On Friday, Sept. 24, the newly renovated geography seminar room SN 2000 was re-named the William F. Summers Room in honour of geography's first department head. The 91-year-old Dr. Summers was on hand for the dedication ceremony as were members of his family, current and retired faculty members, senior members of the university's administration, students and honoured guests.

Department head Dr. Charles Mather sees the geography department's milestone as an opportunity to showcase the field's uniqueness.

“It’s a discipline that integrates both the physical and social sciences,” said Dr. Mather. “Geographers are so much more than map makers—they are planners, researchers, educators and decision makers whose interests focus on some of today's most pressing questions, including climate change and the impact of globalization.”

An initiative designed to bring attention to the role geography plays in all our lives is a public lecture series in partnership with the Johnson GEO CENTRE. Lectures by geography faculty members are scheduled to run on eight Tuesday nights from September 2010 to May 2011.

The department is also actively encouraging graduates from the past 50 years to get in touch and hopes to host an alumni event in April or May of 2011. For more information contact geog@mun.ca.

JOHNSON GEO CENTRE PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES SPEAKERS:

JAN. 18
Dr. John England – “Exploring Northern Canada: Geographical Perspectives on Arctic Environmental Change”

FEB. 22
Dr. Josh Lepawsky – “Tracking the Trails of Electronic Junk: Sustainability and the Travels of E-Waste”

MARCH 22

APRIL 19
Dr. Keith Storey – “Home and Away: Alberta-Bound on the Big Commute”

MAY 24
Dr. Trevor Bell – “What Lies Beneath: Uncovering the Legacy of Environmental Lead in Residential St. John’s”

ALL LECTURES TO BE HELD AT THE JOHNSON GEO CENTRE, 175 SIGNAL HILL ROAD, 7:30 P.M.

Visit www.mun.ca/geog/about/Original_Lecture_Series_Poster.pdf to view the entire schedule for the public lecture series.
WE HAVE HAD some significant comings and goings since the last edition of ArtsWorld. First the good news—big welcome to Memorial’s new president and vice-chancellor, Dr. Gary Kachanoski. Dr. Kachanoski was officially installed as president on Oct. 21 at the fall 2010 Convocation ceremony.

We are sorry to report that Dr. Reeta Tremblay has left Memorial to take on a new challenge as vice-president (academic) and provost at the University of Victoria in British Columbia. In her six years at Memorial Dr. Tremblay made a huge impression on faculty, staff and students and will be greatly missed. On behalf of the entire Faculty of Arts, I would like to thank Reeta for her considerable contributions to Memorial University and to the Faculty of Arts and wish her and her husband Mike all the best in their new adventure.

In light of Dr. Tremblay’s departure, Memorial University will be embarking on a search for a new Dean of Arts. I have agreed to remain in the role of interim dean until May 31, 2011 and Dr. Lisa Rankin will take over as interim dean on June 1, 2011. Dr. Rankin will remain as interim dean until a permanent dean is appointed.

In the midst of all of these comings and goings, the Faculty of Arts continues to remain a place of excellence where students and faculty are continually striving for success and innovation in their chosen fields. Looking at this edition of ArtsWorld will tell you that at a glance!

Much of this success is sustained by our donors, friends, and alumni who continue to be the foundation of our external support and share our vision of excellence. We are thrilled to be the recipient of the new Stephen Jarislowsky Chair in Culture Change in Rapidly Developing Modern Societies, of which you can read more on page 10. We are also very excited that our Department of Folklore continues to lead the field in North America by offering the first co-op MA in folklore on this continent.

These and many more stories of success and innovation can be found in this edition of ArtsWorld. We thank you sincerely for supporting our initiatives—you are indeed the foundation of our many successes.

Sincerely
DR. NOEL ROY
Interim Dean of Arts

A MILESTONE REACHED

AT THE MAY 2010 convocation, Jennifer Sooley became the first person that is deaf and who uses American Sign Language exclusively to communicate, to graduate with an undergraduate degree from Memorial.

Ms. Sooley graduated with an anthropology/sociology major and a minor in women’s studies.

Jennifer was accompanied in each of her classes by an ASL interpreter (funding for interpreters is provided by the provincial government) and she developed a practice of sitting in the front of each class so she could see the interpreter and professor clearly. For group projects with other students an interpreter would also attend and email was used regularly.

“I always figured out a way. … It did take a lot of patience, sometimes something wouldn’t work but I just persevered,” says Jennifer, through her ALS interpreter.

