Devin Grant

has always enjoyed seeking answers to his questions. As a child, he preferred working on a book of math problems to watching television cartoons. As he grew, the questions changed, but the love of finding solutions remained.

That appreciation will serve Mr. Grant well as Newfoundland and Labrador’s 2015 Rhodes Scholar. Each year, 11 outstanding Canadian students are chosen on the basis of exceptional intellect, character, leadership and commitment to services to study at the University of Oxford. The St. John’s resident is currently in his fifth year of studies at Memorial University and is nearing completion of a honours degree in applied math with a minor in computer science.

Off to Oxford

By Kelly Foss

DEVIN GRANT is Newfoundland and Labrador’s newest Rhodes Scholar.

‘Groundbreaking initiative’

$50-million partnership to strengthen health research in N.L.

By Sharon Gray

Memorial University will receive $50 million over the next five years to support an unprecedented health-care initiative that will provide enhanced, personalized patient care through collaborative, multidisciplinary research.

Less than 20 per cent of applied medical research is translated into a possible device, medication or therapy; the launch of the new Translational and Personalized Medicine Initiative (TPMI) aims to change that by bringing bench research to the patient’s bedside.

Partners in the TPMI gathered at a news conference Nov. 27 to announce the initiative and describe how patients will benefit from the latest and most innovative discoveries in health research, designed to improve health outcomes that have been specifically identified for them.

“Memorial University will be working with our community to bring about true change in the planning and delivery of health-care services, and ensure that those changes respond to the needs of the public.”

– Premier Paul Davis

The partners are the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA), the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, jurisdictional partners and private-sector partner IBM.

The combined $50-million investment includes $30 million from IBM, including $10 million in equipment and staffing and a further $20 million in-kind investment for big data and analytics software. Nearly $13 million for the TPMI comes from the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research SPOR SUPPORT Units program ($10 million) and the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency ($1 million).

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is investing $7.2 million.

“This collaborative partnership between public and private sectors is a significant investment both in Memorial University and in the health and well-being of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador,” said President Kachanoski. “We are proud to be to be part of this groundbreaking initiative which would be impossible without the support and resources of our partners.”

Premier Paul Davis said the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is looking forward to an ongoing partnership in the TPMI.

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Alumni spotlight

By Amy Tucker
Special to the gazette

A special report on the University of Memorial University

Yaffle.ca is Memorial’s online connecting tool. One of its most significant jobs is to provide a way for people from outside Memorial to ask for research help. With hundreds of community-suggested opportunities to choose from, your next project is just a click away. Here’s one..."THE OPPORTUNITY"

It is commonly known that establishments and institutions in Newfoundland and Labrador use vegetable oils to cook the food they serve. What’s not so commonly known is that once these oils are used, they can be recycled as a source of energy, or biofuel, for power generation. This energy can operate industrial equipment, provide home heating or run vehicles such as trucks, tractors or construction equipment.

"Biofuels represent an immense growth area around the world, and have an important role to play in replacing other types of fuels," said Craig Lewis, CEO and owner of Sap World Co. Ltd. "There is a requirement for research into many aspects of this issue on a provincial level. For example, understanding the current uses of vegetable oils is essential, such as how much is being used, where it is being used and by whom. Also, research is needed on what is done with the oil once it is used. Are there pickup services? Is it dropped off at landfills? Does it go somewhere else? Mr. Lewis is also interested in research on the current costs of disposal, and whether people would be interested in a waste oil recycling program with a central dropoff location. Another important question is whether institutions, establishments, companies or individuals in the province would be interested in using biofuels. Mr. Lewis hopes that Memorial researchers can tackle these questions, and perhaps the Harris Centre can help them do so. The Harris Centre-MMSB Waste Management Applied Research Fund will be accepting applications later this winter."

The Harris Centre’s co-ordinator of Knowledge Mobilization would be happy to tell you more. Call Amy Tucker at 709-864-6115 or email amy.tucker@mun.ca.

Mr. Lewis runs his business out of Fleur de Lys on the Baie Verte Peninsula, making products such as wine and spirits out of birch sap. "We use a lot of fuel in our operations, and we want to enhance our environmental stewardship by using biofuels for our remote diesel power generation."

Currently, there are no commercial biofuel producers in the province. Instead of waiting for the industry to develop, Mr. Lewis has embarked on his own operation, Atlantic Bio Fuels. He envisions it as functioning as a co-operative, where members are supplied biofuel for their use.

"The use of biofuels can help the environment and our community by reducing waste, recycling, creating an alternative energy source and reducing our dependence on dirty fossil fuels such as diesel."

THE PROJECT

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JG: Why take an interest in mummering?
DJ: I’m fascinated by how complex mummering is. I’m sure every Newfoundlander and Labradorian could say, ‘Yes, I know what a mummer is.’ But I think sometimes people assume that the way they do things in their community is the way that people do it in the next community over, and that isn’t always the case. I love the elements of mystery, chaos and disguise, as well. We don’t immediately associate those things with Christmas, but they are certainly part of mummering.

JG: Do you have a favourite interaction with a mummer?
DJ: I have a great memory of being at the Circular Road home of Memorial English professor Gordon Jones, about a decade or so ago, when Chris Brookes and a group of mummers burst in, took over the living room, and performed the Mummer’s Play. But I think I was most impressed with Jeff Green’s mummering from this fall. Gazette contributor Jeff Green caught up with Mr. Jarvis to talk about his latest project.

JG: Why write this new book?
DJ: I think there is a hunger in this province for things related to mumming. We see that in all the craft and artwork that you can buy with mummers on it, in the popularity of the Mummer’s Festival and the Mummer’s Walk on the Northern Peninsula, and in the persistence of the tradition itself. In the book, I talk about how people have been bemoaning the “demise” of mummering for over 100 years, but mummers don’t seem to be going anywhere! I know I didn’t want to write a dry academic treatise on the subject; I wanted something that was colourful and fun, like the tradition itself. So the book is full of photos, newspaper clippings, funny stories, even a recipe for turkey neck mummers’ soup.

