

The Gulliver Challenge doubles up library donations



This fall, thanks to the generosity of Memorial alumnus Dr. Wayne Gulliver, the Faculty of Arts offered donors an exciting chance to have twice the impact.

The Gulliver Challenge for the Arts drove up donations to the Faculty of Arts Library Fund. Dr. Gulliver agreed to match donations made this fall, dollar for dollar, up to \$20,000. And donors took up the challenge – meeting, and

then exceeding, that limit! This means more than \$40,000 worth of new humanities and social science resources will infuse what is already one of the most impressive university library collections in the country.

Maintaining a vibrant, up-to-date collection is expensive – and essential. These resources will benefit countless students, researchers and community members, draw leading scholars to our institution, and enrich our students' learning immeasurably.

According to Jennifer O'Neill, development officer for Arts, donors were able to choose whether they wanted their gift to purchase resources for the humanities, or the social sciences; Dr. Gulliver chose to direct his matching funds specifically to books related to anthropology.



Although he studied science and medicine at Memorial, graduating with his MD in 1982, Dr. Gulliver has a strong commitment to the Faculty of Arts.

"I know first hand how important the library in the Faculty of Arts is to both students and researchers. My daughter Suzanne has found it a great resource while studying Arts at Memorial," he explained when initiating the challenge to his fellow alumni.

On Oct. 25, Dr. Gulliver received the J.D. Eaton Alumni Award at the 2007 Alumni Tribute Awards in recognition of his exceptional leadership and outstanding service to Memorial since he attended medical school here.

Research looks toward community recovery

A new alliance of researchers, led by sociologist Dr. Barbara Neis, is undertaking an innovative program of community-based research that will support regional efforts to devise and implement a recovery strategy for fish stocks and for fishing communities on the West Coast of Newfoundland.

"By recovery, we mean the possibility of a vibrant future for people, communities and their natural environment," said Dr. Neis. "Key requirements for recovery include good science, broad community involvement, timely intervention, and effective governance."

The Community-University Research for Recovery Alliance (CURRA) was awarded a one-million dollar CURA grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. It will involve faculty from the St. John's and Sir Wilfred Grenfell College

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DEAR FRIENDS,

My first year as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Memorial has been both very busy and very rewarding. I was drawn here by this faculty's reputation as a dynamic and energetic one. That has been confirmed by the great things we have

accomplished together in recent months, and by the remarkable achievements of both faculty members and students, many of which you will learn about in these pages.

In the Faculty of Arts, we are committed to leading edge scholarly research in the humanities and social sciences. During the past year, several faculty members and students received national and international recognition for their contributions to research, scholarship and their outreach activities. We continue to collaborate widely on projects that have relevance to the community –

locally and globally. Several examples of this important work are highlighted in this issue of *ArtsWorld*.

We have undertaken new initiatives that demonstrate our steadfast dedication to providing all of our students with the best education and the best footing for their bright futures. We continue to be a leader in the development of innovative programs and effective teaching.

One of our top priorities remains faculty renewal and retention. This year, 14 new faculty members joined the

faculty, and we initiated a post-doctoral program. We also afforded Women's Studies departmental status, adding vigor to an already well-established and nationally reputed program.

In the Faculty of Arts, our teamwork is showing results, but we could not achieve so much without our generous donors. You are an important part of our team, and I offer you my heartfelt gratitude. Your help in securing library and other resources is crucial to ensuring our work continues to be leading edge. Your gifts in support of students are essential too, because every scholarship is a paving stone toward the future. Staying connected with our valued alumni and friends is so important to us, which is one reason why we have instituted a series of intriguing summer field trips. The first, *In the Footsteps of the Regiment: A Memorial Journey to Beaumont-Hamel and Beyond*, hosted by Kevin Major, begins in April 2008. More information about these exciting opportunities is available in this newsletter.

Our new offices are humming with activity, but we are always happy to welcome and talk with guests. If you have questions about the faculty, or are interested in visiting, please let us know by calling (709) 737-3179. I would be delighted to hear from you!

Best wishes,
Reeta Tremblay, PhD

Post-doctoral Fellows

The Faculty of Arts awarded four post-doctoral fellowships in 2007-08, and the Faculty's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) renewed one. All the fellowships are for one year. Fellows are:

Dr. Kieran Westley, who obtained a PhD from the University of Southampton, UK; the project is entitled, "Application of postglacial sea-level history to reconstruction and assessment of Newfoundland's coastal archaeological heritage," which is a collaborative project undertaken in the Department of Geography (Dr. Trevor Bell) and the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology (Dr. Priscilla Renouf).

Dr. Carrie Gillon, who obtained her PhD from the University of British Columbia, is working on "The syntax and semantics of bare nouns in two languages of Labrador: Inuttitut and Innu-aimûn," undertaken in the Department of Linguistics (Drs. Brittain and Wharram). The Department of Linguistics is sharing the cost of this fellowship.

Dr. Bruce Gilbert, who did his PhD work at Dalhousie University, is doing a project called, "Understanding the factors that help and hinder collaborative synergy in academic-community collaborative research process," undertaken in the Department of Sociology and SafetyNet; the School of Graduate Studies is sharing the cost of this fellowship.

