh.

“It’s a good thing we get along well,” Judy adds. “If we didn’t get along as well as we did, it would be a lot harder.”

Lesley and Judy live close to each other in Paradise and spend a lot of time together on the weekends and in the summer. They enjoy walks, exercising and geocaching (a treasure hunting game where you use a GPS to hide and seek containers with other participants) together in their spare time.

“Working together kind of happened by accident, but it’s worked out well,” Judy says. “It’s nice to have someone in the building you can always talk to or just grab a coffee with.”
JUST RECENTLY we awarded more than 2,000 degrees during the spring session of convocation. It is a great way to mark our first year as president and vice-chancellor of Memorial, which officially began on July 1, 2010. It was an eventful year and there is much to reflect on.

Great importance are the appointments of Drs. David Wardlaw and Mary Bleuchar as vice-president (academic) and pro-vice chancellor and vice-president of Grenfell Campus, respectively. Dr. Wardlaw joins us Aug. 1, and Dr. Bleuchar will report to work July 1. They are proven leaders and I look forward to working with them as we continue to build the Memorial of the future.

We also have a number of capital projects underway as we renew Memorial’s infrastructure. The major projects are the new 500-bed residence under construction at our St. John’s campus and expected to be complete by summer’s end in 2012, and the new academic building extension as well as a new 200-bed residence at Grenfell Campus.

This past year we’ve had some significant funding announcements including new scholarship programs for students and investments in our Ocean Engineering Research Centre, and the Marine Institute’s Centre for Marine Simulation and Offshore Safety and Survival Centre. Our business students have done us proud by claiming the right as national champions to vie for the Students in Free Enterprise World Cup competition in Malaysia in October. Grenfell Campus has launched the first master’s program in environmental policy in Canada and, in just a few weeks, our Research Centre in Music, Media and Place will host the 2011 International Council of Traditional Music conference, the leading global venue for the presentation of new research in music and dance.

The launch of new research chairs in ocean technology, petroleum engineering, Arctic and harsh environments, and mineral exploration this year highlights some of the overarching themes in our new Research Plan, which is scheduled for release this fall. It’s based on broad consultation with our internal and external communities and themes in the new report reflect opportunities for all parts of Memorial. The focus is on research excellence rather than research participation. This reflects the evolution of the research culture at Memorial, our international status in a number of research areas, and opportunities for further growth.

As well, our Teaching and Learning Framework has been completed and approved by Senate. The framework articulates a vision for teaching and learning at Memorial, and establishes criteria for evaluation of teaching and learning, identifies gaps and needs, and suggests key approaches we need to better celebrate and pursue the teaching and learning experience at our university.

These new plans will provide a solid foundation for the development of the next Strategic Plan for Memorial University. I want to thank all of you for making my first year at Memorial so memorable.

I wish each of you a wonderful summer!

I’VE BEEN at Memorial almost five months now and just when I think I’m getting the hang of things, I learn something completely new and unexpected. That will be the way things go for a while, I expect. It’s been so interesting meeting with people who have made Memorial what it is. Recently, we celebrated career milestones of 242 employees at the 24th Annual Employee Service Awards reception. We recognized approximately a combined 6,500 years of contribution to Memorial’s success. Congratulations to those who were acknowledged at the event. It was truly inspiring.

My familiarization with the university experience continues as I connect with Memorial’s faculty and staff and contacts at other universities and organizations. I am reviewing processes and experiences utilized by others to ensure we make the best decisions possible. Helping me to do this will be the new associate director of human resources, Valerie Butler. Val is an experienced HR professional who will focus on the planning and implementation of the new management system, policy development and operational leadership.

Looking towards the summer months, Meet Memorial will showcase a series of open houses at 11 different academic and administrative units on the St. John’s campus. Be sure to join the tour!

You are welcome to join the training for Memorial’s Tilty 10 team as we prepare to participate in this traditional event on July 24. Practice has begun and complete details are available at www.mun.ca/wellness.

Fifty per cent of Weigh Watchers at Work program fees are now being delivered, operating services and education of employees including job evaluation. Recruitment, retention and retention will be key points.

I wish you a fun-filled, safe and happy summer with your family, friends and colleagues. I hope you find time to enjoy all the pleasure summer brings! Should you wish to reach me, I am available at 709-864-4615 or stephen.dodge@mun.ca.

Resources are aligned with university strategy. We want to enhance services to faculties and departments and ensure the most effective leadership in areas of people plan, service delivery, operations and evaluation of systems including job evaluation. Recruitment, retention and reputation will be key points.

I wish you a fun-filled, safe and happy summer with your family, friends and colleagues. I hope you find time to enjoy all the pleasure summer brings! Should you wish to reach me, I am available at 709-864-4615 or stephen.dodge@mun.ca.