JG: How can people contribute to your research on mummering?
DJ: I would love to find more historic photographs of mummers. There aren’t a lot of old photos of mummers out there, so if anyone has a photo hiding in a photo album, I’d love to see it. I would also dearly love to know if anyone has an old hobby horse somewhere in their attic or basement. Hobby horses were part of Christmas mummering in some communities, but today, there are only a very few vintage hobby horses left. People can email me atdalejarvis.ca with photos, stories, or memories of mummers and hobby horses.

Twenty years ago, Dale Jarvis (MAYA) began a new chapter in his life, moving from his native Ontario to St. John’s to study folklore. His plan was to stay only two years – two decades later he has entrenched himself in the province. By day he’s the only full-time provincially funded mummer in the world; by night he’s an entrepreneur, storyteller, active volunteer and author, releasing his latest book Any Mummers ‘Lowed In?: Christmas Mummering Traditions in Newfoundland and Labrador this fall. Gazette contributor Jeff Green caught up with Mr. Jarvis to talk about his latest project.

He envisions it as functioning as a co-operative, where members are supplied biofuel for their use. "The use of biofuels can help the environment and our community by reducing waste, recycling, creating an alternative energy source and reducing our dependence on dirty fossil fuels such as diesel."

Sample bottles of biodiesel.

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"The use of biofuels can help the environment and our community by reducing waste, recycling, creating an alternative energy source and reducing our dependence on dirty fossil fuels such as diesel."
Remarkable gift
Memorial receives landmark $5-million investment for students

By Samantha Fitzpatrick
samantha_fitzpatrick@hotmail.com.

“Receiving scholarships and bursaries means an excellent education does not depend on financial means.”

― Mike Fleet

Memorial will establish The Joyce Foundation Bursary, renewable bursaries of $5,000 per year for up to four years for full-time students, covering tuition, required fees and supplies. Memorial will develop an outreach strategy to inform prospective university students about the new bursaries while they are still in high school.

Dr. Joyce said the foundation aims to empower young Canadians by providing increased access to education.

“Education is vital to the social and economic health of individuals, families and communities,” said Dr. Joyce. “I am delighted that this gift will help young Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, who would otherwise have no opportunity or means, to realize their full potential. Nothing makes me happier than to support students who have managed to keep the drive, motivation and desire to learn, despite the adversity in their young lives. I believe they will do great things. We just have to give them the opportunity.”

As a recipient of six scholarships while studying at Memorial, Mr. Fleet, who is completing an honours degree in political science with a major in German, said financial support has made university life a little easier.

“Receiving scholarships and bursaries means an excellent education does not depend on financial means,” he said. “For students who have critical financial needs, scholarships and bursaries are incredibly meaningful. They allow students like me to concentrate on our studies rather than worry about the financial responsibility that comes with an education. For many of us, it means we can focus our time on our courses, research and assignments and excelling at our education. As students, our job is to study and scholarships take some of that pressure away.”

The Joyce Foundation (formerly The Ron Joyce Foundation) is a private, family foundation created by Canadian entrepreneur Ronald V. Joyce and is based in Burlington, Ont.

From left are arts student Mike Fleet and Grant Joyce, the son of Dr. Ronald Joyce.

By Jeff Green

THIRD-YEAR arts student Mike Fleet put it best with his earnest reaction to Memorial’s unprecedented $5-million gift from The Joyce Foundation: “Christmas has truly come early,” he said during a Nov. 26 news conference to mark the single largest donation the university has ever received from a foundation.

Representatives from the foundation, created by entrepreneur Dr. Ronald Joyce, were in St. John’s to deliver the landmark gift to Memorial, along with a $2-million gift to College of the North Atlantic.

Both institutions will create bursary funds that will assist students who are committed to education but face critical financial need and personal challenges to attend post-secondary education. Students who wish to attend Memorial or College of the North Atlantic and meet these criteria will benefit directly from these gifts.

“This landmark gift will have a tremendous impact on the students who need it most,” said President Kachenoski. “This goes a long way in helping us meet our responsibility to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador, which is to improve the lives of people and communities through education. We are so grateful to Dr. Ron Joyce and The Joyce Foundation for this wonderful investment in our students and our province.”

DIVESTMENT, a process whereby institutions remove investments in certain companies so that they may promote better behaviour, is perhaps most well-known for the public attention it garnered during South Africa’s apartheid era in the ’70s and ’80s. It has also targeted tobacco advertising and sweatshop labour. Now, divestment action is targeting fossil fuels, a campaign which, according to Oxford University, has grown more quickly than any other divestment campaign.

The obvious, sometimes difficult, truth is that we all engage with and support the fossil fuel industry in some manner, whether we are simply fulfilling our role as consumers, or are employed by or have family and friends employed by the fossil fuel industry. However, the onus to somehow reverse the effects of climate change should not fall on an individual’s shoulders. While individuals can take action to be more sustainable personally, our global future is a heavy weight to bear. The fossil fuel divestment movement seeks to not only unite these individuals, but to put the responsibility where it belongs – on the backs of our institutions.

Our universities, for instance, are supposed to be beacons, guiding us toward a brighter future, but so long as they are invested in our destruction they serve only as a warning of our inaction. If they are unwilling to commit to change, what future are we to expect? Are we to pretend that erecting state-of-the-art composting systems cancels out the impact of investing in and building business relationships that support big oil companies? Of course, we know better.

The fossil fuel divestment movement proves that change is possible. Just recently, Montreal’s Concordia University became the first Canadian university to successfully divest from fossil fuels. Though they have only committed to partially divest, moving $5 million from their endowment fund to sustainable investment, the decision was a powerful one.