Dr. Oscar Moro, who obtained a PhD from the University of Cantabria (Santander, Spain), has undertaken "Towards a Genealogy of Palaeolithic Art," in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology (Drs. Peter Pope and Lisa Rankin).

Dr. Kurt Korneski received a renewal of his post-doctoral fellowship from the Faculty of Arts Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) for his project, "Settler Nationalism: A comparison of Newfoundland and Canada in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

New FACES, New INITIATIVES

The Faculty of Arts welcomes our new faculty members for 2007-08

Philippe Basabose, French & Spanish

Kelly Blidook, Political Science

Reade Davis, Anthropology & Archaeology

Jillian Gould, Folklore

Sean McGrath, Philosophy

Fiona Polack, English

Jennifer Selby, Religious Studies

Kelly Vodden, Geography

Matthew Kerby, Political Science

Nikita Lyssenko, Economics

Robert Finley, English

Tabitha Marshall, History

Craig Maynes, Classics

New Women's Studies Department welcomes its first head

The Faculty of Arts grew to 15 departments this summer when the Board of Regents approved a proposal to change the status of the Women's Studies multi-disciplinary program to a full-fledged department.

"I am delighted that the collaborative efforts of the administration and the members of the Women Studies Council resulted in the recognition of this important discipline," said Reeta Tremblay, Dean of Arts. "Since its inception in the 1980s, the Women's Studies program has had a significant impact on women in Newfoundland and Labrador and has acquired a national reputation. With its newfound autonomy and departmental status, it aspires to continue to evolve and to further connect with the community, both within and outside the university."

In August, the new department welcomed its first head, Dr. Katherine Side, formerly an associate professor at Mount Saint Vincent University.

Dr. Side knows all about leading the way when expansion is imminent. She was the first Canadian to receive a free-standing PhD in women's studies – one that was not in combination with any other discipline – in 1997 from York University. In 2004, Dr. Side was involved in developing a women's studies minor into a major at Brandon

University in Manitoba, where she was serving as the Margaret Laurence Scholar in Residence in Gender and Women's Studies.

At Memorial, she takes the reins of a department poised to enhance its academic offerings. It currently offers an undergraduate minor program and a master's program; however, there are plans to develop a major program, to expand graduate-level studies, and to increase the number of students across the board.

There's already growth in this arena: the master's program has seven students this fall – more than double last year's cohort. In a testament to Memorial's already strong reputation in women's studies, six have come from Canadian locations outside this

province, while the seventh is from Bangladesh.

As the department grows, Dr. Side hopes that support for scholarships will also grow. Currently, the Edna Baird-Stephenson Scholarship provides \$500 annually to one undergraduate student, while one master's student received the \$1,000 Sally Davis Award each year. Both these scholarships honour Newfoundland women who exemplified the struggle to better the lives of women.

Russian program in Nizhny Novgorod

Students of Russian can study at one of the top-ranked institutions in Russia, the Linguistic University of Nizhny Novgorod (LUNN). In the summer of 2006, Memorial's Department of German and Russian conducted its first five-week program at LUNN with great success. Now, it has created a full-semester program to give students an even richer experience while they complete 12 credit hours. In addition to improving conversational Russian language skills, students can expand their understanding of social and cultural issues. Nizhny Novgorod is one of the oldest cities in Russia, and LUNN is situated in a vibrant centre of culture and industry.

Arts students get help charting their course

This summer, eight arts students piloted a new program designed to help them chart a course from classroom to successful career. Called ArtsWorks, the program focuses on showing students how the skills and knowledge they're gathering while in pursuit of a bachelor of arts can be turned into tangible future employment or further study.

According to Denise Hooper, senior career development coordinator, students gain a variety of job search skills, including the ability to articulate how their education makes them a valuable employee.

ArtsWorks participants also learn to use academic and student services on campus to their advantage, and gain experience

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Highest scholarly honour

Memorial linguistics professor, Dr. Vit Bubenik, has been

elected to the Royal Society of Canada (RSC). This is considered the highest honour that can be attained by scholars, artists and scientists in Canada.

Also known as the Academies of Arts, Humanities and Sciences of Canada, the RSC honours scholars of exemplary achievement. In citing Dr. Bubenik's accomplishments, the RSC refers to him as "a master of several Humanities disciplines: Classics, Indology,

Slavic, Semitic, Medieval Studies, Comparative and Historical Linguistics, who has added a new dimension to such studies."

Dr. Bubenik has studied a remarkable range of languages, and is an expert on the origins of modern languages, how



these have diverged from common ancestors, and what the divergences tell us about history, culture and the movement of people. He is also the author of several volumes that shed light on the way Indo-European language structures have developed and diverged over millennia.

Dr. Bubenik also works with Semitic languages. This fall he taught a course in Modern Arabic at Memorial, while his current project, funded by the Social Sciences and Research Council of Canada, investigates the morphology and syntax of Akkadian and Aramaic. Recently, he's been working to add a Berber language spoken in Morocco to his repertoire.

