



Memorial's Harlow Campus is located close to London – and affordable travel options let students see Europe and points beyond.



*Reeta Tremblay, dean of Arts, took in the Harlow Campus and talked with Political Science professor Christopher Dunn and his students last fall.*

## Harlow Semester lets Arts students explore the world

**In the fall, a group of political science students** took the opportunity to study at Memorial's overseas campus and discover some of the world.

The students were enrolled in "Power and Politics in Britain: Government, Business and the Environment", a joint offering of Memorial and St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia. The full-semester program covered issues relating to Britain's current political scene, and field trips to a variety of seats of power in the UK and Europe added a rich dimension to the learning.

The Harlow campus, located about 40 kilometres from London, provides accommodation and some meals for students, as well as classroom and study

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## NEWS from the DEAN'S OFFICE

### Meet Memorial's new dean of Arts

**Memorial University's new dean of Arts** took the reins in August. Reeta Tremblay, a professor of political science, was previously at Concordia University in Montreal,

where she chaired the Political Science Department from 1998-2005.

Dr. Tremblay has an MA and PhD in political science from the University of Chicago. Her research areas include comparative politics, South Asian political economy, nation-state and secessionist movements in India and Indian popular cinema.

Her work, particularly on Kashmir and India and Pakistan relations, has been widely reviewed and cited. She has been frequently tapped for expertise on the

*Dr. Reeta Chowdhari Tremblay, a political scientist, became Memorial's dean of Arts in August, 2006.*

South Asian region by Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade and by the Canadian International Development Agency, and media often seek her insight into Indian politics, the secessionist movement in Kashmir and India-Pakistan relations.

Her recent publications include *Human Rights: A General Overview* (2006); *Mapping the Political Landscape* (2004, 2006); and articles and reviews in many journals.

Dr. Tremblay says she was strongly attracted to Memorial. "It is one of Canada's leading universities, with a strong commitment to excellence that is much more than just words. I have been impressed by the dynamic, vibrant and

forward-looking Memorial community, and I consider myself very fortunate to have the opportunity to become an integral part of it."

#### New energy for the dean's office

The Faculty of Arts continues to professionalize services to better meet the needs of students, faculty and staff. In addition to a strengthened administrative team, several important positions have been added in recent years. For example, Arts students can now take advantage of an academic adviser and a career development co-ordinator. Faculty have the support of a grants facilitator to help acquire funding for their research. Meanwhile, our development officer helps donors ensure their gifts do the most good, and has helped establish many of the new awards mentioned in *ArtsWorld*.

The Faculty of Arts is also improving the way it communicates. Last spring, a new website was launched at [www.mun.ca/arts](http://www.mun.ca/arts), and this newsletter, *ArtsWorld*, was created to highlight our achievements – to show off what we've become, and what we're still becoming – and of course to recognize the support that helps us accomplish so many things.

#### Arts moving up

The Faculty of Arts is moving up to the fifth floor of the Arts Annex to take over an area formerly used by the University Club. The move gives Arts an additional 3,115 square feet to help meet its most urgent needs. While this much-needed addition of space is appreciated, it fulfills just over six per cent of the faculty's space requirements. "We know space is a very precious commodity on campus, and for the Faculty of Arts and its students, this provides desperately needed relief and considerable encouragement," said Reeta Tremblay, dean of the Faculty of Arts.

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areas. Conveniences are nearby, and its proximity to buses, trains and airports allows students to travel easily.

"It was such a great opportunity to see and experience things," says Cara Lewis, a political science student who spent weekends and her mid-term break travelling on inexpensive flights to European destinations – including Egypt. She says she learned as much from those experiences as she did from the formal program. "At first I was nervous. By the end of my time in Egypt I was bargaining like a pro. I feel so much stronger, more aware, and more confident now."

This spring, Geography and Folklore will team up to deliver "English Cultural Landscape", a popular program that explores English towns, architecture, material culture and heritage preservation. Then next fall, Drs. Annette and Michael Staveley, professors of English and Geography respectively, will offer "English Landscape and Literature", which lets students experience the settings that inspired many classic texts. Anthony Murphy, a former student of that program, says the Harlow experience was a life-changing eye-opener. "It wasn't just going to class in a different town. Travelling to so many

places ... brought the subjects alive. I look at everything now with an eye for the geography. I look at architecture, not just of buildings but of fields and highways, and try to figure out the age and reason for things."

While Memorial subsidizes the cost of Harlow programs to keep them affordable, many students rely on bursaries and scholarships to help cover their costs.

More information on studying at Harlow can be found at [www.mun.ca](http://www.mun.ca).

**Other study abroad opportunities are available to arts students. For example, we offer an outstanding and intense French immersion program at the Frecker Institute in St-Pierre-et-Miquelon. Arts students can also choose language programs in France, Germany, Russia, Spain and Italy.**

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An integrated plan will happen in stages. Relocation of the dean's office to the fifth floor will free up space on the fourth floor for the Department of Sociology, which is particularly in need of additional room for faculty and graduate students. The resulting domino effect will see other departments gain office space that they require.

There's more in the works than just a shuffle of space. Plans include improved facilities such as the development of a multi-media videoconferencing facility available to all Arts departments.