Memorial’s Glenn Roy Blundon Centre covered the costs for interpreters that were required for Jennifer’s attendance at presentations, meetings on campus, and extra-curricular activities including ArtsWorks and Make Midterm Matter for which she received a bronze VIP award.

The Blundon Centre also provided the sign language interpretation (with Jennifer’s input) at Convocation and for the first time sign language interpreters were visible on DELT’s live web feed of the ceremony. Jennifer was also provided with a hand held monitor so she could have a close view of the interpreter while in her seat at the St. John’s Arts and Culture Centre.

“Jennifer can certainly be viewed as a role model for other people who are deaf who would like to study at Memorial,” says Ruth North of the Blundon Centre.
innovation

FACULTY OF ARTS LAUNCHES E-PUBLICATION

A KEY MEMOIR detailing the early exploration and mapping of Newfoundland is now available as an e-publication of the Digital Archives Initiative by the QE11 Library and the Faculty of Arts.

Howley’s Reminiscences is a memoir based on the more than 40 years J.P. Howley spent exploring the island as the director of the Geological Survey of Newfoundland between 1868 and 1911.

The e-publication consists of 2,153 pages of text with a number of drawings and an attached link to a small collection of photographs taken by Howley during his expeditions beginning around 1890. It can be viewed at http://collections.mun.ca/howley.

A photo of Steady Brook at the Lower Humber, taken by J.P. Howley

THE EXTRAORDINARY CAPTAIN BARNES

LAST YEAR MEAGHAN WALKER, then a fourth-year history student, was handed an almost illegible photocopy of a BT-124, the record of a master sailor’s career, by Dr. Valerie Burton. The record was that of a Captain William Morris Barnes and his extraordinary life story became both the subject of Meaghan’s honours essay and a story-telling performed at the Maritime History Archive in April 2010 by renowned Newfoundland and Labrador artists (and Memorial honorary doctorates) Andy Jones and Anita Best.

It was the power of Barnes’ voice in his autobiography When Ships Were Ships, that led to the idea for a dramatization. “I could really hear his voice, the old seafarer that’s telling stories,” said Ms. Walker. Dr. Valerie Burton brought the idea of a story-telling to Andy Jones and Anita Best who were both thrilled to participate in the event as the voices of Barnes and his wife respectively. View a video of the event at www.distance.mun.ca/media/files/captbarnes/index.php.

FOLKLORE CO-OP MA PROGRAM LAUNCHED

CANADA’S ONLY folklore department at an English-language university is now offering what is believed to be the only folklore co-op MA program in North America. As a result of a partnership with the Division of Co-operative Education, the Department of Folklore is pleased to offer MA students a third option for completing their degree.

Students will spend two full terms at culture and heritage-related placements, including museums, archives, festivals, cultural and economic development organizations, tourism destinations and more.

“We decided to institute this stream in recognition of the fact that the jobs for folklore graduates don’t lie only in universities, but also in the greater community,” explains acting folklore department head, Dr. Martin Lovelace. “Our master’s and PhD graduates are working all over North America and the world, in many different kinds of positions.”

A photo of Steady Brook at the Lower Humber, taken by J.P. Howley
NEW FACES

SEVERAL NEW faculty members have joined the Faculty of Arts over the past year and they bring a host of experiences and viewpoints that will definitely enrich the lives of their students and the university as a whole. A huge welcome to:

DR. MILORAD NIKOLIC, Classics
MS. ANNE GRAHAM, French and Spanish
DR. DIMITRIOS PANAGOS, Political Science
DR. LIAM SWISS, Sociology
DR. MARK STOODART, Sociology
DR. JOCELYN THORPE, Women’s Studies

THE READING LIFE

WHEN STUDYING ENGLISH, the shape and meaning of stories themselves are examined. And that examination is done by reading. Dr. Danine Farquarson asked a fourth-year class of English students, what does reading do? The answers will surprise you. Check out www.mun.ca/english/undergrad/readinglife/.

DISTANCE TEACHING

A fourth-year world fisheries class (Geography 4300) recently got a global perspective on their class readings without leaving Newfoundland. Dr. Ratana Chuenpagdee was in Bangkok, Thailand from Oct. 18-22 as chair of the first official World Small-Scale Fisheries Congress. Dr. Chuenpagdee’s students back in St. John’s submitted blog posts to the conference based on their current class readings which were then read and commented on by international participants from every continent.