If you’ve had a change of address, let Human Resources know so they can ensure you keep getting The Communicator. There are several ways to update your address:

• Through Employee Self-Service at my.mun.ca
• Email humanresources@mun.ca
• Write to the Department of Human Resources, Arts and Administration Building, St. John’s, NL, A1C 5S7

A phone call to our editor or HR cannot effect a change of address in our files. A written request to update your moving address must be made. Thank you for staying in touch.

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MEMORIAL University’s Emergency Management Steering Committee approved a new all-hazards emergency management plan for both the Grenfell and the St. John’s campuses on April 20. The Board of Regents also approved the Emergency Management Policy on May 19 and the new plans will come into effect in January 2012. Similar emergency plans will be written for the Marine Institute and the Harlow Campus.

“The plans for the St. John’s and Grenfell campuses address potential hazards, each of which will have their own threat-specific functional sub-plan,” said Karen Alexander, emergency management co-ordinator with Memorial. Ms. Alexander led university-wide planning groups and co-ordinated the development of these new plans.

The Office of Emergency Management, supported by an emergency marketing and communications strategy, will begin educating the university community on the plans’ objectives, individual roles and responsibilities and how university personnel should be prepared.

“These new campus plans are based on four emergency management principles: preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery,” Ms. Alexander said. “Emergency planning has a wider scope today 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.”

Ms. Alexander said the training her office is developing and will be interactive, engaging and will focus on the functional task completed by specific units and what may be needed when and if your office is impacted by a specific threat.

During the coming months, educational sessions will be organized with academic and administrative units at both the St. John’s campus and Grenfell Campus. For more information, please see www.mun.ca/emergency or call 709-864-7661 or 709-864-7544.

MUNPA Tribute Awards

NOMINATIONS are invited for the next round of the Memorial University of Newfoundland Pensioners Association (MUNPA) Tribute Awards. These awards recognize outstanding post-retirement service and/or achievement in any of the following categories:

• Outstanding service to the university
• Outstanding service to the community
• Outstanding personal achievement

Retired employees of Memorial, whether they be faculty or staff, with no fewer than five years of employment service at Memorial are eligible for nomination. To be considered for an award, a candidate must be nominated by at least two MUNPA members. The nomination form is available on the MUNPA webpage at www.mun.ca/munpa, can be requested from the MUNPA office by calling 709-864-6979 or by sending an email to munpa@mun.ca. The deadline for submission of nominations is July 31.

Pictured above is 2010 Tribute award winner Dr. Sharon Buhrler with Dr. Kachanoski.

Battery recycling

JESSICA BARRY, MUCEP student with the Sustainability Office, sorts rechargeable batteries collected from the Life Science Stores. Rechargeable batteries are collected at the Sustainability Office and sent to the Rechargeable Battery Recycling Corporation where reusable materials are reclaimed. Currently, there is no drop-off location at Memorial for non-rechargeable batteries (also called alkaline or single use).

Pick up of non-rechargeable batteries may be arranged for a fee. Email sustain@mun.ca for more information.

Residents of the Eastern Region of the province can drop all types of batteries to the Household Hazardous Waste depot at Robin Hood Bay on Saturdays from June 4-Nov. 26. For more information, go to www.curbitstjohns.ca.

Dumpster diving

MEMORIAL students (L-R) Chao Wang and Jenn Broadbridge join Sustainability Co-ordinator Toby Rowe as they sort through garbage from the University Centre food court as part of the St. John’s campus waste audit that took place in March. The Sustainability Office, in partnership with the Department of Geography, is conducting a year-long waste audit. The audit will provide data on the types of waste generated on campus, help assess the success of recycling programs and lead to recommendations on reducing waste.
LOOK UP, look way up. The tower crane currently being used on Hatcher Field on the St. John’s campus can be seen for miles around. The site, of course, is the location of two new student residence towers. Christine Burke, director of Housing, Food and Conference Services, and Nancy Parsons, assistant director, operations, with Housing, Food and Conference Services, are managing the project after four years of research, planning, consulting, evaluation and budgeting.

“It was essential to have input from students,” says Christine. “Through focus groups, surveys, design models and many sessions, students have told us their priorities.” The new residences will have private bathrooms, study and communal space on each floor, a skywalk to Hatcher House and green space.

“As well, both residences will be wheelchair accessible,” Christine says. “Some rooms will be completely modified to accommodate wheelchair accessibility.”

“Currently, we have 1,500 beds,” says Nancy. “These two towers will accommodate an additional 500 beds for a combination of first year, senior, local, national and international students.” The buildings are expected to be LEED Silver certified — the first Memorial building to be internationally recognized with green building certification. The residences have been designed and will be built using strategies intended to improve performance in terms of energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction and improved indoor environmental quality. Ongoing renovations to existing residences will also continue until they are all upgraded.

The 160-foot high tower crane will be on site until March 2012. The $65 million project is expected to be complete in 2013, with the west tower finished in the spring and the east tower ready for the summer.