### **Graduate program in classics reinstated**

Memorial will again offer a master's degree in classics. The graduate program has been reinstated due to increased

interest in the field, and because the department has undergone growth that makes it possible.

"I've had many requests from students about further studies in classics, and it has been disappointing to have to tell them to seek out other universities," department head Dr. Tana Allen says. "Now, students can again look forward to a challenging master's program that offers them excellent training in the core areas of the discipline."

The MA in Classics can be completed in one year of full-time study, normally begun in September. Its emphasis is on classical texts and research methods. Applications are being accepted for fall 2007 from those with an honours degree in classics or a related field.



*Kelly Best*

graduating with a B.Sc. (honours) and working for several years in multimedia and online technology, she realized: "I loved science, but I'd had a lifelong relationship with music and I wanted to come back to it."

## New ethnomusicology award created as first grad completes MA

**In October, Kelly Best** became the first graduate of Memorial's master's program in ethnomusicology, a program of the School of Music in collaboration with the Department of Folklore.

Ethnomusicology looks at music as a cultural practice, and allows students to study diverse traditions of local and world music.

While a musician in her youth, Ms. Best pursued science in university. After

Her ethnomusicology research focused on the Newfoundland button accordion tradition, which took her into communities to speak with and observe a wide range of players.

The need for such community-based study led ethnomusicology professor Dr. Beverley Diamond, director of the Music, Media and Place Research Centre at Memorial, to make a large donation to create the Ethnomusicology Field Research Award.

"The sort of work that ethnomusicologists do involves getting into communities. There needs to be funds available for students to ensure that community-based work thrives," Dr. Diamond says, adding that student research may be done locally, but also nationally or internationally. "It's a small amount now, but I hope others will see the value and contribute to help it grow."

## Scholarship in philosophy awarded for first time



*Joseph Carew*

He hopes to move into an honours program, and is considering moving on to graduate studies in philosophy. Joseph is also pursuing a minor in Russian Studies.

**Joseph Carew** is the first recipient of the James A. Good Scholarship in philosophy.

A Newfoundland native from the southern shore, Joseph says while he had an interest in philosophy, he didn't come to university with the idea of focusing on it. "I took a couple of courses out of interest, and just wanted to keep going."

The James A. Good Scholarship in Philosophy was established in memory of its namesake. Mr. Good was an alumnus of Memorial's philosophy program, and had a stellar career in politics and investment banking before his life was cut short by illness in 2005. The endowment for the scholarship fund grew quickly, thanks to a significant gift from the Eric Baker Family Foundation and contributions from many of Mr. Good's friends and colleagues.

The scholarship will be awarded annually to one student who excels in philosophy studies; financial need will be taken into consideration.

For Joseph, the scholarship has provided a major boost in his academic career. During his three years of study, he says he's had to rely on student loans. "This is a really big help for me!"

# Making Waves

**Eight graduate students** spent the 2006 Fall Semester exploring a St. John's community in transition – a project that transformed the students themselves into museum curators. For their Public Sector Folklore course, six MA and two PhD students gathered personal stories, images and artifacts from residents of The Battery, and considered what is being lost and gained as this St. John's neighbourhood changes.

Photo by Maureen Power



*Public Sector Folklore students explored The Battery, a neighbourhood that is undergoing radical transition.*

Folklorist Dr. Jerry Pocius taught the course along with Mark Ferguson, curator of history at the provincial Museum. Dr. Pocius says The Battery was chosen for its proximity to Memorial, but also because it serves as a microcosm for what's happening around the province: "The changes in The Battery are very similar, in my mind, to what's happening in all of rural Newfoundland in the early 21st century."

The experimental project was done in collaboration with The Rooms Provincial Museum, and gave students hands-on experience working in the public sector and in museums. Dr. Pocius noted the program was about working collaboratively with other institutions, but more importantly, about connecting with people and community.

Student Jed Baker said the benefits of the approach were significant. "I got a solid sense of what it's like to work in public sector folklore in a way that I couldn't have in a purely academic class."

The students learned that this community has moved through stages. First, it was a fishing community where residents settled to be close to the water. Then, in the 1970s and '80s, artists, craftspeople and intellectuals moved in, drawn by the affordable housing and inspirational setting. Today, many newcomers are affluent and come not just from St. John's but from the U.S. and Europe; housing prices have increased, and the neighbourhood's culture is changing.

From the vast array of materials the students gathered, including taped interviews and photographs, they devised a public exhibition called Making Waves. The exhibit, which is divided into the three "waves" of Battery residents, will be mounted at The Rooms this spring. As well, a website is being developed to allow the world to visit The Battery – without clogging its narrow streets.

Watch for, Making Waves: An exhibition about life in The Battery, this spring at The Rooms.

Tiffany Crane (left) and Rebecca LeDrew (right) had an opportunity to thank Mrs. Kathleen Birchall and her son, Dr. David Graham (not pictured) for their generosity in establishing the Graham Family Scholarship, which rewards excellent undergraduate work in French studies. To Mrs. Birchall's right is Marcia Krahn, a Graham scholarship winner from the University of Winnipeg who came to St. John's to attend a celebratory lunch in honour of the winners.