DR. JOCELYN THORPE comes to Memorial from the University of British Columbia where she held a SSHRC postdoc from 2008-2010. Her research examines how ideas about nature, race, gender and nation shape our interactions with one another and with our environments. She hopes to take her research in a new direction by studying Mi’kmaq histories and contemporary realities here in Newfoundland. Dr. Thorpe is an assistant professor in the Department of Women’s Studies.

The new head of the French and Spanish department, DR. ANNE THAREAU, brings a host of experience to the job. Born in France, Dr. Thareau first came to Memorial in 1981 as an exchange student. After completing her PhD at the Sorbonne, she spent time as the Director of the Frecker Institute and as an instructor at Grenfell College before coming to the St. John’s campus in 1993. She is just back from a year in France where she co-ordinated the Canadian Third Year in Nice program. She and two colleagues are currently working on the Canadian version of a textbook for first-year students of French as a second language.

The Faculty of Arts awarded two post-doctoral, one-year Fellowships for 2010-2011. Fellows are:

DR. SIPHIWE DUBE, Religious Studies
DR. JOHN THISTLE, Geography/Labrador Institute
NANCY MARTIN has been named the 2010 Rothermere Fellow and is currently enrolled at Oxford University in the U.K.

The Rothermere Fellowship is given to an exceptional scholar who has completed a first degree at Memorial. Ms. Martin studied English at Memorial before going on to Carleton to do a master’s degree. She finished her second master’s degree—this time in Memorial’s women’s studies department—in the spring of 2010.

A major part of the Rothermere Fellowship is to reward students who are committed to Newfoundland and Labrador. Nancy plans to extend her MA research on “the fallen woman” in 19th century literature to women’s writing on sexual transgression in Britain and Newfoundland and Labrador during the First World War.

DAFOE FOR CADIGAN

DR. SEAN CADIGAN, history department head, was awarded the prestigious $10,000 Dafoe prize earlier this year for his book Newfoundland and Labrador: A History. Awarded annually for the best non-fiction writing about Canada, Dr. Cadigan’s work was selected from 47 submissions.

Dr. Cadigan said winning the prize will allow him the freedom to delve even deeper into the topic.

“I’ve spent much of my academic career questioning the received wisdoms about the history of Newfoundland and Labrador. The Dafoe Prize encourages me to keep doing this.”

CANADA’S HIGHEST ACADEMIC HONOUR FOR RENOUF

THE ROYAL SOCIETY of Canada (RSC) has named Dr. Priscilla Renouf, a professor in the Faculty of Arts’ Department of Archaeology, as a new Fellow in the English Division of Social Sciences within the RSC.

“I am very pleased to have been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, which is a great honour. I am pleased to be recognized for my many years of archaeological research in Newfoundland and to join the ranks of those distinguished Memorial faculty who are already Fellows,” said Dr. Renouf.

Dr. Renouf is the Canada Research Chair in North Atlantic Archaeology. She was cited by the society for her interest in 6,000 years of coastal settlement on Newfoundland’s north west coast and for communicating her findings to a general audience through books, videos and exhibitions.

FESTSCHRIFT FOR DIAMOND

BEVERLEY DIAMOND’S list of accolades is truly head-spinning. A Trudeau Fellow, she is also Canada’s first and only Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in a music discipline. And now, her work has been made the subject of a Festschrift (a book honouring an academic and published during his/her lifetime), released by Wilfred Laurier University Press.

Music Traditions, Cultures, and Contexts includes essays by leading ethnomusicologists and music scholars that engage many of the critical themes in Dr. Diamond’s work, including musical historiography, musical composition in historical and contemporary frameworks, performance in diverse contexts, gender issues, music and politics and how music is nested in and relates to broader issues in society.
JOSEPH CAREW, a graduate from Memorial’s philosophy department, has made history by being not only the first person from Memorial to win the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Europhilosophe Scholarship but by also being the first native English-speaking Canadian to EVER win the two-year scholarship. Joseph, a native of Cape Broyle on the Southern Shore, is currently studying at the Université Catholique de Louvain, in Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Following the fall 2010 semester he will attend Bergische Universität Wuppertal and then Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, both in Germany. The award, which was established in 2007 by the European Commission, has a total value of 21,000 Euros annually and is offered to 17 students from outside the European Union.