French Order of Chivalry

Dr. Ronald Rompkey was presented with the Ordre National du Mérite by the Ambassador of France, Monsieur Daniel Jouanneau, at a special ceremony on June 30. This Order of Chivalry is awarded by the President of the French Republic for distinguished civil and

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campuses, as well as community partners, and will be housed at Memorial's Bonne Bay Marine Station.

Research teams will look at the relationship between globalization and local communities, including associated threats and opportunities. For example, youth out migration poses a serious challenge to the future of our fishery communities, so teams will examine employment options, work quality and occupational health issues for young

workers and promote dialogue between local youth and those who have left to work elsewhere.

Photographic essays and theatrical performances on central themes, along with community radio broadcasts, educational programs for youth and harvesters and an interactive website, will be used to promote community engagement.

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through a 10-hour placement in a community organization. For David Taban, a sociology major, that included a chance to work directly with children. "I did not know how that would be, but I was able to adapt as my understanding began to change."

For Danai Kusikwenyu, a third-year English student, the greatest value was in finding a focus through self-assessment exercises. "You discover things about yourself that you didn't realize," she said. "The self assessment not only tells you what kinds of things you are more inclined to like to do, but also what jobs out there would complement these things."

Student Sarah McHugh, on the other hand, already knew that she wanted to pursue a law degree when she completes her undergraduate studies, which include a minor in Law and Society. "I knew what I wanted to do but I didn't know how to get there," she explained. "I made so many

connections, and now I have a much clearer plan."

ArtsWorks is offered through the Faculty of Arts and the Career Development Centre.

High school students offered a head start in Arts

To entice more high school students to take introductory courses at Memorial during their Grade 12 year, the Faculty of Arts began offering \$100 awards to defray tuition fees for top students who enrol in arts courses this year. Ten awards will be given each semester.

Known as Concurrent Studies, this program lets high school students with excellent academic records get a head start on earning university credits – and get a taste of the work before dealing with a full courseload.

military achievements, and to foreigners for service to France and the Francophonie.

The honour recognizes the English professor's contribution to the francophone community of Newfoundland and Labrador –



work that has significantly raised the profile of that small but important group.

This includes chairing the Board of Société 2004, a body that organized activities to mark 500 years of French presence in Newfoundland.

"For hundreds of years, the French had the right to fish along Newfoundland's shores," Dr. Rompkey explained. "There was a significant French presence here, but they couldn't establish any settlements, it was a kind of 'phantom' French presence."

Dr. Rompkey's research has lent substance to that phantom. In 2004, he published *Terre-Neuve : Anthologie des voyageurs français*, a collection from the abundant written record about the French experience. His latest book, *En mission à Terre-Neuve*, is a collection of correspondence by Charles Riballier des Iles, vice-consul at St. John's from 1885 to 1903.

In his remarks, the Ambassador noted that Dr. Rompkey is recognized as one of the few experts on the French fishery in Newfoundland.

Journey to India

Dr. Patricia Dold, a Religious Studies professor who specializes in Sanskrit and Hinduism, was awarded a prestigious Shastri Fellowship that will allow her to finish the translation and



analysis of an obscure Sanskrit text, the *Mahābhāgavata Purāṇa*. Written in north-east India between 1400-1600, the text contains 81 chapters of Hindu narratives from the perspective of Śāktism, a form of Hinduism that exalts the Goddess.

In 2008, she will spend several months in India, unravelling the challenging passages.

"I want to work with Indian scholars on the specific parts of the text that I have trouble with," she explained. "This is their tradition, and there are nuances in the language that don't show up in any dictionary."

She is particularly intrigued by local knowledge of the story relayed in text, because there are very few copies of the

Mahābhāgavata in existence – and no record of any in the state of Assam in India's north-east, where stands a 16th century temple crucial to her understanding of the text's origins and history.

"They know very specific details, yet no one in the region can place this text." Dr. Dold believes this belies a strong oral storytelling tradition.

Memorial University has recently renewed its relationships with the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, an organization that promotes and enhances relations between Canada and India, primarily through academic research and scholarship funding.

Rothermere Fellowship Winner

Newfoundland neighbourliness met the philosophical examination of communications, language and altruism in 2007's Rothermere Fellowship winner, Raymond Critch. The award, one of Memorial's most prestigious, allows the philosophy master's student to pursue doctoral studies at any institution in the United Kingdom.

Established by Memorial University's first chancellor, Lord Rothermere, this generous trust funds the full cost of studies as well as living and travel expenses. Mr. Critch plans to continue his studies involving the philosophy of communications and language, and how this relates to whether people are inherently good and inclined to act positively toward one another. He says his approach to philosophy and ethics derives from his experiences of neighbourliness in this province, and he hopes his ongoing scholarly pursuits will allow him to propagate one of Newfoundland's most valuable resources – our sense of community.

Graduate scholarship award benefits single moms

Single mothers may be the biggest beneficiaries this year of the Sally Davis Scholarship. Cristy Hynes, a master's student in Women's Studies, was this year's recipient of the \$1,000 award. She's using the funds to help develop a child care initiative at the St. John's Women's Centre as her internship project.

"I thought a good program would be to offer single mothers a drop-in service, as well as maybe provision of child care during other programming so they can take part in community events and activities, and access supports," Ms. Hynes explains.