## Faculty of Arts NEWS and HIGHLIGHTS

The Faculty of Arts continues to make important contributions through innovative teaching, incisive research and indispensable community participation. Here, just a sample of our recent accomplishments.

### Province selects Arts website as curriculum resource

The Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage website has become an important resource for junior high students and teachers who increasingly turn to it as their source for information. The site, which was already receiving about 100,000 visitors monthly, received a \$50,000 infusion from the provincial Department of Education to develop new content.

"The Department of Education has developed a Grade 8 curriculum on Newfoundland and Labrador history. They asked us to go through our site and fill in gaps in the information related to the curriculum," project co-ordinator Vince Walsh explained. "They approached us because we've developed a very good reputation. We have always

prided ourselves on making every effort to ensure information is accurate, and visitors to the site have confidence in that accuracy."

According to Dr. James Hiller, the academic co-ordinator for the heritage site, the curriculum project is spurring some major original research, particularly for the period of the 1950s and '60s. "There's no standard source on the resettlement program, nothing that really describes how a community went about moving in the 1960s. It hasn't been described before." The same is true, he noted, of topics like the start-up of mines and mining towns in western Labrador. To experience the Newfoundland and Labrador Heritage website, visit [www.heritage.nf.ca](http://www.heritage.nf.ca).

### Preserving languages

It isn't just a diversity of animals and plants that the world is losing at an alarming rate – perspectives, traditions and knowledge are also in danger of becoming extinct as languages and dialects die out. According to linguists at Memorial, what's being lost is far beyond words.

"The loss of language contributes to and even accelerates the loss of culture and knowledge," says Dr. Julie Brittain, who notes that stories, histories and legends often exist only in an oral form, along with environmental, medical and traditional practices. "Language is bound up with identity and culture, and it's the repository of knowledge. Everything we do as human beings involves a language." In fall, 2006, Dr. Brittain taught a new course aimed at addressing language endangerment, the issues it raises, and international efforts to address preservation.

The previous semester, Dr. Doug Wharram taught an intensive course in Aboriginal Languages of Eastern Canada at the Labrador Institute of Memorial University, located in Happy Valley-Goose Bay. Offered in conjunction with the College of the North Atlantic, the course gave

an overview of three language families: Eskimo-Aleut, to which Inuktitut belongs; Algonquin, which includes Innu-Aimun, Mi'kmaq and Beothuk; and Mohawk, an Iroquoian language not spoken in this province. While Innu-aimun is one of very few aboriginal languages still learned by children, Labrador Inuktitut is endangered, with only a few hundred speakers, most elderly.

Dr. Wharram said that while participants didn't leave speaking any language they didn't already have, they did gain some basics and more importantly, an understanding of the need to preserve these languages. "When a language is lost, you lose the knowledge it holds. The people who have traditionally spoken these languages know the ecology and the environment of Labrador, and have been able to live in harmony with nature."

According to Dr. Michael Collins, associate vice-president of academics, the course is a sign that Memorial is committing more resources to Labrador. "I think it's clear that there's a need for Memorial to play more of a role and to have a teaching presence there."

## Contest offers tuition vouchers for imagining the possibilities

Through a new competition, called **Become Your Future ... In 400 Words or Less**, the Faculty of Arts invited high school students to leap ahead 10 years, and imagine where an education in the social sciences or humanities has taken them. Students then had to share that vision through a written or audio piece in any form – for example, it could be an essay, a newscast about an accomplishment or a mock-up of a company website.

The contest is based in the idea that a liberal arts education is terrific preparation for many careers, and that daydreaming some of the possibilities is a great way to start planning for a future. It was open to all students in their last year of high school. Two winners will receive vouchers to cover a full year of tuition (five courses in each of two semesters) in the Faculty of Arts for 2007-08.

## Folklore students nab international prizes

Three Memorial students of folklore were awarded prizes at the American Folklore Society's annual general meeting. The students tackled a broad range of topics, from old legends to modern cultural phenomena.

- Ayako Yoshimura, who is pursuing a master of arts in folklore, won the Don Yoder Prize for best student paper for her paper, called "Kanashibari—Japanese "Old Hag": The Case Study of Self-Analysis on Personal Experiences with the Supernatural". It explored how people remain rational during experiences with the legendary nighttime visitor alleged to cause suffocating sleep paralysis.
- PhD candidate in folklore Contessa Small, who is currently teaching Newfoundland Folklore at Memorial, was awarded the W.W. Newell Prize from the Children's Folklore Section of AFS for her student essay, "Co-creating Harry Potter: Local Expressions of a Global Phenomenon."
- Sarah Moore won in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Section category for her paper, "Coming Out Stories: Personal Experience Narratives in the Gay and Lesbian Community."

## Pre-Confederation census data a research treasure



*The CCRI project will make census data collected between 1911-1951 more accessible, offering insight into families in pre-Confederation like this Badger's Quay family of the 1930s. (Photo courtesy of The Provincial Archives of Newfoundland and Labrador.)*

Memorial University and the Newfoundland and Labrador Statistics Agency are working together on a massive project to digitize census data as part of the national Canadian Century Research Infrastructure (CCRI) project.