Student recruiter Chris Hibbs gives The Communicator an insider’s view of the job – and the challenge

CAREENING down the wrong side of a congested road in China’s Hubei province, I brace my body against the metal cage separating me from the driver. Despite the chaos outside my window — and the lack of seatbelts in the ageing Citroen — my mind drifts to thoughts of home and family. Not in supplication to St. Christopher for deliverance from this harrowing transit to the airport, strangely enough. No, no. Rather, I begin to contemplate the idea of home and what it means to the students I am trying to recruit.

What will entice one individual from a city of nine million to an island with one twentieth the population? A place where the tidal rhythm of life differs so dramatically from their homeland (though not without its “liberty strike(s)” of life pounding at stubborn gates), as poet E.J. Pratt once coined? How do you promote an island and an education that has to be experienced to be understood?

The pitch isn’t easy. Getting people to listen in an overcrowded, globally hungry educational marketplace is nothing short of a struggle. The lure of international rankings in which a single number demarcates institutional worth is often enough to elevate one university into good favour and relegate all others into ill repute. Thusly, the decision is made to spend many thousands of dollars and several years of one’s life in pursuit of higher education abroad.

If I believed that to be the rule, then the time spent away from home this past fall and winter in planes, trains and automobiles will have been all for naught. But I do not. Fortune favours the brave soul who looks beyond the numbered list, the person who seeks a more holistic view of the place where they will spend a transformative portion of their lives. Those who take the time to absorb not only my words, but the words of the alumni who have come before them, the faculty travelling abroad cultivating links and the words springing off of the pages of our publications and websites.

The journey begins for the next wave in the global pool of Memorial alumni. The experiences they bring home four (or five or six . . . ) years from now will be as unique and varied as the stories that brought them from the far corners of the globe in the first place. I look forward to again being inspired and propelled by their fond memories should fortune favour us meeting further down the line.

Student recruiter Chris Hibbs has collected numerous stamps in his passport while on the job.

Re-tired? Re-energized!

The Communicator catches up with some of Memorial’s most active retirees

RECENTLY retired, Kjellrun Hestekin had barely cleared out her office at the School of Music building last summer when she was tapped by her colleagues to take on a key volunteer role that was coming up on the St. John’s campus.

“The professor of horn and theory will findvolunteers,” says Kjellrun. “We’ll need people to be backstage at the concerts, distribute handouts at presentations and help delegates get settled into the residences. Then I’ll plug a few holes myself wherever need be.”

Memorial’s Research Centre for Music, Media and Place, along with the School of Music, is hosting the big event. The 2011 ICTM conference and concurrent SOUNDshift music festival will be touching down in venues on the St. John’s campus for seven electric days, bringing a kaleidoscope of singers, instrumentalists, dancers and scholars of international calibre with it.

And while Kjellrun is looking forward to being part of an energized week full of dynamic performers and dancers, she is also eager to get on the road again. An avid traveller — “I go by car, plane, bike, bus, doesn’t matter,” — she will be blocking off several weeks after the conference for a new adventure. This all comes between her responsibility of continuing teaching an online course she developed at the School of Music, enrolling in history courses for her own personal edification and singing in the upcoming Festival 500 and Cantus Vocab choir performances.

Meantime, though, she’s focused on her immediate task. With more than 650 delegates from more than 60 countries arriving in a couple of weeks, the campus is going to be hopping — literally and figuratively. Kjellrun will need all the hands she can get. She encourages one and all to visit the ICTM website at www.mun.ca/ictm2011 to check out volunteer opportunities. Besides, she says, it’s a great way to take in some unforgettable entertainment.

“I’ll be hard to pick and choose what to see and do. Luckily, in this role I can do a sampler plate,” she says with a wink. “I’ll hop from room to room just to make sure everything’s all right.”

Kjellrun Hestekin

Christine Burke (L) and Nancy Parsons stand outside the March 2012. The $65 million project is expected to be completed in 2013, with the west tower finished in the spring and the east tower ready for the summer.
Imagine afresh-faced 19-year-old student choosing Newfoundland over Switzerland and moving to St. John’s from India to begin a bachelor of commerce program in the fall of 2003.

“I left one home and came to another,” says Cherry Ralhan, domestic student recruitment officer. “I moved here and lived with my uncle while I earned my degree. Newfoundland and Indian cultures are very similar. They are both very family oriented.”

As the only Indian international student in the commerce program, there were many adjustments for Cherry, one of which was experiencing her first winter. Snow was very new to her, to say the least. Having grown up close to the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and combined with his French and German fluency, it was natural for Dean to eventually specialize in desserts of the Viennese and Parisian variety.

“I discovered, as a people person, that what I wanted to do was work with student recruitment and brag about Memorial. I can relate to students who wonder what it’s like to live here.”

Having become a permanent resident last year, not only does Cherry feel at home in Newfoundland, but her new husband Aman will as well. They were married in India in March and have filed sponsorship papers. They hope to be reunited in the fall. Aman is currently an accountant in Atlanta, Ga.

Cherry’s sister Meghna, who recently graduated with an MBA in Delhi, has also joined the Memorial community. She is currently an accountant in Atlanta, Ga.