Dalhousie University has also been making and continues to make valiant efforts, gaining the support of its student union and presenting the campaign to its board of governors to be voted on. Unfortunately, the board voted against divestment, but Divest Dal persists, sure of the power of a unified group to enact change.

The Mount Allison Faculty Association just voted unanimously in support of fossil fuel divestment – a huge step in the Divest Mount Allison campaign.

These are only some examples of divestment campaigns popping up on campuses across Canada. In Newfoundland and Labrador, there is a committed group at Grenfell Campus and a startup group in St. John’s. Earlier this semester, representatives from Fossil Fuel Divestment at Grenfell attended Fossil Free Canada’s first national convergence along with campaigners from more than 15 other Canadian divestment campaigns. The Grenfell Campus Student Union has also recently passed a motion that it will, in principle, support Memorial divesting from the fossil fuel industry – a positive note for the group.

The list of institutions that are signing on to divest is growing. How will Memorial’s Board of Regents react when they are finally asked to vote for or against fossil fuel divestment?

Samantha Fitzpatrick is a fourth-year English major at Memorial. She can be reached at samantha_fitzpatrick@hotmail.com.

student
view

Action in the face of climate change

By Samantha Fitzpatrick

Samantha Fitzpatrick is a fourth-year English major at Memorial. She can be reached at samantha_fitzpatrick@hotmail.com.
Cont’d from OXFORD on page 1

A regular on the dean’s list, Mr. Grant has also been heavily involved with Memorial’s student union and the United Nations Society, a member of the award-winning Newman’s Sound Men’s Choir, and a founding member of The Night Caps, an all-male vocal quartet specializing in holiday performances. He has also been involved in several musical productions.

“I didn’t want to apply just for the sake of applying, until I came across a program at Oxford, the master’s in mathematical modelling and scientific computing,” he said. “I found the program really intriguing and figured it if was something I was going to apply for anyway, why not try for the Rhodes as well.”

This summer Mr. Grant worked through the application process, which included a personal statement, curriculum vitae, transcript, a letter of institutional endorsement and six personal references.

“I still don’t think it has sunk in fully,” he said. “Right now I’m focused on my exams and getting the work done that’s needed to finish up the semester. Once the Christmas break begins, I’m sure it will really hit me.”

Mr. Grant will begin his master’s at Oxford in October.

“To be able to learn how to answer all of these questions and tackle problems that seem insurmountable is an incredible opportunity.”
– Devin Grant

“The idea of the program is to take a real world problem, apply mathematical models to it and solve it numerically using analytical and computational skills. I see the program as equipping me with a tool set. By the time I finish I will have developed the skills to identify these problems and approach them.

“To be able to learn how to answer all of these questions and tackle problems that seem insurmountable is an incredible opportunity, and I truly believe that it is the opportunity that this program provides. There are a lot of different areas I can apply this knowledge to and I think the open-endedness of it is all exciting.”

One thing Mr. Grant knows for certain is that he truly appreciates the support of the Rhodes Trust. He says the organization has been “incredibly helpful” in terms of providing advice during the application process and in choosing a college. He also says he senses there is a strong community among the Rhodes Scholars.

“We are all meeting in the third week of September for a dinner in Toronto before we head over. So I can get to know everyone and start developing that support group. I think that’s going to be a huge benefit.”

Cont’d from GROUNDBREAKING on page 1

“Memorial University will be working with our community to bring about true change in the planning and delivery of health-care services, and ensure that those changes respond to the needs of the public.”

David Wells, senator for Newfoundland and Labrador, speaking on behalf of Rona Ambrose, minister of Health, and Rob Moore, minister of State (ACOA) and regional minister, Newfoundland and Labrador, said the federal government is pleased to support the Translational and Personalized Medicine Initiative as well as the National Patient-Oriented Research and the roll-out of the SUPPORT Units across the country.

“These centres of research expertise reflect our government’s commitment to improving health outcomes for patients through research innovation."
– Dr. James Rourke

“Increasing our capacity to bring evidence into the health-care system and clinical practice can only result in improved health outcomes for patients and their families. We are grateful to have a significant private sector partner in IBM."
– Ralph Chapman, vice-president, public sector, IBM in Canada, said this collaboration is a “terrific” example of government, business and academia teaming to meet important economic and social needs through advanced research and innovation.

“This collaborative model will provide researchers with IBM big data and analytics technology and expertise to more quickly manage and analyze massive data sets around critical health-care challenges and ultimately, help improve patient outcomes,” said Mr. Chapman.

Dr. Jane E. Aubin, chief scientific officer and vice-president research, knowledge translation, and ethics with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), said the SPOR SUPPORT Units provide a vehicle for sharing best practices between jurisdictions.

“With Newfoundland and Labrador now on board, we have taken another step toward a cohesive national partnership that will see evidence-based research embedded in health-care delivery and patient care."

The TPMI is made up of two major programs – the Newfoundland and Labrador Support Unit (NL SUPPORT) and the Centre of Health Informatics and Analytics.

The NL SUPPORT Program is part of a network of provincial and regional centres across Canada that brings together patients, policymakers, researchers, funders and health-care professionals. The program is focused on creating resources that facilitate patient-oriented research in consultation with local stakeholders to provide patients with the latest and most innovative practices, therapies and policies for improved health outcomes.

NL SUPPORT was created to provide the necessary infrastructure, training and tools required to allow patient-oriented research to thrive in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The second major program under the TPMI is the Centre for Health Informatics and Analytics (CHIA). CHIA will facilitate research into patient outcomes and offer insight into how services may be improved through the use of high-performance computational infrastructure and de-identified patient datasets.

Memorial researchers will have access to one of Atlantic Canada’s fastest computing environments. Each project undertaken under CHIA will comply with the Personal Health Information Act legislated with the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, and will also require research ethics board approval.