CCRI is a five-year, pan-Canadian initiative to develop databases from information collected between 1911 and 1951. It will make rich details of a rapidly changing society available at the click of a mouse. According to Atlantic team leader Dr. Sean Cadigan, Department of History, accessing these records previously took significant time and, in some cases, required travel to where the records were stored.

A component of the project is the inclusion of data from censuses done in pre-Confederation Newfoundland and in Labrador. While Canadian privacy legislation limits the depth of detail that can be drawn from censuses, Dr. Cadigan explained that those pre-Confederation censuses do not fall under that legislation – making the data a goldmine for research. "The importance of this for research is immense. For pre-Confederation Newfoundland, you can look at smaller centres and even families, and track the movement of people," he said. Far beyond identifying trends, he asserted, this allows researchers to understand the human stories behind the stats. The benefits also extend to genealogists, family historians and genetic researchers. Funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation is making the collaborative project viable.

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## Funding for mapping of natural risks to NL communities online

A team of Memorial geographers, led by Dr. Norm Catto, received \$40,000 from the provincial government to conduct a comprehensive mapping assessment of natural hazards in selected communities.

"This cutting-edge research is of great benefit to our ongoing emergency preparedness and response efforts throughout Newfoundland and Labrador," said the Honourable Jack Byrne, minister of Municipal Affairs.

Dr. Catto and a team of Memorial students have undertaken detailed mapping and investigation of natural hazards

related to terrain, extreme weather events and climate in communities such as the north-eastern Burin Peninsula focusing on Marystown, the Humber Valley from Corner Brook to Deer Lake, and Gander and vicinity.

According to Dr. Catto, communities in Newfoundland and Labrador are subject to a variety of natural hazards. "I hope that our work will help municipalities and residents to cope with existing natural hazards, and to reduce risks as communities continue to develop and grow."

"The results of this research will be invaluable to the people of our province," said the Honourable Clyde Jackman, minister of Environment and Conservation.

## Partnership preserving intangible culture

Memorial's Faculty of Arts and the province's Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, with support from The Rooms, are partnering in the development of a strategy to

safeguard the province's intangible cultural heritage (ICH).

According to Dr. Jerry Pocius, professor of folklore, ICH involves the customs and stories relevant to a culture that make it distinct. "As Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, it's our distinct knowledge, skills, celebrations, foods and ways of working," he said, noting that unlike buildings or monuments, once it's lost it can't be restored. Diverse cultural groups and communities will be consulted in the development of the strategy. This work builds on the Association of Heritage Industries' Living Heritage Forum, held on Memorial's St. John's campus in June. Anita Best, a Memorial graduate with

*"Intangible cultural heritage" includes traditional boatbuilding. Fred Green, shown here, and Melvin Green – volunteers with the Winterton Museum – demonstrated that skill at Memorial.*

significant experience working in the province's cultural communities, has been hired to lead the strategy development. More: [www.arts.mun.ca/ich](http://www.arts.mun.ca/ich)



## Post-Soviet reform experts gathered at Memorial

An international network of experts on aspects of reform in post-Soviet countries met for the first time at Memorial's St. John's campus in August. The first meeting of ReformNet drew together sociologists, economists, political scientists and others from Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Germany, the U.K., the U.S. and Canada. According to conference organizer Dr. Anton Oleinik, Sociology, this multidisciplinary, multinational approach is crucial. "To understand what are the constraints under which bureaucracy operates, we need to compare how different factors affect it," he said, citing examples such as the rule of law and the impact of grassroots activism. Comparisons are also important between countries inside and outside Eastern Europe. At this first meeting, funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, participants agreed to develop a website and to publish a special journal of peer-reviewed papers.

While the network has a special focus on post-Soviet countries, Dr. Oleinik said many issues are relevant to other places striving to bolster development, including Newfoundland and Labrador. "In attempts to catch up in development or modernization, the state bureaucracy is assumed to play a central role," he explained, adding that despite the many differences, "we can see some of the potential problems and understand some of the limits that may be observed here."

## And more achievements ...

- In 2006, Dr. Ronald Rompkey, a research professor in the



Dr. Ronald Rompkey

Department of English was elected a fellow in the Royal Society of Canada (RSC) – considered the highest academic accolade in the country. The RSC elects members from all branches of learning who have achieved national and international recognition by publishing learned works or original

research in the arts, humanities and sciences. Founded in 1882, the country's oldest scholarly organization currently has about 1,800 fellows. Dr. Rompkey also recently won the Best Atlantic Published Book Award at the Atlantic Book Awards for *Reginald Shepherd and Helen Parsons Shepherd: A Life Composed*, which he edited.

- Dr. David Natcher, Canada Research Chair in Aboriginal Studies, and co-investigator Dr. Larry Felt, sociology, were invited to partner in a project that will capture



Dr. David Natcher

traditional Inuit knowledge so that it can inform resource management policy. Through a project led by the Nunatsiavut Government in Labrador, Drs. Natcher and Felt will lend their research expertise to help gather and synthesize the knowledge of elders, while Inuit elders or other experts will be asked to co-author papers and

sit on graduate committees to ensure scholarship is accurate. Dr. Natcher has also been named the co-director of a large research network that will examine the impact of economic development in Canada's north, stretching from Labrador to Yukon. Like other projects in which Dr. Natcher is involved, this one aims to ensure the interests and values of Aboriginal people play a role in decisions.