THE FACULTY OF ARTS continues to offer the best in study abroad programs to students who are eager to expand their horizons. Dr. Jerry Pocius of the folklore department is planning to make food the focus of his 13th English Cultural Landscape program, scheduled for Spring 2011. “We’ll look at the changes in the kitchen over time and the emergence of the dining room. We’ll also look outside at historic farm outbuildings and their uses and at other buildings such as breweries and bakeries,” said Dr. Pocius. In addition to the usual field trips to cathedrals, castles, country houses and museums, students in the 2011 program will visit a working windmill, the fishing village of West Mersea, and some of the oldest barns in Europe at Cressing Temple. For more information see www.mun.ca/ecl/index.php.

Annual study abroad options include the La Coruna program in Spain and the German summer school in Heidelberg. For further information please see www.mun.ca/arts/undergraduate/abroad/.

ALETHEA POWER recently made good use of her first passport. The linguistics student spent four weeks in Ireland this past summer as the winner of an Ireland Canada University Fund Canadian Student Irish Language Award. Alethea, the first Memorial student to have the opportunity for Irish studies through the ICUF, studied Irish at the National University of Ireland Galway. “The immersion into Irish culture was fantastic,” says Alethea. “I learned so much and my confidence with the language improved greatly. Leaving Ireland was like leaving home all over again.”

CATHERINE KENNEY, a double major in English (honours) and sociology received the 2010-2011 Killam Fellowship, a prestigious study abroad program that offers Canadian students a chance to study in the United States for a semester. The Mount Pearl native is currently enrolled at Ithaca College in New York. The goal of the Killam program is to increase mutual understanding between Canada and the U.S. through direct, personal involvement.
Why journalism?
I always, always loved writing and would spend a lot of time journaling and loved my English classes. ... It was always something that people encouraged me to do. Everyone in my life encouraged me to write.

How did you start your career in journalism?
I did my BA at Memorial University in English and French and then I just started applying to journalism schools because I decided that this is what I probably want to do. So, I went to Ryerson in Toronto for their graduate program. I had an internship at NTV as part of the schooling that I did at Ryerson. When I graduated Ryerson, they offered me a job so I was able to come back home right away and I worked there four years. I started asking around CBC to see if there was anything available. I eventually came here and that's where I've been for nine years now.

What was it like to be at Memorial?
I really loved my experience at Memorial. Only good memories from there. I had an opportunity to study French in St-Pierre at the Frecker Institute. There was a class of probably 30 of us and we became very tightly knit. It was a lot of fun. You live in a completely different culture. You learn to speak the language. We were so fortunate to live in Newfoundland and to have that opportunity—that Memorial provided that opportunity for students. I really value the education that I got from Memorial. I think it really set me up well for all aspects of life, not just academically. The English degree makes you love language, makes you love words, makes you love communicating and admiring how other people have been able to communicate their ideas.

Are Newfoundlanders great supporters of news programs?
Definitely. I also think it has to do with our long history of storytelling. Even though you’re probably finding more and more today there are shorter items and punchier newscasts with many more items in it, I think it still goes back to that need to have stories told to us. I think that’s why people in this province love news. Journalists who come here to work from other provinces comment on that and on such loyal viewers and listeners. Everybody knows what’s going on. There is only 500,000 of us. We live in a village. We all met each other at one point. I love that about Newfoundland.

The longer documentaries you did—how did you enjoy that?
That, to be honest, is my passion. Long form storytelling is my passion. I feel privileged every time I can do a documentary for radio, or television or Land and Sea. I find it so satisfying to become involved in people’s lives and really tell meaningful stories that people will remember for a long, long time. [Those] are incredible experiences. Not just the opportunity to travel to some interesting place in this province, but the people you meet are some of the most down to earth people I could ever imagine meeting.

Read the entire interview with Jane Adey at www.mun.ca/gazette/issues/vol42no11/spotlight.php.
OBTAINING EXTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING has become an increasingly important component of an academic career. Here we highlight the work of Faculty of Arts researchers who have recently received grants from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

VALERIE BURTON/HISTORY

DR. VALERIE BURTON and her team have undertaken a huge project: sharing the stories of those who toiled as part of the British Empire’s merchant marines from 1863-1939 and enhancing the experience of family historians using the Maritime History Archives as a result.

Since the early 1970s, Memorial’s Maritime History Archives has been the home to what Dr. Burton confidently calls “the largest archive of working people that exists in the world.” This archive consists of 70 per cent of the crew lists of all British-registered vessels that sailed from the mid-19th to the mid-20th centuries and includes documents from whichever colonies were part of the British Empire during that time period (i.e. Australia, Canada, Newfoundland, India).