She conceived the idea after noting a lack of diversity in the women who used the Women's Centre. Establishing a child care program where one doesn't exist, however, isn't as simple as breaking out a few boxes of crayons and putting away the poisons. Ms. Hynes plans to work with children's programmers to develop appropriate activities and games. She will also tackle the legal liability issues, and most importantly will look closely at what both the mothers and the children need and want.

Putting archaeology on the map

Memorial's Department of Anthropology has added *and Archaeology* to its moniker. According to Department



Photo courtesy of Dr. Peter Whitridge

Head Dr. Peter Pope, the new name doesn't signal a change in direction, but rather reflects the current reality of the department. "It was a unanimous decision of the department to change the name to better indicate what we do. Today, about

half of the department's faculty are archaeologists – and over half of our graduate students are in archaeology," Dr. Pope explained, adding he hopes the name will make archaeology more visible to prospective students.

The department's reputation is already strong among archaeologists worldwide. In May, hundreds attended the Canadian Archaeology Association annual conference in St. John's, including scholars from Greenland, Scandinavia, Spain, Netherlands, Ireland, the U.K. and Argentina. This diverse contingent came to sample the rich archaeology of Newfoundland and Labrador.

"We have 9000 years of prehistory here, and the lengthiest period of European settlement in North America," said Memorial's Dr. Lisa Rankin, who organized the event.

And because the conference culminated in the establishment of an Arctic Archaeology Network, it also drew those who work in polar regions, as many Memorial researchers do. Dr. Peter Whitridge is one. Drawn here by his interest in the far north, he's led a project at Nachvak Village in northern Labrador, where a fairly large Inuit population lived. He and his team have excavated several 15th-17th century dwellings and are analyzing the bones, tools, furnishings and toys found there. Last year, *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine* called this excavation one of Canada's top 10 archaeological sites.

Dr. Rankin has also done significant work in Labrador, locating at least 125 new sites and uncovering sod-walled houses and artifacts at what is likely the earliest and most southerly Inuit settlement explored in the region.

Her work is of great interest to the Labrador Métis Nation. "The Inuit and Métis communities are very interested in their own history. We work a lot with those communities."

Advancing coastal connections

In her role as the Canada Research Chair in Natural Resource Sustainability and Community Development, Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee is building research programs that tackle a myriad of interconnected coastal issues.

Coastal communities worldwide are vulnerable to pressures brought about by natural phenomena and the impact of human activities on nature. Fisheries collapse, habitat loss and sea level rise are among the most challenging issues confronting them.

"Researchers have argued for holistic and integrative approaches that take into account ecological, environmental, economic, social, cultural and institutional aspects of the

coasts," explains Dr. Chuenpagdee. "Such approaches need to balance conservation and resource recovery with economic development."



This year, Dr. Chuenpagdee was awarded \$136,300 from

the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) for a project called "Coastal Connections: Interactive Governance Models for Sustainable Coastal Development". Dr. Barbara Neis, Sociology, is one of the project's collaborators. This program will enhance the understanding of connectivity and interactions between natural and social systems, examining existing governing systems and their limitations and suggesting governance structures that promote learning and interaction among actors.

"Interactive governance refers to an exploration of ways in which coastal actors, both private and public, participate in addressing concerns through problem-solving and opportunity creation. It requires these actors to work collaboratively," she says.

Through a large-scale project funded by the European Union, Dr. Chuenpagdee is also leading a team in the development of a computer-based program that will allow communities around the globe to explore the potential impacts of different decisions. Called the "Coastal Transects Analysis model", or CTAM, the software will let people input basic data about their coastal environment – from physical attributes and resources to economic activities and pressing issues – and find information on other jurisdictions that face similar circumstances. In itself, that's valuable in helping break the isolation of communities which, while unique, have things in common.

The software will be a simple tool, requiring no special technical knowledge or navigational skills. It is accessible on-line at www.coastaltransects.org.

Preventing malaria in Madagascar

Mandy LeRiche's long-time dream of working in the international aid arena became a reality this fall. The native of St. John's is spending five months in Madagascar as a junior delegate with the Canadian Red

Cross program that distributes bednets to families to help prevent malaria, which kills about 3,000 African children every day. Ms. LeRiche studied political science and history at Memorial, and graduated with a BA in the spring.



Photo courtesy of Canadian Red Cross

Informing complex equalization debate

Dr. Wade Locke knew it was going to be complicated when he stepped into the equalization arena – but he wasn't prepared for how emotionally charged a set – well, two sets – of numbers would become.

On April 4, the Memorial economics professor made a presentation detailing the estimated impact for the provincial treasury of the equalization options specified in the 2007 federal budget. Before he laid out three equalization scenarios and their financial implications, Dr. Locke noted that he'd spent hours crunching the numbers, an inherently complicated exercise. He explained how equalization is calculated, how the Atlantic Accord functions, and the assumptions that went into his equations – assumptions he'd verified with federal and provincial finance officials.

His aim, he said, was to provide an objective assessment of the numbers to facilitate informed public debate.