- Drs. Chesley W. Sanger, professor emeritus of geography, and Anthony B. Dickinson, professor of biology, received the Keith Matthews Award for Best Book published in 2005 on a Canadian nautical subject. The award was given by the Canadian Nautical Research Society to recognize *Twentieth-Century Shore-Station*

*Whaling in Newfoundland and Labrador*, which examines the vital role the whaling industry played in local economic development.

- *The Beaver: Canada's History Magazine* included a Memorial University-led excavation project in its article on Canada's top archeological sites. "Digging History: Canada's Top 10 Archaeological Sites" featured the work of a team led by Dr. Peter Whitridge, assistant professor of archaeology. Since 2003, the team has been excavating late pre-contact and early contact era Inuit sites along Nachvak Fiord, in the heart of the new Torngat Mountains National Park Reserve in northern Labrador. Numerous students from Memorial and communities in Labrador have been involved in the research. There are currently six Memorial graduate students working on finds from Nachvak Fiord.

- Mark O'Brien, a student in the English Department's Media Arts Performance and Communications program, had a major acting role in the four-hour TV movie, *Above and Beyond*, which aired on CBC-TV in the fall. The mini-series was co-produced by Pope Productions of St. John's and Shaftesbury Films. Mark is also the host for Kids' CBC in St. John's.

- Dr. Robert Sweeny, a history professor, is a co-investigator (with geographer Dr. Sherry Olson of McGill) on one of the largest historical GIS projects in the world. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) has provided \$178,000 in funding over three years for the project, *Montréal l'avenir du passé – 'Montreal, the future of the past' –* which marries high quality historical maps and GIS technology to create computerized maps of that city. The researchers have chosen six dates in the city's recent history: 1825, 1846, 1880, 1912, 1949 and 2000, and a wide variety of historical sources can be linked to each of these maps.

- Dr. Peter Hart, Canada Research Chair in Irish Studies, published a thorough examination of an Irish hero that stirred controversy, even as it garnered acclaim. *Mick: The Real Michael Collins* chronicles the life of the Irish revolutionary who became the first government leader before dying in an ambush in 1922. Young, good-looking and having attained a "celebrity hero" status in life, Mr. Collins has been revered in Ireland since his death, Dr. Hart said, adding that he set out to create a factual

## Dick's Kids remember him

**Those involved with the Shakespeare by the Sea Festival** – many of whom called themselves “Dick’s Kids” when they opened in 1993 – donated the proceeds from their 2006 opening night performances to the endowment fund for the Dick Buehler Award in Theatre. “Dick brought us together, and inspired us – and he made theatre really fun,” artistic director Jennifer Deon recalled, noting that this was the first season in the festival’s 14 years



*Jennifer Deon (seated, right) presents a cheque worth over \$1,600 to Reeta Tremblay, dean of Arts. Mike and Sharon Buehler (right) and Denyse Lynde, co-ordinator of the Performance and Communications Media Program (left), were also present.*

that professor Buehler, who passed away in the summer, hadn’t taken part.

The Festival’s associate director, Danielle Irvine, was also on hand at the cheque presentation. “I worked for the National Theatre School of Canada for six years, and I wouldn’t have gotten there if I hadn’t started here, with Dick.”

This was the second such donation to the fund in 2006. Memorial theatre students also donated proceeds from their fall performance of *Woyzeck*, a Georg Büchner play. With these donations, the endowment has doubled in size since it was first established last year by professor Buehler himself.

According to Ms. Deon, the beloved teacher’s influence and inspiration live on. “Some of the younger people who didn’t know him very well have taken to calling themselves ‘Dick’s Grandkids’,” she said. “We’ll always remember him, and we felt this was one way that we could do that best.”

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account free of ideological positions in this, his fourth book. The book was critically acclaimed, and was listed among the top 100 books by the *Globe and Mail*.

- In October, the first **Coracle Roundtable** brought to St. John’s some key architects of the Irish Social Partnership, which helped foster economic vibrancy in that country. Organized by the Faculty of Arts and the Strategic Partnership Initiative, “Building Consensus To Build Competitiveness, Lessons From Ireland” explored whether a similar co-operative model could help build prosperity in Newfoundland and Labrador. About 40 people involved in business, labour and government attended the event, which was hosted by Political Science professor Steve Wolinetz and Coracle Fellow Wally Kirwan from Ireland. More about Coracle Fellowships and Roundtables is available at [www.arts.mun.ca/coracle](http://www.arts.mun.ca/coracle).

- Linguistics professor **Dr. Yvan Rose** received the Petro-Canada Young Innovator Award to complete the



design, refinement and implementation of a software program called Phon. The software is essential to the subsequent creation of a database called PhonBank. This powerful multimedia tool will allow researchers and practitioners around the world

to quickly locate segmented phrases, words and syllables using terminology standard to phonology. By comparing developmental and/or disordered speech data with typical adult speech data, users will be able to see where discrepancies are occurring, and explore possible causes. The database will be openly available and free to use. Dr. Rose is working closely with a team of computer science experts at Memorial in the development of Phon.