DEAN BARNES, programs co-ordinator with the School of Graduate Studies, baked his first pie at the age of nine. Returning home, his mother assumed his aunt had made it — until she tasted it.

“1 forgot to add the sugar,” recalls Dean with a laugh.

Growing up in Grand Bank with a father who worked at sea, young Dean learned early on he needed to pitch in around the house — which included cooking and baking. In time, baking became his specialty, particularly when he relocated to Montreal to focus on language studies at McGill University and eventually began working on the campus in information technology.

“When I moved away I either had to learn to prepare my food or eat out all the time,” he says. “And in a city as multicultural as Montreal, I had friends from all countries and continents who were more than happy to suggest recipes and dishes. Eventually I gravitated towards mastering dessert pastries.”

Having grown up close to the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, and combined with his French and German fluency, it was natural for Dean to eventually specialize in desserts of the Viennese and Parisian variety.

A quick visit to Dean’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LeDoyenTN shows just some of his delicacies. Dacquoise à la crème au beurre au café (almond meringue with coffee butter cream), Sacher Torte (chocolate cake with apricot filling and ganache) and the scrumptious masterpiece sampled by this lucky author, Erdbeersahnetorte (lemon sponge cake filled with French pastry cream and covered in whipped cream with strawberry puree).

Dean, who is spearheading the School of Graduate Studies’ eThesis and eDefence programs — saving the school countless dollars in administrative and travel costs, not to mention greening the school’s output — says his confections are available by special order and he is also planning to participate in the St. John’s Farmers’ Market this summer.

Meantime, creating elegant desserts is one of many creative pursuits Dean enjoys. He says pastry making provides great stress relief and signals the impending arrival of friends and fun.

NOT TO MENTION IT’S A GREAT FOIL TO WORKING IN IT ALL DAY!”

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY’S PARTNERS COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

Wade Murphy is pictured working with worms used in an organic composting project led by the Marine Institute’s Centre for Aquaculture and Seafood Development (CASD) at its fishery byproducts facility on Mount Scio Road in St. John’s. The project involves partners from the sod farming, organic compost and seafood processing industries and is an example of how the facility can be used to bring researchers from different backgrounds and fields together, says Wade, who is the supervisor of the facility. He sees it as a hub for collaboration between researchers from MI, Memorial University and industry and points out CASD has already worked closely with Memorial’s Botanical Garden and engineering and chemistry departments.

MI’s partners come in all shapes and sizes

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As a student, Cherry acted as a student ambassador, worked in MUCEP placements — several at the Blundon Centre — and chose work terms in the Office of Student Recruitment, the provincial Department of Education and in the field of human resources in Ottawa, Ont.

Cherry says she found Sonja Knutson, then manager of the International Student Advising Office, to be friendly and helpful while she learned the ropes of university life and a new land. Student services tailored to help make international students feel connected were also key to a positive experience.

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Cherry’s sister Meghna, who recently graduated with an MBA in Delhi, has also joined the Memorial community. Meghna was so inspired by her sister’s decision to settle in St. John’s — not to mention graduating from and finding satisfactory employment at her university of choice — she decided to join her. As she settles in, she says she is amazed at the friendly nature of the people here and feels right at home.

“Newfoundland is home to me and will be for Aman and our family. When asked, ‘Where are you from?’ I always answer, ‘Newfoundland.’”

Wade Murphy is pictured working with worms used in an organic composting project led by the Marine Institute’s Centre for Aquaculture and Seafood Development (CASD) at its fishery byproducts facility on Mount Scio Road in St. John’s. The project involves partners from the sod farming, organic compost and seafood processing industries and is an example of how the facility can be used to bring researchers from different backgrounds and fields together, says Wade, who is the supervisor of the facility. He sees it as a hub for collaboration between researchers from MI, Memorial University and industry and points out CASD has already worked closely with Memorial’s Botanical Garden and engineering and chemistry departments.

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Transatlantic storytelling with the Labrador Institute

PICTURED above are Lottie and Camilla, two young students at the Richard Pate School in Cheltenham, England. They are reading The Polar Bear in the Rock: Two Windows on the World, a children’s book published by the Labrador Institute last year.

When Martha MacDonald, the institute’s associate director and the book’s editor, visited her brother — who is head-master of the English school — last fall, she brought a copy with her to read to the children there. The story, based on an Inuit legend about a rock formation in Nain, was of interest to the children who had been studying the Canadian North. The school has since purchased several copies of the book to teach upcoming classes of school children. The project began when two students from Nunatsiavut, who had taken Inuktitut courses from Martha, were hired to collect several versions of the traditional story. The institute then recruited the help of author Janet McNaughton, a PhD and master’s graduate of Memorial’s Department of Folklore, to collate the legends and weave them together as a narrative. Dr. Derek Wilton of the Department of Earth Sciences wrote the geology portions of the publication, while Cynthia Colosimo, an artist from Forteau, created the illustrations. The book has also been translated into Inuktitut and read and shared in classrooms in Goose Bay.