Using graphs and detailed explanations, Dr. Locke demonstrated how the province could optimize its bottom line. The presentation garnered acclaim and national media coverage, and created a political storm. However, when he learned from Finance Canada officials that the eligibility criterion for the Atlantic Accord was subject to a different interpretation, based on legislation that had been tabled just a week earlier, he went back to crunching numbers.

"Once you have an indication that the assumptions aren't correct, you have to look again. Professional ethics require that," he explained.

Based on new information from Finance Canada, Dr. Locke released significantly different numbers on April 13. The biggest change: net revenues flowing to the provincial treasury could be five billion dollars less than previously estimated.

Again, Dr. Locke found himself the centre of intense media and public attention. This time, however, there were also attacks on his integrity.

"From the onset, I encouraged both the province and the Government of Canada to release their own analyses and expose them to public scrutiny. Challenge my numbers, absolutely – but there is no need to attack someone's personal or professional integrity."

He called the whole process both stressful and enlightening. "On a positive note, my experience shows that the university has an important role to play in helping inform debate on issues that may be significant for the province and the country."

In June, Dr. Locke appeared in front of the Senate Finance Committee for Canada, along with Dr. Paul Hobson from Acadia University, to discuss "Assessing the Equalization Options of Budget 2007 for the Atlantic Provinces," a commentary they co-authored for the Atlantic Province's Economic Council (APEC).

The Language of the Law

A partnership between the Faculty of Arts and the province's Department of Justice is helping justice workers in Labrador understand the language of the law. Linguistics professor Dr. Marguerite MacKenzie is leading the development of an Innu-aimun glossary for criminal justice.

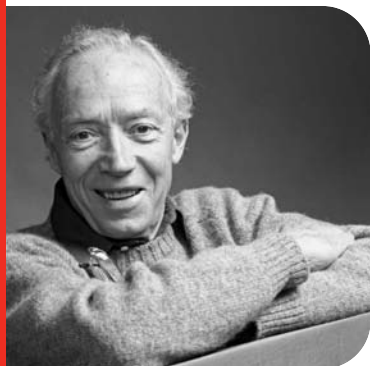
In July, Dr. MacKenzie led a three-day workshop in Goose Bay for lawyers, a judge, and a group of Innu interpreters who have been involved in translation for the courts. The workshop was intended to bridge understanding between those who speak Innu-aimun but don't necessarily have training in legal terminology, and those familiar with the legal lexicon, but not the language spoken by community members. Terminology created will be used in the larger Innu dictionary that Dr. Mackenzie is helping compile, part of a SSHRC-funded project to develop Innu language resources.

Dr. Douglas Wharram, linguistics professor and coordinator of the Aboriginal Studies program at Memorial, subsequently traveled to Happy Valley-Goose Bay to do a similar workshop for Inuktitut.

Deputy Minister Christopher Curran, Department of Justice, approached the Faculty of Arts last spring to initiate the sessions, which are largely funded by his department. Lawyers from the Public Legal Information Association and Labrador Legal Aid are providing plain English explanations of the terminology.

New student award in Arts and Music

A new scholarship has been created in memory of Alan Dennison Hall, English professor, actor, broadcaster, community volunteer, RCA chair, Arts and Letters



Alan Hall

adjudicator, husband, father, grandfather, and cherished friend to many. In his various roles, Alan Hall had a significant impact on the lives he touched and on cultural life in the places where he lived.

Born in South Africa in 1921, he developed a wide range of interests which lasted throughout his life: from literature to squash, from singing and piano to fine

carpentry. He completed a rare triple first degree in music, history and English at Rhodes University. In 1942 he joined the South African army; while stationed in Egypt, he married Hope Barrable.

Awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1947, he read English at Wadham College, Oxford before accepting a lectureship at Rhodes University. In 1955, Alan Hall, now the father of two children, moved to Johannesburg to teach at the University of the Witwatersrand. In 1962 he moved to Australia to join the University of New England, and in 1969 was appointed to Memorial's Department of English Language and Literature.

During his career, he was known as an extraordinary teacher. At a celebration of his life in September, former student and journalist Lana Payne spoke of the lasting impression he made when she studied modern plays with him: "Although studied may not be the right word. We digested them, we argued over them We were

encouraged to learn and to feel passion – to engage in juicy discourse or, as we Newfoundlanders would say, to have a good row," she recalled. "This is what Alan Hall did in his classroom. He did not lecture. He questioned. He challenged. He inspired us to think critically."

On the same occasion, Alan Hall's contribution to local theatre was recalled by friend and colleague, Gordon Jones: "Alan was instrumental in lighting a theatrical flame in St. John's - a flame that continues to burn" – when he agreed to direct a Shakespearean collage called *Much Ado About a Midsummer Shrew*, which inspired annual productions by the student society, MUN Drama. The summer tradition was taken up by the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival, which continues to this day.

In 1989, three years after retiring from Memorial, Alan Hall married Phyllis Artiss, his colleague in Memorial's English Department.

After his death in July 2007, a fund was established in his name to reward exceptional students. The award will be given alternately to a student in the School of Music and a theatre student in the Faculty of Arts.

"This scholarship seems appropriate," said Dr. Artiss. "While Alan was a man of many interests, he was deeply engaged by music and theatre, and a knowledgeable, enthusiastic participant, whether as performer, producer, director, or member of the audience. Travelling or at home, Alan placed a high priority on attending plays and performances."