# NEW and notable SCHOLARSHIPS

## Generous scholarship means greater options for outstanding students

**Two outstanding arts students** are starting the new year with fewer financial worries, broader options and a chance to concentrate better on their studies thanks to a generous new scholarship.

Hazel Dalton and Eleanor Daley, both second year students at Memorial, learned in December that they are the first beneficiaries of the Heaslip Scholarship, worth \$15,000 this year and renewable for two additional years. The new award is funded by a donation from The William and Nona Heaslip Foundation.

Ms. Dalton is pursuing a bachelor of arts in computer science, and a minor in German. "I really like other languages and to me, computer science is another language to learn – one that I understand." This past summer, Ms. Dalton's minor allowed her to participate as one of about 20 students from Memorial who spent a month at the field school in Heidelberg, Germany. She explained that with hundreds of students coming from a number of countries – she got to know people from Russia, Brazil and Romania – the only common language to use was German. "It was really cool to be immersed in the language, and great to meet so many people from different countries."

When the letter arrived confirming her Heaslip win, Ms. Dalton said, "I looked at the letter twice, to see if the decimal point was in the wrong place!" She added, "It takes a lot of stress out of studying because I don't have to worry about paying tuition. As soon as I found out, I found I could focus a lot more easily on my studying and my extracurricular activities." Those activities include acting as webmaster for the student newspaper *The Muse*, and playing a key role in co-ordinating the annual Newfoundland and Labrador Youth Parliament, a youth-run organization which involves 50-60 high school students in parliamentary-style debate.

When Ms. Daley learned of her scholarship, she said, "I was so surprised and excited when I got the news."

She has chosen to major in history because she enjoys it, and minor in mathematics because she has a strong aptitude in that area.

Ms. Daley also has a lot on the go. A member of the provincial rowing team, she also studies ballet and jazz at the Dance Centre and volunteers with the Special Olympics.



*Hazel Dalton*

She says she's not sure what she plans to do after completing her undergrad studies, but it will definitely include further education – she's considering law or medicine at this point. Whatever direction she heads, she notes that the generous scholarship opens up possibilities while lessening the debt she will incur. "It will make things so much easier, and could broaden my options for where I choose to study in the future."

Heaslip Scholarships are awarded to two students annually who are registered for full-time studies, have scholarship standing, are in financial need and have demonstrated outstanding involvement in university and/or community affairs.

**In June, the Department of Religious Studies** received a cheque in the amount of 5,000 Pounds Sterling, bequeathed from the estate of the Reverend Professor Alexander Campbell Cheyne, who was awarded an honorary doctor of letters degree from Memorial University in 1983. A professor of ecclesiastical history in the University of Edinburgh from 1964 to 1986, Prof. Cheyne passed away on March 31, 2006 at the age of 82. The endowment, to be named the **Reverend Professor A. C. Cheyne Award in Religious Studies**, currently permits an award in the amount of between \$450-\$500 to a student of academic merit majoring in Religious Studies.

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**The essays of the late history professor Dr. Stuart Pierson** have been compiled into a book, *Hard-Hearted and Big-Headed: Writing Newfoundland* (Flanker Press). Dr. Pierson moved to Newfoundland to join Memorial's History Department in 1970, and was an ardent supporter of the intrinsic value of an education in the humanities. He was known for his passionate and incisive commentary on Newfoundland's historical, literary, and visual culture, and his significant writings were compiled and edited by Stan Dragland after Dr. Pierson's death in 2001. A portion of proceeds from the sale of *Hard-Hearted and Big-Headed* go to fund the Stuart Pierson Prize, which is awarded annually to a student enrolled full time in the Master of Philosophy Humanities program, or in the MA or BA honours programs in History. In keeping with Dr. Pierson's interests, preference is given to students who show particular promise in the history of ideas, historiography or the history of science.

## Centuries of Labrador's History Captured Online

**Over 250 years of contact** between disparate peoples and two years of intense collaboration among three universities have come together in a rich archival resource now available online.



*The Labrador Inuit Through Moravian Eyes* is a website that documents the Moravian experience in coastal Labrador from 1752, when the first missionaries arrived. Through thousands of searchable pages of text and hundreds of photographs, paintings, drawings, maps and even video, visitors to the site can experience the challenges, the relationship that grew between two such different people, and the changing impact of that contact over time.

"This is an incredible digital collection and, I hope, the start of many opportunities to make the materials that are unique to Memorial available to the rest of the world," Bert Riggs (BAH '77), head archivist in the Centre for Newfoundland Studies at the Queen Elizabeth II Library, said when the site was launched in October.

Digitization of the archive for online presentation was a collaborative effort between the libraries of the University of Toronto, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Laval Université. The project was made possible, in part,

by funding from the Canadian Culture Online program of the Department of Canadian Heritage.

An educational component has also been incorporated. Working with school curriculums, the team designed toolkits for both teachers and students in Grades 7 to 10. These are intended to foster an awareness of Inuit peoples and northern Canadian history. The resource also contains components aimed at improving critical literary and research skills among youth.