Jeff Fifie of Campus Enforcement and Patrol will be the only person from Newfoundland and Labrador to participate in the Law Enforcement Torch Run Campaign as part of the torch lighting for the Special Olympics’ Summer Games in Athens, Greece, starting on June 26. The run will encompass more than 130 cities throughout Turkey, Egypt and Greece and will take 18 days to complete.

Jeff, who has worked at Memorial with CEP for 22 years, became a member of the St. John’s Law Enforcement Torch Run Committee 10 years ago.

After attending the Summer Games one year, he had the opportunity to interact with many of the athletes. It was such a positive experience it prompted him to get involved with the organization.

“It was very rewarding,” he says. “I was touched by the athletes’ work ethic and team camaraderie.”

Jeff attended the 2006 Summer Games in Brandon, Man., and has attended both summer and winter Special Olympic Games in Newfoundland and Labrador.

A recent campus-wide 5K run/walk took place on the St. John’s campus in order to raise awareness to the cause and raise funds for Special Olympic athletes in Newfoundland and Labrador. The torch run in Greece is the largest fundraising movement of the organization, one that Jeff says his involvement is in more than worthwhile.

“Knowing that through the efforts of the Law Enforcement Torch Run campaign initiatives, the athletes are able to take part in not only the local games, but are able to travel to national and international events is a great feeling.”

If you would like to contribute to Jeff’s cause or purchase a Special Olympics T-shirt at any time, you can contact him at 709-864-2047.

Online news @GrenfellCampus

TOM COCHRANE, the on-campus recruitment officer at Grenfell Campus, is exactly where he wants to be. The Pasadena native and former Grenfell student, pictured below, says his job provides him with plenty of options for connecting with the student population.

“It’s exciting to be able to connect with all types of people through Grenfell’s social media channels and with prospective students in person,” he says.

“In the span of a day I could be posting photos on Facebook from an on-campus event, giving a campus tour to a prospective student and sending a Twitter reply to a student on the other side of the country.”

Besides managing Grenfell’s official Facebook and Twitter accounts, Tom assists with the application of social media in other areas of the university. His technical savvy has proven to be a great aid when helping staff and faculty explore new ways to connect with their colleagues, students and the entire Grenfell community.

When he’s not “plugged in” (which is a rarity), he organizes campus tours for prospective students and on-campus events like parent nights and helps plan Grenfell’s involvement in outreach activities such as the Canadian Student Leadership Conference and Multiculturalism Week.

But it’s the online, interactive world of student recruitment that Tom says is his natural niche.

“Not only do I get to showcase Grenfell online and in person, my position is new so I get to bring forward new ideas about how Grenfell can interact online, too.”

Follow Tom on Twitter at @GrenfellCampus and check out Grenfell’s official Facebook page at www.facebook.com/grenfellcampus. You can also get in touch with Tom by emailing tcocrhane@grenfell.mun.ca or call 709-637-6200 ext. 6976.

Salon des Beaux-Arts 2011

THIS YEAR the First Space Gallery at the Queen Elizabeth II library is showing its largest faculty and staff show yet. More than 30 artists from every corner of the St. John’s campus submitted work in a variety of media. Pictured here is Barrie Tot, a photograph by John Bridson, who is retired from the Department of Chemistry. The artwork was curated by Joanne Costello and Stephanie Williams. Be sure to check out the art before it comes down Aug. 12.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Here are the 231 long-serving Memorial employees who make our university strong:

20-YEAR RECIPIENTS:
Ms. Sandra Baird
Ms. Denise L. Barrett
Ms. B. Katherine Best
Ms. Judith A. Blakeley
Ms. Eileen M. Bruce
Ms. Kimberly A. Bussey
Ms. Judy Casey
Ms. Ruby Colbert
Mr. Christopher Connors
Ms. Marie Irene Donovan
Dr. Christopher Dunn
Ms. Faiza Enanny
Dr. Christopher Dunn
Ms. Darla M. Ferris
Ms. Denise M. Beaton
Mr. Chris D. Adey

30-YEAR RECIPIENTS:
Mr. Garry Allen Chernenko
Ms. Moya Crocker
Mr. Norman R. Crocker
Ms. Nancy A. Dawe
Ms. Elizabeth A. Doody-Browne
Ms. Mary T. Dray
Dr. William Eaton
Mr. David A. Edwards
Ms. Donna M. Evans
Dr. John C. Garland
Dr. Virginia Grant
Ms. Ellen I. Green
Mr. Charles J. Greene
Ms. Ginger F. Gulliver
Ms. Marilyn Hicks