“Crew of Strathcona,” July 1921, Maritime History Archive, PF-323.021

These stories will form the basis of a new website that will showcase the stories of individuals and their travels.

SONJA BOON/WOMEN’S STUDIES

SAMUEL-AUGUSTE TISSOT (1728-1797) was the Dr. Oz of 18th century Europe. Dr. Sonia Boon is examining his archive for details of how the female body can be seen as a site for citizenship.

The collection, housed in the university library in Lausanne, France, includes 1,200 patient consultation letters.

“The letters are incredibly interesting,” said Dr. Boon. “They are essentially little autobiographies, in some cases 20 to 30 pages long. There are letters on masturbation, epilepsy and some things that I would not even consider related to health. Letters were of course the way that people of the time shared themselves with others—it’s always fascinating to observe what they reveal and what they hide.”

DOMINIQUE BRÉGENT-HEALD/HISTORY

DR. DOMINIQUE BRÉGENT-HEALD has received a special one-year SSHRC award for new scholars that will assist her in researching how the film and tourism industries shaped representations of the Canadian landscape and its people in the first half of the 20th century. Her work will examine how the American feature film industry dealt with Canadian tourism and conversely how the federal and provincial governments promoted tourism through the use of film.
MATTHEW KERBY/POLITICAL SCIENCE

MATTHEW KERBY has had quite a year.

His article, Worth the Wait: Determinants of Ministerial Appointments in Canada, 1935-2008, was awarded the 2010 John McMenemy Prize by the Canadian Political Science Association. He is featured as one of the stars in Memorial University’s innovative new research report, The Shining.

Along with fellow political science department member Dr. Kelly Blidook, he recently received a SSHRC Research Development Initiative grant to study party policy in Newfoundland and Labrador in the buildup to next year’s provincial election. And finally, he has been awarded a three-year SSHRC standard research grant for his project Comparative Ministerial Turnover 1945-2010.

Building on his previous research on the longevity of Canadian cabinet ministers, Dr. Kerby is planning to address the subject of cabinet minister turnover in four Westminster parliamentary democracies (Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand) from 1945-2010. The SSHRC grant contextualizes his previous work, said Dr. Kerby, and the resulting information will be key to understanding how government works.

RON ROMPKEY/ENGLISH

DR. RON ROMPKEY is well known for his contributions to studying the French presence in Newfoundland and Labrador.

SSHRC recently awarded Dr. Romkey a three-year standard research grant of $16,862 for an annotated edition of *La géographie de Terre-Neuve* (1913), based on the doctoral thesis of one Robert Perret. This thesis, explains Dr. Rompkey, is one of the most important books on Newfoundland to be published in France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

A geographer, Perret focused on both cityscapes and landscapes and the interrelationship between human lives and the natural environment. “His thesis is an outstanding example of colonial geography, of how people adapt to a landscape that’s not necessarily theirs,” says Dr. Rompkey.

MARGUERITE MACKENZIE/LINGUISTICS

MEMORIAL’S linguistics department continues to do ground-breaking work in Aboriginal languages. The latest project spearheaded by the department focuses on maintaining and promoting the Innu language. Dr. Marguerite MacKenzie (applicant) and Dr. Julie Brittain are recipients of a three-year SSHRC research grant that will consist of a detailed language assessment in three different Innu-speaking communities with varied sociocultural profiles.

Academic researchers from Memorial and the Université du Québec will partner with communities in Labrador (Sheshatshiu and Natuashish) and Passamit (Quebec).

CARRIE DYCK/LINGUISTICS

DR. CARRIE DYCK knows that big trees grow from small seeds. Last year the associate professor in the linguistics department was awarded a $20,000 SSHRC development grant under the Letter of Intent program to prepare a CURA proposal. This year her proposal on Cayuga language maintenance has borne fruit — to the tune of $999,947 over five years.

A million dollars for one language is “a really great thing” says Dr. Dyck and makes her research objectives of revitalizing and ensuring the future of the Cayuga language truly achievable.

KELLY VODDEN/GEOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHER DR. KELLY VODDEN is the principal investigator on a major SSHRC-funded project that aims to look at New Regionalism in a Canadian context and how innovations in regional development can be shared across provinces and jurisdictions.