Projects under TPMI utilizing CHIA will address issues such as colorectal cancer, long-term care and laboratory utilization as well as others. Projects related to the Translational Genomics program include hearing loss, neurocognitive diseases, back pain, vision loss, colorectal cancer and breast cancer. The integration of data will be governed under provincial privacy and ethics legislation.
RESEARCH STRATEGY

Seed, Bridge and Multidisciplinary Fund launched

By Krista Davidson

MEMORIAL is poised to launch a number of programs and services in the New Year as part of the Strategic Research Intensity Plan 2014–20.

The Seed, Bridge and Multidisciplinary Fund will support new, “early days” innovative research projects, provide valuable funding for researchers between grants and encourage multidisciplinary research, particularly research that is aligned with the priority research themes of the Research Strategy Framework.

Normally, the fund will stimulate research intensity through student engagement, thereby enhancing the student research learning and training experience. Recipients can receive up to $10,000 to fund their projects and highlighting the successes that are bringing them to life.

“Building on the foundation of the Research Strategy Framework’s goals of excellence, growth and impact, the Seed, Bridge and Multidisciplinary Fund is one of many activities that have been identified in the upcoming years that will help Memorial to enhance its research capacity and grow the pool of talented researchers,” said Dr. Ray Gosine, vice-president (research), pro tempore.

The pilot competition for the Seed, Bridge, and Multidisciplinary Fund will be January 15, 2015. Once the pilot is completed, there will be two competitions per year, with the regular deadlines to be announced in the near future.

For each competition, the vice-president (research) will chair and select a peer-review committee of five members from five distinct academic units. Applications will be adjudicated based on a number of criteria, such as excellence of the research proposal, degree to which the proposal constitutes a request for seed, bridge, or multidisciplinary funding, a track record of educating, training and supervising students and other criteria which will be provided in a call for proposals.

The fund implements one of the eight recommendations outlined in the Strategic Research Intensity Plan 2014–20, which reflects a synergistic and integrated approach for strengthening all aspects of research at Memorial University, including scholarship and creative activities, as well as the transformation of knowledge into projects, practices and policies, and other forms of community engagement.

To view the plan or find out more about the fund, please visit www.mun.ca/research.

Recognizing valour

Discovering the role of Newfoundland Mi’kmaq in the Great War

By Melanie Callahan

A HUMANITIES professor hopes to shed some light on the involvement of the Newfoundland Mi’kmaq, the Indigenous First Nations people of the island, in the First World War.

The research of Dr. Maura Hanrahan, assistant professor and chair of the humanities program at Grenfell Campus, will inform a detailed database of Newfoundland Mi’kmaq service personnel and provide details on their home communities, families, ages and occupations when they enlisted, the unit they belonged to, whether they were injured or killed, and details of their death.

Dr. Hanrahan has devoted much of her career to the understanding of issues that are of importance to the Indigenous peoples of Canada. She recognized a gap in the province’s written military history. “I have Mi’kmaq ancestry myself and over the years I’ve heard people in the Mi’kmaq community refer to their grandparents and great-grandparents who enlisted in the First World War,” she said. “Some people expressed regret that these men were never recognized as Indigenous but that didn’t happen here, which bothered people. I wanted to respond to this need in the community.”

Now halfway through the project, Dr. Hanrahan has identified almost 100 Newfoundland Mi’kmaq who took part in the First World War. While she expected that the number would be significant, as other First Nations people across Canada enlisted in high numbers, she was surprised at how high the number actually is.

“I am being conservative in my methodology so I expect it to increase,” she said. “It is hard to get accurate demographic data but it seemed that in some Mi’kmaq communities, such as those around Flat Bay, virtually everyone who was eligible enlisted. Families had lots of siblings and cousins and, in one case, six brothers, all of whom survived thankfully.”

Besides the database, this research will be compiled into an academic article, make up a lecture for relevant conferences and symposia, and will be part of a book Dr. Hanrahan is writing.

Partial funding for this project was provided through the Living Memorial Commemoration Fund which provides assistance with the planning and delivery of First World War commemoration activities.
Faculty and staff recognized for outstanding achievement

PRESIDENT Gary Kachanoski has announced Memorial University's outstanding educators, researchers and staff members for 2014. The President’s Awards recognize excellence in teaching, research, service and community service. The awards are announced annually and were formally presented at a ceremony Dec. 11.

“I extend a special congratulations to our award recipients,” said Dr. Kachanoski. “While they are called the President’s Awards, they are truly a reflection of the high esteem in which our Memorial University community holds the recipients, because all of them have been nominated for these honours by their peers or their students.”

Dr. Seán Brosnan, Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Science, has been awarded the 2014 John Lewis Paton Distinguished University Professorship, Memorial’s newest and most prestigious award for faculty. Named for the founding president of Memorial University College, the award recognizes those who distinguish themselves across the continuum of teaching and learning, research and public engagement. Dr. Brosnan is an accomplished educator and one of Memorial’s premier scientists and researchers in the Department of Biochemistry.

Dr. Trevor Bell, Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, and Dr. Christopher Kovacs, Faculty of Medicine, have been named University Research Professors. The title University Research Professor is a designation above the rank of professor and goes to a faculty member who has demonstrated a consistently high level of scholarship and whose research is of a truly international stature.

The President’s Award for Exceptional Community Service has been awarded to Dr. Leonard Lye, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science. This award is presented in recognition of employees (faculty or staff) who have demonstrated outstanding community service. The President’s Award for Outstanding Research has been awarded to Dr. Andrew Staniland, School of Music. The President’s Award for Outstanding Research recognizes young researchers who have made significant contributions to their scholarly disciplines.

The President’s Award for Outstanding Teaching has been awarded to Dr. Faisal Khan, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, for developing products and services. The award recognizes exemplary efforts to foster success in the research and scholarship of their graduate or postgraduate students and to advance their students’ success in their profession.