25-YEAR RECIPIENTS:
Dr. Melvin Baker
Ms. Donna L. Ball
Dr. John O. Buffinga
Ms. Joan S. Burry
Ms. Joan D. Butler
Mr. Roger G. Butler
Ms. Dallas Clarence
Ms. Patricia N. Coady
Mr. Robert Coates
Ms. Linda M. Corbett
Dr. Dale R. Corbett
Mr. James H. Davis
Mr. Robin F. Davis
Dr. Brad D. Young
Mr. Christopher J. Dennis
Mr. Joseph B. Earles

35-YEAR RECIPIENTS:
Ms. June McGuire
Dr. Thomas I. Michalak

40-YEAR RECIPIENTS:
Ms. E. Joan Ritcey

Dr. Peter Fisher

Ms. Malgorzata S. Zuberek
Running on a mission

DR. LYUNDA Younghusband, a counsellor at the university’s Student Counselling Centre and a former instructor in the Faculty of Education and School of Nursing, has been so successful raising money for the Arthritis Foundation that she says she is always welcome at the organization. “They take my calls,” she jokes. Lynda is a runner. The 4-5 times a week, half-marathon kind of runner. And not only does she reap the physical and mental benefits of the sport she loves – stating that running has eased her own arthritis symptoms immeasurably – she has decided to use it as a fundraising method for her favourite cause. Two years ago at the age of 66, Lynda decided to walk the Tely 10 road race just to say she did. Now, at 68 and newly retired, Lynda has five half-marathons under her belt. She raised $8,000 for arthritis research for her December 2010 race in the Cayman Islands and is looking forward to the self-imposed challenge of collecting $10,000 for a marathon in Prague, Czech Republic, in March 2012.

It is all in the pursuit of healthier living as well as honouring a special person, says Lynda. Her rheumatologist Dr. Proton Rahman – one of only four such specialists in the province – was the first person to encourage her to take those first steps. Because of his initial support, Lynda now enjoys the health benefits of regular exercise and an active social life with her running partners. That, and one other benefit, she points out. “My golf game has improved, too!”

Department of Geography celebrates 50 years

THE DEPARTMENT of Geography closed its 50th anniversary celebrations recently with an alumni dinner that provided an opportunity for former and current students, staff and faculty members to gather and muse over the past five decades of the department’s activity. One of the special guests was Dr. Bill Summers, the first head of the department (1960-71). The cocktail event that marked the beginning of the evening was rich in emotion. Alumnus David Squires brought a copy of the undergraduate student society logo (pictured above) that was designed in the early 1970s while he was a geography student. A slideshow, compiled from the department’s archival material, illustrated five decades of field trips, classes and research. As an evening icebreaker, all guests were challenged by a map quiz from a recent Geography 1050 final exam. Dr. Michael Staveley, former head and dean of the Faculty of Arts, had a perfect score and was rewarded with a basket of goodies.

Karyn Butler served as host for the evening, Karyn, Harriet Taylor and Alumni Affairs and Development’s Hilda Wakeham-Dunn were instrumental in co-organizing the event. Karyn offered words of welcome and Noel Roy, past acting dean of the Faculty of Arts, current department head, Dr. Charles Mather, brought greetings. Dr. Keith Storey, honorary research professor and former department head, divulged an interesting interview and selection process for faculty members circa 1971. Mr. Jim Locke, undergraduate and graduate alumnus, teacher and deputy mayor of Mount Pearl, shared his geography student experiences and how they prepared him for his career. Dr. Trevor Bell, alumnus and professor in the Department of Geography, capped off the evening by sharing a synopsis of his research at Memorial which perfectly illustrated how geography research integrates studies of human and physical landscapes.
The minute you walk into Tom Brophy’s office, it’s obvious he does things a little differently. With the old-school gumball machine on the table, the Mickey Mouse tie and wristwatch, and spinning a pen around his thumb, a visitor might miss the row of degrees on the wall above his head.

The director of Student Success Programs at Student Affairs and Services, Tom’s philosophy of having fun in the workplace is evident in everything he does. Whether it’s convincing 1,500 first-year students to mingle and engage with each other during orientation, facilitating a staff meeting or delivering a presentation to the senior executive committee, Tom always incorporates an element of fun.

“Coming up through the system, you saw people in serious roles being serious,” he says. “And I think if you’re in the business of serving students, being too serious is a detriment. If students and staff don’t connect to you, then you’re already up against it.”

The effect of his positivity is clear, both in the morale and motivation of his staff and his rapport with students.

“T’ll often have students come up to me in the hallways, or even at a gas station to say how much they enjoyed the silly activities I lead during orientation. So, if they’ve made that kind of a connection with me just standing upon the stage, imagine the kind of engagement and connections they’ve had with each other.”

But it’s not just fun for the sake of fun. “This is all grounded in research,” he says, citing numerous studies and reports which correlate higher engagement and retention on the studentside, and higher satisfaction and productivity on the employeeside. Ultimately, he sums up his approach in a single sentence: “You can make more money, but you can’t make back time, so where possible, make it as enjoyable as you can.”

David Sturge is all about prevention.

Health and safety manager looking out for Grenfell community

The new occupational health and safety manager at Grenfell believes it’s far better to be proactive than reactive.