Endowed through the generosity of friends and family, the Alan D. Hall Award will recognize students beyond their first year who have shown a high level of achievement in their academic programs, as well as a committed involvement in their music or theatre communities.

SOCIAL SCIENCES, cont'd from pg. 7

A deeper understanding of America

Political scientist Dr. Chris Dunn was the only Canadian – and one of only 16 academics chosen from a worldwide pool – chosen to take part in the 2007 United States (U.S.) Institutes, which took him on a six-week trip through five American cities, attending intense academic seminars on American politics and political thought.

Hosted by the University of Massachusetts Amherst and funded by the U.S. State Department, the programs formerly known as the Fulbright American Studies Institutes are intended to enrich curricula and teaching about the United States in academic institutions internationally.

Dr. Dunn said this was an opportunity to deepen his knowledge, establish a network of international contacts,

and gather tools and anecdotes to use in his teaching to help illuminate Canadian issues such as constitutional or institutional change.

He is particularly interested in resurrecting the old notion of the 'North Atlantic Triangle' – Canada, the U.S. and Britain – which was once considered the important frame of reference and the relevant political arena, but fell out of favour as teachers and scholars became more interested in other countries. "I think it's relevant to bring it back. These three places do deeply affect each other," he explains, adding, "The only overt attention this receives these days is in relation to the conflict in Afghanistan."

HUMANITIES

Graphic novels and team teaching

One reason faculty often cite for choosing to work at Memorial is the encouragement to develop innovative new courses. This fall, English professors Drs. Nancy Pedri and Andrew Loman tore a page out of that book when they premiered a course on



the graphic novel. Sometimes dismissed as “comic books,” this literary form is shaking its pulp reputation and garnering more respect.

Dr. Pedri, who works on words and image, says academia has begun to recognize and respect the graphic novel. Dr. Loman,

who read the genre incessantly as a teen and studied it seriously while doing his doctorate, explains it has tremendous literary potential and is politically engaged. The duo uses a dynamic team-teaching approach to examine the genre.

In the course, students read such works as Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*, an Iranian woman’s account of her ambivalent relationship to her country and its customs, and the Pulitzer-prize winning *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale* by Art Spiegelman. The latter, Dr. Loman explains, is a Holocaust narrative in which ethnic groups are emblemized by different animals.

Students, they note, are intimately familiar with and excited about graphic novels. This course lets them bring a critical rigour to them.

Both English professors will be in the classroom for each lecture, offering their perspective and sparking discussion. “It’s a new model for teaching here that lets students see that topics can be broached in a variety of different ways,” notes Dr. Pedri.

This is just one of several new courses offered in the Faculty this year. Others tackle subjects as diverse as the sociology of sexuality, screenwriting, the philosophy of popular culture, religion and Disney, Russian film and modern Arabic.

“Arts faculty are encouraged to devise new courses, based on their expertise and in concert with our changing world,” Dean Reeta Tremblay notes. Once a new course is proposed, a process of consultation is undertaken across the Faculty before it is approved in Senate.

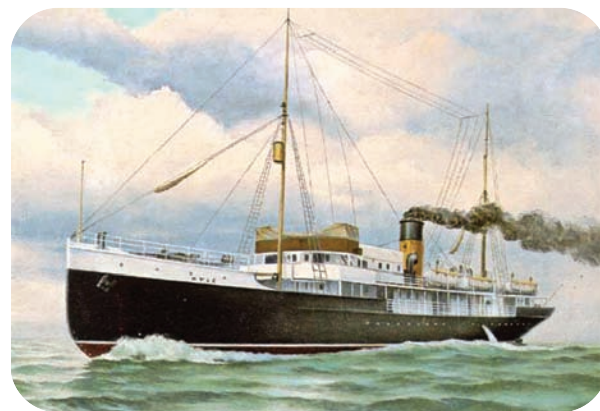
Old coastal boat records finding new life

The Maritime History Archive (MHA) is working with the Railway Coastal Museum in St. John’s to create a database of all the employees who worked on coastal boats. These boats carried passengers to outport communities along the coast of Newfoundland and Labrador before Confederation, and played an essential role in travel and trade.

Memorial student Matthew O’Connell, hired by the museum, is working on the project at the MHA. There, he’s using the archive’s crew agreement and log book collection as his main source for the database.

“Putting information in digital form is very important for preserving the records for future researchers,” he says, adding that the database will offer accurate, individual details about those who worked on the marine coastal vessels, including their ages, birthplaces, occupations, dates of service on the boats and rates of pay. He believes the records will be of interest to academic and family researchers, as well as others.

MHA director Heather Wareham says this is another example of how the archive’s unique collections can serve community interests. She hopes, in future, to also make the coastal boat crew agreements available electronically to everyone.



Built as part of the Reid Newfoundland Company’s fleet, the S.S. Kyle sailed the Labrador coast from 1926 to 1959, providing vital transportation between the island of Newfoundland and the Labrador mainland. The boat was eventually grounded at Harbour Grace where it remains today.