Her project, Canadian Regional Development: A Critical Review of Theory, Practice and Potentials will look at how Canadian regional development has evolved over the past two decades in four Canadian provinces chosen to represent central, western and eastern Canada — British Columbia, Quebec, Ontario, and Newfoundland and Labrador, and the extent to which lessons from experiences have been reflected upon and shared within and across these provinces.
NEW $2 MILLION CHAIR TO FOCUS ON CULTURE CHANGE AND IMMIGRATION

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC sector donations will support the creation of a new $2 million academic chair that will be housed at Memorial University’s Faculty of Arts, focusing on culture change and the strategies required to affect immigration integration and retention.

“Newfoundland and Labrador is rapidly entering a new stage in its history by embarking on major growth and development,” said Mr. Jarislowsky. “This requires the attraction of immigrants and the return of Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, as well as the internal development of the province’s human asset. Decisions as to the best strategy require many inputs best centred at Memorial University.”

The academic recruited to the chair will develop linkages with other departments, institutes and universities in order to promote interdisciplinary world-class research and integration in this new field and will operate with five-year terms.

In the chair holder’s work, broader understanding of cultural issues will be fostered through the engagement of policy makers and the public.

Research undertaken by the chair will assist the provincial government in advancing its immigration strategy.

“Through these generous donations, the Faculty of Arts within Memorial will strengthen its role as an integral contributor to the social, cultural and economic development of the province,” said Dr. Gary Kachanoski, Memorial’s president and vice-chancellor.

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

THE DERmot O’ REILLY Legacy Award has been established by family, friends and music lovers in memory of musician Dermot O’Reilly. It will be given annually to a part-time or full-time student that, in addition to meeting academic requirements, can demonstrate support of traditional music, oral tradition or dance. Deadline for application is Feb. 1, 2011.

The Walker Wood Foundation Bursary has been established by Sue and Neil Wood and is available to full-time students who have graduated from a high school in rural Newfoundland and Labrador and who are entering their first year of studies in the Faculty of Arts. A preference will be given to those doing a minor in Newfoundland Studies.

The Helen Jones Convocation Award for Excellence in English has been established by Dr. Gordon Jones in memory of Professor Helen Jones, an inspiring and supportive teacher in the Department of English Language and Literature.

For more information please contact the scholarship office on 709 864 3956.
MICHAEL HARRINGTON SR. (1916-1999) was indeed a Renaissance man. As an educator, writer, politician, historian and broadcaster he occupied a central place in Newfoundland’s cultural life for over 50 years. He was one of the youngest delegates ever elected to Newfoundland’s National Convention at the age of 29. A graduate of Memorial University College, he also received a BA in 1951 as a member of the first graduating class of Memorial University. He was editor in chief of *The Evening Telegram* from 1959 to 1982 where he also wrote the popular column *Offbeat History*. He received an honorary doctorate from Memorial University in 1989. In addition to his career achievements, Michael Harrington Sr. was the father to five children, Michael, Paul, Tom, Beth and Denise. Four of the Harrington siblings graduated from Memorial’s Faculty of Arts and all have gone on to enjoy stellar careers in law and journalism. The Michael Harrington Research Prize in Newfoundland History was established in 1996.

Your father, Michael Harrington, must have been an amazing man. How do you remember him, both as a father and as an advocate for Newfoundland and Labrador?

He was amazing and all of us realize that even more now. He was a wonderful, devoted father who always encouraged us and we all remember happy times with him. He taught us lots about Newfoundland. He was a passionate advocate for all things of Newfoundland and Labrador. He worked to preserve the architecture, he promoted the local arts and of course, the province’s rich history was dear to his heart. Whether at his office at *The Telegram* or in a small room in the house we remember as “dad’s den,” he kept stacks of photos and letters that people sent him about Newfoundland and Labrador and wrote the weekly *Offbeat History* column to share that with everyone. Many of those papers now are in Memorial’s Centre for Newfoundland Studies. When he had more time, after retiring as editor of *The Evening Telegram*, he really enjoyed working with Dr. Jim Hiller and the history department on editing the National Convention papers. He had so many insights and memories and made an important and lasting contribution to our knowledge of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Your father had a long association with Memorial University and was a member of the first graduating class of Memorial University in 1951. How did his experience at Memorial influence that of you and your siblings?

Dad really valued the fact that he was able to obtain a university degree at home. When he was a young man, that was not a given. He studied at Memorial College but could not afford to go away to finish his degree. So when the chance came years later, he seized it. He was very excited about the opportunity Memorial offered to Newfoundlanders and Labradorians. I think that instilled in us a sense that studying at Memorial was something to be appreciated and definitely not to be taken for granted.

What would your father say about Newfoundland and Labrador’s current economic prosperity?