“I started out my career in security and emergency response for industrial accidents and injuries,” says David Sturge. “I shifted my career path to help prevent those types of tragedies rather than respond to them.”

His 12 years as a safety professional have shown him how an injury or illness can impact the lives of employees and the value of preventing them from occurring.

“Health and safety is a part of our everyday life,” he says. “When put into action, health and safety practices can prevent accidents, injuries and illnesses.”

Everyone on the Grenfell Campus – faculty, staff, students, partners and the general public – has a right to move in an environment that is safe and free from hazards, says David.

“We have both rights and responsibilities when it comes to our personal safety and the safety of others. Not only is our goal to maintain a campus free of accidents, but we are also committed to building a strong safety culture.”

David is looking forward to involving the Grenfell community in health and safety events, training, activities and committees. Questions? Contact him at 709-637-6200 ext. 6155 or dsturge@grenfell.mun.ca.

Successful C&C conference lives on in endowed scholarship

Memorial hosted the annual Canadian Higher Education Information Technology Conference, CANHEIT, in June 2010. The conference was a huge success with top-notch presenters, participants, sponsors and volunteers, resulting in an operating surplus of $90,000. This money was entrusted to Alumni Affairs and Development to support an endowed scholarship to benefit future students at Memorial for years to come. At left, Randy Dodge, recently retired Computing & Communications manager, presents the cheque to Kent Decker, vice-president of administration and finance. Numerous members of C&C look on.
The Communicator helps put a face to a name in HR

KORY PENNEY and Tanya McDonald are both graduates of the Faculty of Arts and have been working as archival assistants with the Maritime History Archive for the past several years. Along with Jenny Seeman, who works in the Founder’s Archive at the Faculty of Medicine, the employees have been enrolled in a master’s level distance program offered through the Centre for Archive and Information Studies at the University of Dundee in Scotland since this past January.

All three love their jobs and enjoy their role in preserving original documents for future generations and assisting faculty and the general public with research.

“I really like the idea of being a guardian of history, to put it in a grand way – it just seems like a really worthwhile thing to do,” says Jenny.

In three years’ time, the group will be accredited to the Society of U.K. Archivists. There isn’t an equivalent association here in Canada, where archivists go through the same academic stream as librarians. The focused two-year degree program in archives and records management includes a dissertation. Students must also be working in an archive while taking the degree.

Kory and Tanya were already investigating master’s of arts programs prior to seeing a newsletter item announcing an open fund for all CUPE members. They mentioned the program to Jenny, applied and subsequently received $2,500 toward their tuition.

“Both Heather Wareham (archivist at the Maritime History Archives) and Linda Corbett (manager of finance and administration for the Faculty of Arts) have been really supportive and encouraging,” says Kory. “And hopefully, once our education is behind us, we’ll be able to apply for positions as full fledged archivists.”

There are four archives on the St. John’s campus – the Maritime History Archive, the Founder’s Archive, the QEII’s Archives and Special Collections and MUNFLA, the archive of the folklore department. All are open to the general public and accessible via the Memorial University website.

Like mother like daughter

IN DAPHNE and Dawn Corbett’s case, the apple does not fall far from the tree. Spend a few minutes with this mother and daughter team and you’ll quickly see how similar they are. Mom Daphne, administrative staff specialist with the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, and daughter Dawn, intermediate secretary with Human Resources, are energetic, focused, fun-loving and family-oriented. Both are lifelong students who work hard, achieve results and enjoy the journey.

Daphne began her career with Memorial in 1992. She worked with the School of Social Work and the Department of Physics, with secondments in the English department and Human Resources. All the while, she enrolled in courses and earned certificates.

“There are so many opportunities to learn and improve,” says Daphne. “While initiative comes from within, it is encouraged and rewarded at Memorial.”

And for her day-to-day extra effort, Daphne was recognized with the President’s Award for Exemplary Service in 1995.

Dawn is motivated by her mother’s success and has an innate desire to work hard. Starting work with Memorial in 2007, Dawn began in the Department of Economics, then moved to the Office of the President and then on to what is now DELTS. In 2008 Dawn moved to Saskatchewan and took a course by distance to keep in touch. She returned to St. John’s in late 2009 and started back with Human Resources, then went to the Office of the Vice-President (Research) and then on to the Office of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration).

“I like working in a variety of units and understanding the big picture,” says Dawn. “It’s helped me get a good understanding of Memorial.”

Dawn, like her mom, is continuing her education. She is close to finishing an arts degree in Russian and sociology. Her next goal is a certificate in health ethics within the Faculty of Arts.

Daphne has high standards for her performance in the workplace and has set the bar similarly high for her daughter. But Dawn is more than ready to meet the challenge.

“I’m so proud of my Mom,” she says. “She’s been a great role model to me. She works hard, is supportive, prioritizes family and loves everything she does.”

MEMORIAL has one of the largest and most innovative workforces 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 March 5, 2011, and May 27, 2011.