The President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching, recognizing teaching excellence in the university community, was presented to Dr. Karen Parsons, School of Nursing, and to Prof. Lyle Wetsch, Faculty of Business Administration. Other teaching awards – for outstanding teaching – recognize remarkable efforts in the classroom by a faculty members with 5-10 years of service to the university, and lecturers and instructional staff with a minimum of five course sections taught.

The President’s Award for Outstanding Teaching (Faculty) has been awarded to Dr. Geoff Rideout, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

The President’s Award for Outstanding Teaching (Lecturers and Instructional Staff) has been awarded to Prof. Terry Hussey, Faculty of Business Administration.

The President’s Award for Exemplary Service has been awarded to six remarkable Memorial community members. They are Mary Dray, co-ordinator, Office of Student Affairs, Faculty of Medicine; Lisa Fleet, manager, research programs, Professional Development and Conference Services, Faculty of Medicine; Arlene McDonald, enrolment clerk, Office of the Registrar, Marine Institute; Wendy Murphy, officer, Campus Enforcement and Patrol (shared); and Lynette Wells, officer, Campus Enforcement and Patrol (shared), and Darlene Spracklin, senior instructional designer, Distance Education, Learning and Teaching Support and Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

The President’s Award for Exemplary Service is presented to employees who have demonstrated outstanding service and/or who have made significant contributions to the university community beyond that normally expected for their positions. The President’s Awards ceremony took place in the Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation on the St. John’s campus.
Centre of expertise

Engineering and applied science opens major new R&D centre for offshore engineering

“...engineers and educators for outstanding contributions.

Following his varsity career, Mr. McCloy went on to represent Canada at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. He is also renowned at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. He is also renowned in St. John’s for his long-standing record of the Tely 10 road race in a time of 47:04 set in 1985.

Serving in the capacity of honorary chair was very different from Mr. McCloy’s past CIS experiences.

“You actually notice more because you are not so focused on your own performance,” he said. “I worried about things like how the course was set up and the weather in a different way than I would as an athlete.”

His concerns were not unwarranted. Come race day, a wind warning was issued for St. John’s with gusts over 110 kilometres per hour. Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, Mr. McCloy felt the championship was a success. “I thought the event went off well despite the challenges. The wind was just another variable. It could have snowed or rained with ankle-deep mud, but athletes expect these things in cross-country.”

At a banquet held the night before, Mr. McCloy spoke to student-athletes from across Canada. He recounted what it was like to train in Newfoundland and Labrador with limited resources while continually facing harsh weather conditions.

Now residing in Calgary, Alta., Mr. McCloy was thrilled to return to St. John’s, saying the magnitude of the event “seemed a bit surreal.” “Seeing that many great athletes in St. John’s is a once-in-a-generation event. I would have loved that opportunity.”

By Jackey Locke

THE FACULTY of Engineering and Applied Science has officially opened a new research centre dedicated to ocean/offshore engineering research and development.

The Suncor Energy Offshore Research and Development Centre – an expansion to the Engineering building – will provide engineering research teams with a 11,700-square-foot extension to collaborate with industry partners and other organizations, nationally and internationally.

The centre was made possible with an investment of $4.8 million from the Research & Development Corporation (RDC) and $2 million from Suncor Energy through Memorial’s Dare To fundraising campaign.

“We look forward to many years of conducting leading-edge research in the centre and educating future leaders.”

– Dr. Greg Naterer

“We are thrilled to have this new space that allows our researchers and their teams to expand their collaborations with local and global partners in offshore technology research and development,” said Dr. Greg Naterer, dean, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

“We truly appreciate the support from Suncor Energy and RDC and value our relationships with industry partners. We look forward to many years of conducting leading-edge research in the centre and educating future leaders.”

The centre will serve to integrate various research and development entities in the local innovation ecosystem, including institutional, industrial and public sector researchers, and be instrumental in training highly qualified personnel for the offshore/ocean sectors.

Projects in the centre will focus on solving technical challenges facing offshore Newfoundland and Labrador activities. It is estimated that the new centre of expertise will help grow Memorial’s Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science R&D by $6-$8 million per year over the next five years and will involve approximately 100 full-time equivalent researchers.

“Memorial University has some of the top researchers and expertise in the world in the areas of offshore engineering,” said President Kachanoski. “The Suncor Energy Offshore Research and Development Centre has created a collaborative space for faculty, graduate students and industry partners to advance their cutting-edge research and to further elevate Memorial’s status as a centre of expertise in offshore research and development.”

By Whitney O’Byrne

‘Once-in-a-generation’

Cross-country varsity alumnus serves as CIS championship honorary chair

A standout athlete, Mr. McCloy was named a CIAU (now CIS) First Team All-Canadian for all five of his years as a varsity athlete. In 1986 he was elected to Memorial’s Athletic Honour Society, the highest honour the university bestows on student-athletes for outstanding contributions.

Following his varsity career, Mr. McCloy went on to represent Canada at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea. He is also renowned in St. John’s for his long-standing record of the Tely 10 road race in a time of 47:04 set in 1985.

Serving in the capacity of honorary chair was very different from Mr. McCloy’s past CIS experiences.

“You actually notice more because you are not so focused on your own performance,” he said. “I worried about things like how the course was set up and the weather in a different way than I would as an athlete.”

His concerns were not unwarranted. Come race day, a wind warning was issued for St. John’s with gusts over 110 kilometres per hour. Despite the less-than-ideal conditions, Mr. McCloy felt the championship was a success. “I thought the event went off well despite the challenges. The wind was just another variable. It could have snowed or rained with ankle-deep mud, but athletes expect these things in cross-country.”

At a banquet held the night before, Mr. McCloy spoke to student-athletes from across Canada. He recounted what it was like to train in Newfoundland and Labrador with limited resources while continually facing harsh weather conditions.