To access this remarkable heritage collection, visit *The Labrador Inuit Through Moravian Eyes* at <http://link.library.utoronto.ca/inuitmoravian/>.



# Marine and coastal safety champion wins substantial fellowship

**Dr. Barbara Neis**, a Memorial professor of sociology who has been a trailblazer in marine and fisheries occupational health, received one of the most lucrative social science awards in Canada, the Trudeau Foundation Fellowship. The funds are giving Dr. Neis greater flexibility as she expands her work.

Dr. Neis conducts research and advocates for better prevention in areas like fishing vessel injuries and shellfish processing risks. In recent years, she highlighted the high incidence of asthma experienced by snow crab processors.

"It's an occupational disease. Once you've got it, you're in trouble," she says, noting the asthma – which previous studies found affected more than 15 per cent of Quebec processing workers after only a few years on the job – can become chronic. "Most people don't have any other job options. That's one of the things that keeps these issues invisible."

In 2000, she helped organize a workshop that brought Health Canada to the table with diverse stakeholders and experts. "It became clear that there was a significant problem. There had never been any effort at prevention."

A partnership then formed between governments, labour, industry and academics. With funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, SafetyNet was born. "We decided to focus on marine and coastal work because no

one else was doing this work; there were big gaps in knowledge," says Dr. Neis, co-director of SafetyNet, which is a Community Research Alliance in health and safety relating to marine and coastal work.



Dr. Barbara Neis

Her research also led to the creation of a short drama called *A Second Wind*, produced and directed by Donna Downey in the Distance Education and Learning Technologies unit at Memorial, and written by Lois Brown. The film, based on a play written by Dr. Ian Feltham, a physician and co-investigator on the original crab asthma research project, conveys the issues and dilemmas crab asthma creates for workers, their families and employers. It is intended as a discussion tool in a pilot project to test a community-based approach to

policy innovation. The film was screened as part of the Women's Studies Speakers Series in November.

Dr. Neis is also collaborating on other projects that aim to foster capacity within communities that traditionally relied on the fishery. In October, a group of Spanish journalists came to Canada to investigate the impact of the cod moratorium on communities. Dr. Neis chaired the discussions, which included a number of faculty from sociology, anthropology, geography and other disciplines who are working with communities to determine the complex effects of the fisheries collapse on community well-being.

**In November, Geography Awareness Week** highlighted how the physical and human geography of this country and province is changing, and the social, cultural, economic, political and environmental implications. At Memorial, activities included a variety of lectures, a large GIS (Geographic Information Systems) exhibit, the student-organized Geoamazing Race, and recognition of the 2006 winners of the Captain James Cook Memorial Scholarship. They are Catherine Strong (left) and Amanda Douglas.





## Writer-in-residence Don McKay

**The incomparable Don McKay**, an award-winning poet and acclaimed essayist, was Memorial's writer-in-residence throughout the fall semester. Sponsored by Memorial's Department of English and the Faculty of Arts, the writer-in-residence serves as a resource for the entire community, and is provided free of charge to everyone, not just those with ties to the university.

A two-time Governor General Award winner, Mr. McKay is also co-editor and co-publisher of Brick Books, an associate

director of poetry for the Banff Centre's writers' program and a former director of the University of New Brunswick's creative writing program.

During the semester, over 30 writers from the community brought their work to discuss with the writer-in-residence, who also had many less formal conversations about writing, gave public readings and visited classes. Mr. McKay also took in the natural wonders – and especially the geological features – of the province, which will feed his future work.

## Funding lets Memorial serve up more Italian

The Department of French and Spanish has received significant support that will allow it to dramatically expand its Italian programming. After two years of planning and negotiation, the Italian at Memorial project has been granted full approval by the Fondazione Cassamarca di Treviso, which is dedicated to preserving and fostering Italian language, culture, art and history worldwide. This prestigious foundation will finance the next nine years of Italian programming at Memorial University through annual payments totalling approximately \$370,000 (Cdn.).

According to Dr. Magessa O'Reilly, head of the Department of French and Spanish, the foundation finances very select projects. "As several Canadian universities apply for funding from the Fondazione each year, for Memorial to have secured this agreement is a milestone for the Faculty of Arts," he explained, adding that Memorial is the fifth Canadian university – and the only one in Atlantic Canada – to receive such support.

In December 2004, Italian course instructor Ms. Cristina Fabretto, represented Memorial University to the president of the Fondazione Cassamarca, On. Avv. Dino De Poli.

At that meeting, Ms. Fabretto explained that despite growing interest in Italian studies among Memorial students, budgetary restrictions meant introductory Italian courses could only be offered intermittently, and no funds were available to implement intermediate and advanced level studies.

This substantive new funding will allow the Department of French and Spanish to broaden its Italian course offerings. Italian language (ITAL 1000) will now be offered every fall semester, in two time slots for increased accessibility, while two classes of ITAL 1001 will be offered in the winter. As well, plans to activate intermediate level courses are to be offered in the upcoming academic year. A credit course in Italian culture – which will cover topics such as literature, business and cinema – is in the planning stage.