CAREER SNAPSHOT:
5,521 employees on three campuses (305 at Grenfell Campus, 473 at the Marine Institute and 4,743 in St. John’s)
2,807 permanent employees
1,011 part-time contractualemployees
26 part-time positions
1,224 full-time contractual positions
535 people are employed by separately incorporated entities and agencies

DEVELOPMENTS:
97 new hires
216 re-hires
40 employees transferred to another department
21 staff retired
3 faculty retired

Three Memorial staffers taking advantage of CUPE PD fund

(L-R) Tanya McDonald, Kory Penney and Jenny Seeman in the Maritime History Archive.
Blues boys

WHILE IT might seem as though Glen Collins, a long distance education multimedia specialist with DELTS, Peter Narvaez, honorary research professor in the Department of Folklore at Memorial, and Alexander (“Sandy”) Morris, an honorary doctor of letters recipient at spring convocation, would have little in common with regard to long term arts projects, nothing could be further from the truth.

All three are highly accomplished guitarists and for the last two and a half years have slowly invested their musical energies into a project that would combine and showcase their distinctive guitar styles. The results of those efforts are now available on a newly-released CD titled Superpickers! Blues on the Ceiling (Rowdy Blue Records). The recording features acoustic traditional and original blues and ragtime songs by fingerpicker Peter, which provides a framework for the improvised solos of flatpicker and fingerstylist extraordinaire Sandy as well as for the amazing hot licks by flatpicker Glen.

As initial critical responses to the recording have revealed, the different guitar approaches blend harmonically and rhythmically, creating a remarkably powerful sound.

“Each of the guitarists has a distinctive voice on their instruments,” Peter says. “Sandy and Glen both play a flat-picking style – mostly single line solos played with a plectrum, or a flatpick – while I play the lower pitched guitar strings with my thumb and the higher strings with my other fingers. Glen and Sandy, therefore, have to carefully listen for the musical spaces where they contribute background and lead parts. Without their thoughtful restraint, the sound of the group could easily become cluttered.”

Meantime, Glen says he incorporates his musical side into his daytime work.

“At DELTS we incorporate all aspects of video, animation, music, sound and more into our work, and there is incredible overlap between my two “lives.” How they are implemented is certainly different, but very similar in terms of being creative and inventive.”

You can check out the sounds of Superpickers on the St. John’s campus on Sunday, July 17, as part of the 2011 International Council of Traditional Music conference. As well, the group will perform at the Newfoundland and Labrador Folk Festival this August. For more, visit Fred’s Records at 198 Duckworth St. in St. John’s or www.rowdyblues.com.

Randys Dodges, technical support manager in Computing & Communications, celebrated his retirement May 6, 2011. Randy was hired in 1974 after he graduated from Memorial. He was instrumental in implementing computing and technical advances at the university. Congratulations, Randy!

TWO EMPLOYEES in Human Resources retired this past April. Madeleine Taylor joined Memorial in 1989 and worked as a records supervisor with Administration and Systems Integration. Mike Byrne was hired in 1995 and worked as a specialist with Benefits and Pensions. All the best!
CONGRATULATIONS go out to Debbie Whelan, finance and administration, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, who correctly guessed the 2011 spring edition of The Communicator’s Days Gone By mystery photo!

Debbie identified the year 1946 as the answer to our mystery photo contest. That year, due to a change in postal rates and a shortage of two cent stamps, Newfoundland stamps—including, of course, the stamp with an image of Memorial College’s Parade Street campus—were surcharged an extra two pennies.

This time, we want you to take a look at the photo to the left. What is the full name of the organization that sent representatives to Memorial to participate in an open house demonstration in 1957?

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 July 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, and Dr. Mel Baker, Memorial’s archivist-historian, for all their help putting together the contest.

Thanks and good luck!

Mandy Cook

“I TEACH” graduate and undergraduate courses in the School of Social Work. My research area is on the subject of attachment theory in child welfare practice with Aboriginal Peoples.

Prior to coming to Memorial, I received a SSHRC grant to study Cree and Ojibway parenting and child development knowledge. The historical pattern, when dealing with aboriginal families in Canada, is to favour ideas or solutions that can be called European or Western in origin. Aboriginal people have been expected to fit into theories developed outside of their culture. The problem is that theories of parenting do not incorporate aboriginal knowledge. Aboriginal ideas or solutions to their family or parenting problems are ignored or devalued. Aboriginals had not have pre-existing parenting and child development knowledge prior to European contact. This knowledge is largely unknown to human service professionals who provide various services to this population, i.e., judges, social workers and psychologists. My aim is to bring forth this knowledge and for it to be used in the provision of services.

I incorporate my research findings into the family therapy courses I teach here at Memorial. I am aiming to collaborate with community leaders and practitioners in Newfoundland and Labrador to replicate some of the work I’ve done with the Cree and Ojibway people.”

RAYMOND NECKOWAY
Assistant professor
School of Social Work
St. John’s campus