None of us would presume to know his opinions about what’s happening in the province today. Very generally, I think we could say that he would be very happy to see the breadth of opportunities available to people in the province, the tremendous growth and success of its great institutions such as Memorial and the vibrancy in the economy and the culture that is being celebrated nationally and around the world. He worked his whole life to see the province get the recognition and success that it deserves.

You and your siblings have all enjoyed stellar careers. Four of you have worked in journalism and of course your brother Michael is a judge of the province’s Court of Appeal. Can you talk a bit about how you have all ended up in fairly high profile careers? And what is it about journalism in particular that appears to attract the Harrington family?

That’s very kind. We think it’s just that we chose careers that are a little more visible. As I mentioned, our father and mother always encouraged us and through their own interests in history, culture and current events, instilled a curiosity about what goes on in our world and what it means. That can lead to law or media. Dad, as editor of *The Telegram*, followed news closely at home as well as at the office.

CONVERSATION cont’d on page 12
and our mother, Katherine Harrington, has always been a keen follower of media and current events. Between the newspapers and magazines coming into the house and the news broadcasts we heard at breakfast and before dinner, it was bound to rub off.

Your family established the Michael Harrington Research Prize in Newfoundland History in 1996. Whose decision was it to establish the award and why? It was dad's 80th birthday and we as his children wanted to pay tribute to his devotion to Newfoundland and Labrador. The fact that outstanding students from the history department would be able to pursue new projects in Newfoundland history meant a great deal to him.

Acclaimed philosopher Martha Nussbaum argues that teaching humanities is vital to society. Could you comment on this from the perspective of the Harrington family?

Certainly the humanities or liberal arts was dad's forum. He was a poet, a short story writer, a historian and of course, a journalist. His arts degree nurtured all these pursuits. He would, I'm sure, say that all academic disciplines are critical in the sense that people's passions and talents drive them to certain areas of study and bring out the best they can be. The humanities provided that channel for him.

Any final thoughts on Memorial University and the role it has played in the lives of you and your family? It is very exciting to see how Memorial has grown and established itself as such an important academic centre in Atlantic Canada and throughout the country. We are proud to be alumni. Dad always saw Memorial enriching and strengthening Newfoundland and Labrador. His love for the province lives on through the history prize.
THE FACULTY OF ARTS HOSTS A VARIETY OF EVENTS EVERY SEMESTER DESIGNED TO INSPIRE, INFORM AND ENTERTAIN. Keep your eye on our events calendar at www.mun.ca/events or visit our home page at www.mun.ca/arts/about.

The project Dead Reckoning: Rescue, Race and Cultural Awakening on the South Coast of Newfoundland is a digital exhibit (www.mun.ca/mha/polluxtruxtun/index.html) highlighting the story of African American sailor Lanier Philips.

Heather Wareham, the centre’s archivist, received more than 300 emails while developing the project as a result of her correspondence with Wayde Rowsell, the mayor of St. Lawrence.

“Wayde passed on my contact info to all the survivors of the disaster, and to their children and grandchildren and through email we have gathered all kinds of information for the site. There is even a Facebook site for the grandchildren of the Pollux and Truxtun disaster and I used it to locate people and to obtain information for the site.”

WORLD CONFERENCE COMING

MEMORIAL WILL BE HOSTING the 41st World Conference for the International Council for Traditional Music (ICTM) in July 2011. With more than 2,000 members, ICTM is devoted to the study of every kind of music and dance around the world — traditional, popular, classical, urban and rural. Concurrent with the academic conference, which will see more than 500 papers on topics ranging from acoustic ecology to indigenous modernity, a festival entitled “Sound Shift: A Time for International Music and Dance”, will also be presented. For more information, see www.mun.ca/ictm2011.

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY STUDIES

Charting the 18th Century: Encircling Land and Sea, the 36th annual conference of the Canadian Society for 18th-Century Studies, was held Oct. 14-16 in St. John’s. Conference chair Dr. Don Nichol presided over an eclectic series of presentations running the gamut from cartography to the history of medicine. Among the distinguished academics presenting papers was Memorial grad student Meaghan Malone. “A conference such as this truly gives Memorials’ graduate students a national, and even international venue in which they can present their research,” said Meaghan.
ALGONQUIAN CONFERENCE

MEMORIAL’S LINGUISTICS DEPARTMENT recently hosted an international meeting for researchers on Algonquian peoples, the largest First Peoples group in Canada. More than 50 academic papers were delivered during the two-day conference. Papers reflected varying aspects of linguistics and also ranged from Native American Women and Cross-Border Tourism in the Early 20th Century to Cree education.