Now residing in Calgary, Alta., Mr. McCloy was thrilled to return to St. John’s, saying the magnitude of the event “seemed a bit surreal.” “Seeing that many great athletes in St. John’s is a once-in-a-generation event. I would have loved that opportunity.”

By Whitney O’Byrne

THIS PAST fall, Memorial Athletics announced that Memorial varsity alumnus and St. John’s native Paul McCloy would serve as honorary chair of the 2014 Canadian Interuniversity Sport Cross-country Championships. Memorial hosted the annual event for the first time in Pippy Park on Nov. 8.

“I was honoured to have the opportunity to be at the championships and have the role of honorary chair in my hometown,” he said. “I will cherish this experience.”

Mr. McCloy is the greatest middle-distance runner to come out of St. John’s since Steve invariant won the Tely 10 road race in 1981, 1983 and 1984.
help me extend my research expertise and interest beyond the boundaries of conventional funding mechanisms. I'm very honoured – it is one of the most significant awards you can receive for this type of research, and I am also very happy to see the recognition of my research innovation and potential. Dr. Chen specializes in research related to water and wastewater treatment, oil spill responses and cleanup in harsh environments, marine pollution modelling and mitigation, waste management, environmental nanobiotechnology, water resources management and climate change. "Suncor and the Terra Nova partners are pleased to support this research because it applies specialized knowledge and processes to areas unrelated to the traditional research focus," said Brent Janke, vice-president, East Coast Canada for Suncor. "Dr. Chen's proposed research addresses challenges that will have a significant impact on advancing wastewater treatment such as the removal of oil and other contaminants." "Memorial is committed to providing promising young researchers with opportunities to explore novel ideas and concepts that will greatly impact our future," said Dr. Ray Gosine, vice-president (research), pro tempore. "Memorial greatly appreciates the continued support from Suncor in making these opportunities a reality. Innovative research impacts us all, and it requires unique vision and skills from talented researchers, who Memorial and Suncor Energy Inc. are proud to support." Dr. Chen has been published in more than 230 academic publications since 2000 and has conducted more than 40 research projects since joining the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Memorial University in 2006. He was selected to the Global Young Academy, received the Leaders Opportunities Fund Award of Canada Foundation for Innovation twice and was awarded the National Science and Technology Advance Award (First Class) of China and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada's (NSERC) Post-doctoral Fellowship Award. He is a member of the NSERC Research Grant Evaluation Group in Civil, Industrial and Systems Engineering, and serves as senior expert of United Nations Development Program, chair of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering Newfoundland and Labrador Section, and Atlantic director of Canadian Association on Water Quality. 

**Dean of School of Nursing appointed**

By Jennifer Batten

**DR. ALICE GAUDINE** has been appointed dean of Memorial University's School of Nursing, effective Dec. 5, 2014, for a five-year term. Dr. Gaudine became dean pro tempore of the School of Nursing on Sept. 20, 2013. She is a longtime faculty member who came to the school in 1997. Since then, she has taught a variety of courses in the school's undergraduate and graduate programs, including mental health, community mental health, therapeutic communication, leadership and program development courses.

"Dr. Gaudine has made notable contributions to the School of Nursing over the course of her well-rounded career at Memorial and has demonstrated highly effective leadership skills that will continue to serve the school well," said Dr. Sterle Gosine, acting president (academic), pro tempore. "She is an accomplished registered nurse, academic, published author and leader who brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to this important role."

She previously held various appointments at the School of Nursing, serving as acting director and associate dean of graduate studies and research. She also served in a cross-appointed role with the Counselling Centre at Memorial University. Prior to starting at the School of Nursing, Dr. Gaudine practised for many years as a registered nurse. She has extensive experience as a nurse manager and direct-care nurse working in a number of different areas, including orthopedics, outpatients and mental health.

Dr. Gaudine's research interests are in the areas of nursing leadership, and the ethical conflicts of nurses and other health professionals. She is co-author of the recently published Nursing Leadership and Management: Working in Canadian Healthcare Organizations textbook for senior nursing students, and she has published in a number of journals on topics such as ethical conflicts of nurses and nurse managers, and issues related to nurses' work life, absenteeism and turnover.

"I look forward to continuing in the role of dean of Memorial University's School of Nursing, working alongside top quality nursing faculty, staff and students," said Dr. Gaudine. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to lead such a distinguished team in a dynamic learning environment."

Dr. Gaudine holds a bachelor of science degree from Mount Allison University, a master of science (applied) from McGill and a PhD from Concordia. The recommendations of the search committee for the dean of nursing position were accepted by President Kachanoski and approved by the Board of Regents on Dec. 4, 2014. 

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**A MEMORIAL researcher from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science has been named the 2014 Terra Nova Young Innovator.**

The award recognizes and supports outstanding faculty members whose research is particularly innovative and has real potential for a significant impact on society. Dr. Bing Chen, associate professor, Department of Civil Engineering, and head, Northern Region Persistent Organic Pollution Control Laboratory, will receive a $50,000 award presented on behalf of Suncor Energy and Memorial University to develop a novel microbial waste-to-energy cell with the unique capability to simultaneously treat organic waste and generate electricity. Dr. Chen's proposed research will develop a new, highly porous and electrical conductive material leading to a transformative means for integrating wastewater treatment energy and resource recovery. His research is meant to provide an inventive solution to the challenge of treating wastewater, which contains high oil contents, in a cost-effective and eco-friendly way.

"The award presents a very unique and valuable opportunity and allows me to realize my bold but promising research idea," said Dr. Chen during the award ceremony at the Suncor Energy Fluvarium Dec. 2. "It will help me extend my research expertise and skills from talented researchers, and interest beyond the boundaries of conventional funding mechanisms. I'm very honoured – it is one of the most significant awards you can receive for this type of research, and I am also very happy to see the recognition of my research innovation and potential." Dr. Chen specializes in research related to water and wastewater treatment, oil spill responses and cleanup in harsh environments, marine pollution modelling and mitigation, waste management, environmental nanobiotechnology, water resources management and climate change.