HUMANITIES, cont'd from pg. 9

International discussions aim to lift the veil

In July, Dr. Richard Ilgner, Department of German and Russian, gave a presentation at the International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities in Paris. The conference featured over 500 presenters from disciplines across the humanities, who discussed the theme, Discourses Veiled and Unveiled: The Public Intellectual and Islam.

Dr. Ilgner's presentation was grounded in his expertise on 18th century writer Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, whose attempts to understand Islamic culture are still respected in Islamic countries today.

"Goethe saw forming in his own time a western culture that wasn't open to different ideas," said Dr. Ilgner, whose conference paper explored the idea that there are both

naturally-occurring veils, and those which are culturally imposed. "He believed that if you don't recognize the veil covering your own cultural understanding, then all dialogue is skewed."

According to Dr. Ilgner, these international events are opening up important dialogues across disciplines and between western and Islamic scholars.

Classic act comes to town

Over 130 classics scholars gathered in St. John's in May for the Classical Association of Canada's annual general meeting. From Aristophanes to architecture, from ancient poetics to political family dynasties, from gladiators in film to electronic simulation games, conference organizer Dr. Tana Allen said the program demonstrated the ubiquitous influence of classical culture in today's world.

Exciting new directions for Folklore

Memorial's Folklore Department – the only such department offering comprehensive folklore programs in English Canada – continues to flourish.



Last fall, in a course offered in conjunction with The Rooms, graduate students in Public Sector Folklore conducted research in the Battery, a St. John's neighbourhood in transition. That research formed the basis of an exhibit mounted at The Rooms this past summer. Now, the department is looking to build its

programming in public sector folklore, helping students learn the skills necessary for conducting research in communities.

"This is such an exciting time," said Jillian Gould, a Folklore professor who has worked in the public sector in Canada and the U.S. "There's so much potential to build on the work that's been happening here in intangible cultural heritage and the province's Cultural Blueprint."

As well, the Folklore and Language Archive, long a remarkable community resource has become more accessible than ever thanks to extensive cataloguing on a searchable electronic database.

The archive, known as MUNFLA, contains an extensive collection of oral and written narratives going back generations. These provide personal histories, as well as folk customs, beliefs, practices and childlore. There are also recordings of folksongs and music, and descriptions of material culture. To ascertain what was in the collection, interested individuals used to have to pour through paper records. Now, over 75 per cent of the catalogued holdings have been included in the database. That feat was accomplished largely by graduate students, thanks to a student assistantship program that gives them hands-on experience.

"I'm thrilled by what has been accomplished by our students," says archivist Patricia Fulton, adding the department is indebted to the staff of the Queen Elizabeth II Library for their assistance. "It's led to a huge increase in awareness and demand. Now, people find that we have something in the holdings relevant to them by conducting an online search."

Dr. Diane Tye, who became head of the Folklore Department this fall, says one of the most exciting things about the collection is that it links people to their relatives – sometimes relatives they never met. "It gives them insight into the oral history and the life history of their family."

MUNFLA is located on the 4th floor of the Education Building in Room ED-4038. It's open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To learn more about it, or search the database, visit www.mun.ca/folklore/munfla.

WRITERS GALLERY

Memorial writers sweep NL Book Awards

Dr. Gerhard P. Bassler (front), Department of History, won the Roger's Cable Non-fiction Award for his book *Vikings to U-Boats: The German Experience in Newfoundland and Labrador*. His competition on the shortlist for the annual Newfoundland and Labrador Book Award came from two colleagues. Dr. Peter Hart, the Canada Research Chair for Irish Studies, was selected for *Mick: The Real Michael Collins* and Dr. Frederick White, Department of German and Russian, was nominated for *Memoirs and Madness: Leonid Andreev through the Prism of the Literary Portrait*.



QEll librarian and alumnus Patrick Warner (back), who studied anthropology and English literature at Memorial, won the E. J. Pratt Poetry Award for his collection of poetry *There, there*. English professor Mary Dalton's work *Red Ledger* was also shortlisted for that award, as well as for the Atlantic Book Awards Atlantic Poetry Prize.

Student takes top Atlantic writing prize

Third-year English student Scott Bartlett picked up the H.R. (Bill) Percy Prize from the 30th annual Atlantic Writing Competition. The 20-year-old author won the award for his as-yet-unpublished



novel, *Royal Flush*, a comedic romp that features a hapless king, a beautiful damsel who refuses to love him and a band of roving linguists.

Mr. Bartlett said many of the ideas he uses in his writing come from courses he has taken. However, he hasn't focused his studies on the myriad writing courses that Memorial offers, but has chosen instead to focus on critical theory. In the wake

of his big win, he's now looking for an agent to help him publish the book, and launch the writing career he hopes will sustain him after graduation.

Acclaimed novelist becomes honorary doc

One of Canada's most prolific and admired authors, Goulds native Dr. Wayne Johnston (BAH '79) received an Honorary Doctor of Letters from Memorial in May. Last year, his novel *The Custodian of Paradise* landed on the long list for the renowned 2006 Giller Prize. Since 2004, Mr. Johnston has held the distinguished chair in creative writing at Hollins University in

Virginia. Formerly, he was a writer-in-residence and guest lecturer in creative writing at Memorial.