Receiving these funds represents an exciting chapter in the promotion of Italian language and culture in this province and in Atlantic Canada. It is expected the resulting continuity and growth will ultimately bring Memorial's Italian program up to a level comparable with its well-established programs in Spanish, German and Russian.

# All welcome!

**An important part of Memorial University's mandate** is to offer public talks and events that inspire, entertain and inform. Often, speakers are drawn from our own impressive faculty, but we also bring scholars of

national and international renown to the province, helping to spark discussion, share perspectives and foster a vibrant intellectual climate.

Last fall, the Faculty of Arts offered public talks with Canada's ambassadors to Afghanistan and France, while a renowned British sociolinguist spoke to an overflow crowd about why Newfoundland English has a flavour all its own.

*Dr. Margaret MacMillan*

Many events are made possible through generous gifts from our supporters. This winter, the Faculty of Arts, in partnership with the President's Office and the Harris Centre, hosted a visit from Dr. Margaret MacMillan, renowned historian and best-selling author of *Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World*, and *Nixon in China: the Week that Changed*

*the World*. She will give the Galbraith Lecture in Public Policy, an annual event made possible by a donation from the late Dr. John Kenneth Galbraith. Dr. MacMillan's January 29th lecture examined "The Shadow of the Past: How History Shapes the Present."

**On March 7, the Henrietta Harvey Lecture will feature professor Nigel Rapport**, the Canada Research Chair in Globalization, Citizenship and Justice and the director of the Centre for Cosmopolitan Studies at Concordia University. Dr. Rapport will speak on "People of the Air and City of Global Guests."

The Henrietta Harvey Distinguished Lecture Series was also made possible by the generosity of its namesake, who in 1964 left a gift to Memorial in her will, asking that the funds be used for the enrichment of the university in ways that would not otherwise be possible.

**Please check our events calendar for details on an array of other events: [today.mun.ca](http://today.mun.ca). If you're nearby, we hope to see you soon!**



*Professor Nigel Rapport*

## SPARC of support for new students

**Students starting first-year university** had help overcoming fears about whether they could meet academic challenges. A 2006 pilot project introduced new students to some basic research and writing skills, and gave them a sneak-peek into what their professors will expect.

SPARC (Summer Program in Academic Research & Communication), a joint initiative between QEII Library staff and the Writing Centre, provided a week-long intensive program in August before classes began. The program proved so necessary it had a waiting list, so it may be expanded in future years.



Students explored The Battery and designed an exhibit about the neighborhood – Page 5

## 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.

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## 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!

## All hands on deck

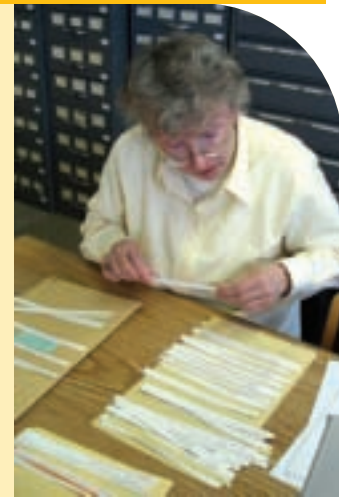
**The Maritime History Archive** is looking for a few good, thorough and patient volunteers.

Currently, a team is working on the painstaking process of sorting and copying thousands of scraps of data on individuals and families from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales who became involved with the overseas fishery in Newfoundland from about the 15th through the mid-19th centuries.

According to archivist Heather Wareham, Dr. Keith Matthews, a dynamic Memorial professor who died too young, had amassed information on over 7,300 families. To manage and use the data, he cut narrow strips of paper, each containing a typed line of information. Over 16 filing cabinets are filled with folders containing these strips of unique, invaluable and fragile data. The task now is to sort and photocopy this material to preserve it, and make it accessible to researchers. While a database is ideal, the time and funding needed to decipher and code the wide range of information held on the strips is prohibitive.

"This is an invaluable collection of data for researchers, including family historians and those doing genealogical research," Ms. Wareham says. "We could really use more hands to help."

If you're interested in volunteering for the Maritime History Museum, call 709-737-8428 or e-mail [mha@mun.ca](mailto:mha@mun.ca)



Volunteer Judy Gillingham sorts strips of information for the Maritime History Archives.

## Searching for submerged prehistoric artifacts

Dr. Trevor Bell has turned his 2005 Coracle Fellowship into an international consortium of researchers who are diving deep to shed light on submerged archaeological resources.

The Memorial professor of geography had been studying the near-shore landscapes around Newfoundland with Priscilla Renouf of the Anthropology Department. Under these coastal waters could lie important archaeological artifacts – the evidence left by prehistoric people who lived there until the land was submerged when the last ice age ended, and sheets of ice melted.



For example, this image shows the landmass that once connected Fogo Island to Newfoundland; circles represent areas of potential archaeological significance.

Dr. Bell and colleagues at several Irish universities have formed the Submerged Landscapes Archaeological Network (SLAN). A consortium

of government and university researchers, SLAN plans to locate and record ancient landscapes preserved in inshore coastal waters or on the seabed in the North Atlantic.