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Sparking an interest
Marine Institute takes youth and oceans conference on the road

By Leslie Earle

IT’S ONE THING to engage students in the oceans and marine sustainability today. It’s another to pique their interest in future careers in the ocean industries and highlight how the Marine Institute (MI) can help them open those doors.

That’s the goal of the 2014 Youth and the Oceans Conference Series (YOC). YOC is a program of MI Ocean Net. This year, MI Ocean Net is working in partnership with the student recruitment team to spread the message of sustainability and how students can train at MI to build future careers around important work in the ocean industries.

“It’s all about getting participants involved with some hands-on experience right in their own backyards,” said Tiffany Martin, co-ordinator, MI Ocean Net. “YOC has hit the open road and will visit 10 schools over the next several months. With a new focus and increased collaboration, YOC is continuing to engage and motivate youth participants by encouraging them to learn by doing.”

This year’s YOC series kicked off on Nov. 19 at Holy Trinity High School in Torbay, N.L.; more recently, students at Kevin’s High School in Goulds, N.L. got in on the action.

The MI team has hit the ground running and will have completed three school visits by the end of December, with seven other stops planned into the month of March.

“It’s all about getting participants involved with some hands-on experience right in their own backyards.”
— Tiffany Martin

Selected students are involved in a full day of fun and get a solid overview of the MI experience. Not only do they learn what a remotely operated vehicle is, they take time to build one and, through some friendly competition, test out their designs.

Throughout the day, they also learn about marine organisms and get to take part in a boat-building exercise. MI Ocean Net’s Youth and the Oceans Conference engages and motivates youth participants to become interested in careers in the ocean sectors.

This year’s new approach of taking YOC to the schools is a win-win situation, says Jennifer Howell, enrolment management co-ordinator.

“We are constantly seeking new ways to engage potential students and I am very proud of the collaboration between staff, faculty and students to promote ocean sustainability and MI as a leader in preparing students for success in ocean-related careers,” she said.

Ultimately, what’s most important is what the student participants take away from the conference series.

“In gathering feedback from the students, one expressed an interest in working within the ocean industry because of what they learned that day,” Ms. Howell said.
we are seeing the results of those improvement and efficiency and to identify areas for potential from across the university as this amount of support and co-operation www.mun.ca/operationsbudgetreview.

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and budget review (OBR) since it began have been working with quiet diligence 10  gazette   |  ACADEMIC

Operations and budget review update

By Lisa Pendergast

THE NEWFOUNDLAND and Labrador Teachers’ Association, the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development and the Faculty of Education at Memorial University have together received a national Red Cross Partners in Humanity Citation for their combined work in designing and hosting the EDGE 2013 conference.

The award is in recognition of their commitment to improving the lives of people within their community by assisting the Red Cross to effectively mobilize the power of humanity.

The EDGE 2013 conference, titled At the Edge: Creating Direction for Peace and Justice, took place Aug. 21-23, 2013, at Memorial University. The goal of the conference was to bring together people and organizations involved in educating and working with youth who recognize that “in every act of violence and injustice there is a message that needs to be understood” (Jean Vanter, 2008). At the conference, participants listened to and reflected on these messages and committed to personal and organizational change.

“Many initiatives began in those few days that are now being realized,” said Dr. Vaandering. “A provincial restorative justice consortium is now a reality and hosted at Memorial, the impetus for a provincial Violence Elimination Project recently initiated by the Harris Centre originated as a result of the conference; collaborative relationships amongst organizations for youth were strengthened and now this national recognition of our efforts by the Red Cross indicates that so many at the conference have taken up the challenge to live out a new vision for our world, based on every human person as important.”

– Dr. Dorothy Vaandering

Dr. Dorothy Vaandering, assistant professor with the Faculty of Education, was chair of the EDGE 2013 conference. She says that several positive changes in the community have already begun.

“Groups have been eager out a new vision for our world, based on every human person as important.”

The EDGE 2013 conference partners have received the Red Cross Partners in Humanity Citation.

By Lisa Pendergast

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The award presentation took place on Dec. 9 at the Teaching and Learning Commons on the St. John’s campus. Anna Power, manager of fund development in the Newfoundland and Labrador region with the Red Cross, presented the awards to each of the partners.

“The EDGE conference was an excellent example of the power of humanity at work in our communities here in Newfoundland and Labrador," said Ms. Power. “The organizers along with the Canadian Red Cross had a vision for a conference on social justice with youth as our focus. Red Cross is proud to recognize this very successful collaboration with the Partners in Humanity Citation.”

The national award is rarely presented to large public institutions. Past recipients of the award include Kids Help Phone, Westjet, Desjardins and Walmart.

Operations and budget review update

ACADEMIC and administrative leaders have been working with quiet diligence on the university’s ongoing operations and budget review (OBR) since it began in February 2014.

The goal of the review is continuous operational excellence to ensure the university is using its resources to pursue the right opportunities now and into the future. The secretariat’s co-chairs, Bruce Gorman and Andy Fisher, published an update to the university community on its website, www.mun.ca/operationsbudgetreview. “We’ve received an incredible amount of support and co-operation from across the university as this process unfolds,” said Mr. Gorman. “Groups have been eager to identify areas for potential improvement and efficiency and we are seeing the results of those efforts already,” said Mr. Fisher.