Poet finds his voice – and an esteemed publishing deal

Jacob McArthur Mooney (BA 2006) credits the living language of Newfoundland and the poetry seminars at Memorial for revealing his inner poet. Now halfway through a master's of fine arts program in Creative Writing at the University of Guelph, he is awaiting the 2008 publication of his first collection of poetry by McClelland & Stewart.

"I wouldn't have made it into the MFA program (and, it follows, would have never met the contacts needed for the M&S deal) without the encouragement of the poetry community at MUN." Meeting and talking with living, breathing poets, he says, made him understand that it was a relevant, viable, contemporary literary form.

New editor at the Newfoundland Quarterly

Earlier this year, well-known freelance writer Joan Sullivan became editor of the *Newfoundland Quarterly*, one of the oldest magazines in the country. The St. John's native, whose work regularly appears in the *Globe and Mail*, *The Telegram* and the *Current*, is also a well-known member of the arts community in St. John's as an actor, director and playwright and co-founder of the St. John's theatre company called The Open Actor's Studio. She is also the author of *Newfoundland Portfolio: A History in Portraits*, and is completing her BA in history.



The venerable *Newfoundland Quarterly* is owned by the university and operates as a separately incorporated entity.

Our next Writer in Residence

During the 2008 winter semester, internationally acclaimed writer Michael Crummey will be the Writer in Residence at Memorial University. Mr. Crummey is the author of *The Wreckage*, *River Thieves*, *Flesh and Blood* and three collections of poetry, and is an alumnus of Memorial.

A resource for both the university and the larger community, the Writer in Residence meets with individuals to discuss their writing, and the writing process. Watch for more information on how to schedule an appointment.

Photo courtesy of Holly Hogan



Coracle Fellowships

Memorial's Coracle Awards fund multi-year projects that enhance this province's links with Ireland, promoting exchanges and knowledge sharing. Fellows are usually scholars, senior civil servants or eminent practitioners (current or recently retired) who demonstrate an expertise in areas relevant to this relationship. These can include, but are not limited to: economic or business development; history or politics; the study of society; technology, science and innovation; literature or the arts.

Memorial provides funding for travel and some expenses, as well as a modest honorarium.

Deadline for applications or nominations is Jan. 31. Further details can be found at www.arts.mun.ca/coracle.



ArtsWorld

ArtsWorld is a publication of Memorial's Faculty of Arts. It is intended to highlight some of our best and brightest achievements – to show off what we've become, and what we're still becoming – and of course to recognize the support from so many that helps us accomplish so much.

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If you would prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, or wish to be taken off the *ArtsWorld* mailing list, please contact one of the editors.

EVENTS

Memorial University hosts a variety of events to inspire, inform and entertain. Keep your eye on our Event Calendar, found at <http://today.mun.ca>. You are always welcome to attend!

Remembrance and exploration

Summer field trips offer intriguing journeys

The First World War took some of the best and brightest of a generation; in Newfoundland and Labrador, the loss was profound. From the Newfoundland Regiment came countless stories of bravery and loss, sacrifice and heroism. Now, a special tour sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and hosted by award-winning author Kevin Major will trace the footsteps of this regiment from the streets of St. John's to the Battle of Beaumont-Hamel.

Starting April 21, 2008, this 12-day program will take participants on a journey of remembrance. After visiting archival collections and the Regiment museum in St. John's, the tour group will fly to England, where accommodations are provided at Memorial University's campus in Harlow.

In London, the tour will take in the 'trench experience' at the Imperial War Museum, and just outside the city, visit the vast Brookwood Memorial Cemetery as well as charming villages to learn more about famous World War One poets. A chartered tour of France will follow the trail of the Caribou, visiting all four of the battle sites in France that feature the famous statue: Guedecourt, Monchy, Masnières, and, of course, Beaumont-Hamel, where the Newfoundland Regiment was devastated in battle on July 1, 1916. Other stops in France will include the grave site of Wilfred Owen, and the venerable grounds of Vimy Ridge.

This never-to-be-forgotten journey runs from April 21 - May 4, 2008. The second in this series of educational adventures for adults, **La Dolce Vita**, an exploration of Italy's splendor, will be held in May. For more information, please visit www.mun.ca/arts.



Kevin Major

Carolyn Rumsey, who is completing an honours degree in French with a minor in English, was this year's recipient of the Graham Family Scholarship, established by Mrs. Kathleen Graham Birchall and her son, Dr. David Graham. The award is given annually to an outstanding Memorial student majoring in French studies.

"Winning this scholarship is a really great honour. I find that a lot of university students are often forced to give up great opportunities because of the cost," Ms. Rumsey noted. "There are a lot of things, like traveling and learning about other cultures, that really should be experienced during the university years. Receiving scholarships from generous people like the Graham family makes this possible."

She added: "It also makes you feel very good about yourself and what you have achieved, and encourages you to keep giving your best."

Ms. Rumsey and several past winners were honoured at the Graham Family Event in September.



From left to right: Mrs. Kathleen Birchall, Kevin and Genevieve Rumsey, Caroline Rumsey and Dr. David Graham.