In the spring, a process of reporting and assessing a comprehensive set of data and metrics for university operations was undertaken. This data collection focuses on two areas – academic and administrative/ancillary services. As a result, parallel streams of activity were undertaken to review the organization’s current activities in these areas. The academic focus is led by Dr. Noreen Golfman, provost and vice-president (academic), pro tempore. The academic data gathering was completed by an academic data team created by the provost, and led by Sheila Singleton, university registrar. Data gathered and analyzed related to all areas of academic activity, including enrolment, areas of study, degrees awarded, class size, course grades and distribution of faculty and instructional staff. The administrative/ancillary services focus is led by Kent Decker, vice-president (administration and finance), the initial data gathering for that area was conducted by Ernst & Young. Their report is now available on the OBR website.

Information gathered from these first stages has helped to define the next steps for the review, including the identification of potential review projects. To be considered under OBR, projects must identify concrete outcomes that fall into one of these categories: cost or space savings; cost avoidance; revenue generation; or improved efficiency or effectiveness within current resources. Each project is undertaken by a project team consisting of representation from the unit, and in most cases representation from outside the unit and other appropriate support as identified.

As part of the academic focus, an academic budget review committee was created this fall to lead the process that will result in the recommendation of sustainable models for the relative allocation of resources within the budget envelope of the vice-president (academic).

Since April 2013, when the provincial government announced in its budget speech that Memorial would be undertaking an efficiency review, the university has identified six initiatives which have generated a total of $3.1 million in efficiency savings. Details on these initiatives, newly approved projects and other OBR information is available at www.mun.ca/operationsbudgetreview.
For more on these events and other news at Memorial, please visit www.today.mun.ca.

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17**
Application to Graduate School: Tips and Strategies, 3-4 p.m., online webinar, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

**THURSDAY, DEC. 18**
The Role of Integrin Linked Kinase (ILK) in Human Placenta Development, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

Joy to the World Party, 3-10 p.m., Breezeway, University Centre, Sponsor: Human Resources

**MONDAY, DEC. 22**
School of Graduate Studies Holiday Reception, 3-5 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24**
Traditional Carol Sing, 10:30-11:30 a.m., D.F. Cook Recital Hall, School of Music, Sponsor: Human Resources

**THURSDAY, JAN. 1**
PhD Oral Defence of Stefanie Hixson, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

**MONDAY, JAN. 12**
PhD Oral Defence of Alejandro Buren, 1:30-3:30 p.m., IIC-2014, Bruneau Centre for Research and Innovation, Sponsor: School of Graduate Studies

**TUESDAY, JAN. 13**
Translating the Transnational, 12-1 p.m., A-5014, Sponsor: Latin American and Caribbean Studies Research Group

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**Tourist travel**

Rare Grenfell Mission volunteer photos subject of exhibition

By Janet Harron

A UNIQUE collection of photographs is currently on exhibit on the third floor of the Queen Elizabeth II (QEII) Library.

E. Mary Schwall: Traveller, Mission Volunteer and Amateur Photographer is a series of black and white photographs taken in the summers of 1913 and 1915 when Mary Schwall was a volunteer for the Grenfell Mission.

The exhibit includes photographs from all of the communities in Newfoundland and Labrador en route from her home in Bedford, Mass., via Mulgrave, N.S., to the Grenfell Mission, in St. Anthony, Newfoundland, and Battle Harbour, Labrador. The photos provide a unique glimpse into the daily life of communities in Newfoundland and Labrador a century ago, through the lens of a tourist/traveller and amateur photographer.

Dr. Katherine Side researched the collection and curated the exhibit with the assistance of Linda White, Archives and Special Collections, QEII Library.

“To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time the collection has been displayed,” said Dr. Side, interim associate dean, School of Graduate Studies, and associate professor, Department of Gender Studies. “What I have tried to provide for viewers is some background about who Mary Schwall was, how this collection was acquired and what it provides, in terms of our understanding about tourist travel in Newfoundland, Grenfell Mission volunteers and amateur photography at the turn of the 20th century.”

According to Dr. Side, there is a body of scholarly work that suggests that photography was one of the ways in which women at that time could document their independence, and Schwall’s collection illustrates this “quite nicely.”

The exhibit runs until January 15, 2015.
‘Grateful and blessed’
Parade Street alumni pay it forward with student bursary

By Jeff Green

EMILY MACISAAC has a lot be grateful for.

The commerce honours student, originally from Stephenville, N.L., has only a few months left before finishing up her degree and has already landed a job after graduation next May.

She’s also thankful for the support of a core group of alumni who financially give back to Memorial to help students like her succeed.

Ms. MacIsaac is the recipient of the Memorial on Parade Bursary, funded by alumni of Memorial’s Parade Street campus. Those proud graduates have raised more than $35,000 to establish the bursary endowment fund.

“Thanks to this bursary and with savings from my co-op work term, I was able to take a semester off from a part-time job,” said the business student, who is completing a concentration in accounting.

“This allowed me to focus more on my school work and keeping my grades up. I feel both grateful and blessed to have received this award, both for the financial benefits and the pride you get in knowing that your hard work is noticed.”

Memorial University College was established in 1925 as a living memorial to Newfoundlanders who lost their lives during the First World War. It was located on Parade Street in St. John’s. The college was elevated to university status in 1949 and moved to its main campus on Elizabeth Avenue in 1961.

The Memorial on Parade Bursary is open to students from Newfoundland and Labrador who are in their fourth year of studies in any program on the St. John’s campus, who meet the academic criteria and have financial need.

The bursary, which is funded through the Memorial on Parade campaign and the Parade Street campus, is intended to help students in financial need to pursue their studies.

Ms. MacIsaac said she appreciates the generosity of the alumni who give back to Memorial to help fund scholarships and bursaries. She said she hopes to do the same someday.

“Thanks to everyone who puts their time into making these bursaries a reality,” she said. “I hope to one day give back to what I have received for future students who need it most.”

To learn more about giving to the Memorial on Parade Bursary, contact Catherine Barrett, Office of Alumni Affairs and Development at 709-864-2157 or by email at cbarrett@mun.ca.