A documentary about language theft, Remembering Inninimowin, was screened during the conference. The film details the personal journey of an English-speaking Cree woman who, as a result of her mother experiencing the trauma of residential school, had no common language with her grandmother.

LEAD EXPOSURE STUDY

LeadNL’s biomonitoring project to assess children’s lead exposure in St. John’s has wrapped up the recruitment and sampling phases of its program. Over the summer project staff canvassed homes across three-quarters of the city. “We are very pleased with the response to the project and are now in the sample analysis phase,” remarked Dr. Trevor Bell (geography), a principal investigator with LeadNL.

Members of the LeadNL project team, Felicia Pickard and Ryan Jameson, collect soil samples for lead analysis.

See www.leadnl.ca/ for more details on the project.

RITEMAN SPEAKS

DR. PHILIP RITEMAN, honorary doctorate and Holocaust survivor, spoke to a capacity crowd at the Reid Theatre on Nov. 9 in an event co-sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and the Office of Alumni Affairs.

At the event, Dr. RITEMAN discussed his recent memoir, Millions of Souls and reiterated his message of love and tolerance to an audience of over 400 people.

GOOD BYE TO DR. TREMBLAY

THE FACULTY OF ARTS hosted an afternoon reception on Sept. 22 for Dr. Reeta Tremblay. It was an opportunity for arts faculty and staff to say a final farewell and thank you to Dr. Tremblay before she departed Memorial for her new position as vice president academic and provost at the University of Victoria in British Columbia.

ELECTORAL POLITICS WORKSHOP

DR. AMANDA BITTNER of the political science department and Dr. Royce Koop, a Faculty of Arts postdoc in 2009-2010, held a two-day workshop at Memorial on Oct. 22 and 23. They invited scholars of political parties and elections to analyze the new nature of Canadian electoral politics following the 2004 election. That election saw the disappearance of one major national party; the first election victory for the Conservative Party in over 12 years; and the advent of three successive minority parliaments. “This contemporary era of Canadian partisan politics provides an opportunity for scholars of political parties and of elections to engage in a new dialogue that incorporates both of these aspects of the discipline. It was our belief that by exploring the insights that scholarly work in these two traditions hold for one another, we would be able to achieve a better understanding of the way politics works in this new era of Canadian partisan politics,” said Dr. Bittner.
JESSICA GRANT WRITER
IN RESIDENCE

ASPIRING WRITERS of fiction in Newfoundland and Labrador will definitely want to take note that award-winning author Jessica Grant will be Memorial’s writer in residence for the winter 2011 semester. A member of the Burning Rock Writer’s Collective, Ms. Grant won the prestigious Amazon.ca First Novel award and the 2009 Winterset Prize for *Come Thou Tortoise*. It was also shortlisted for the 2010 CLA Young Adult Canadian Book Award. Contact english@mun.ca for office hours and contact information.

The Canadian Council for the Arts, the Faculty of Arts and the Department of English are sponsoring Jessica Grant’s four-month stint as writer in residence.

DIRTY HANDS FOR DEVILLERS

DR. RODOLPHE DEVILLERS of the geography department has been getting his hands dirty. Literally. Working closely with Toby Rowe, sustainability officer and Kim Kelly, experiential learning co-ordinator, Dr. Devillers has helped to spearhead the creation of Memorial’s first community garden. Initial work (building raised beds and spreading soil) took place during Make Midterm Matter in October and lots will be allocated in spring 2011. The garden is located on the north side of Prince Philip Parkway, between Queen’s College and Long Pond. Those interested in staying up to date on activities in the garden can join the listserve by emailing listserve@mun.ca. Leave the subject line blank and type “subscribe community-garden-l” in body of email.

ISER BOOKS WEBSITE RE-LAUNCHED

THE FACULTY OF ARTS’ ISER Books is one traditional academic publisher that is bucking the trend to digital books. Founded in 1966 as the publication arm of the Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISER), ISER Books initially focused on Newfoundland-related publications. Now ISER Books offers a range of titles with subjects ranging from native peoples to midwifery to how various communities handle crises in their fishers. To date a total of 97 titles have been published and ISER Books has sold approximately 112,000 books worldwide.

With the aim of increasing sales even further, ISER Books recently re-launched its website at www.arts.mun.ca/iserbooks. Patrons can now easily browse the backlist by title or by author and can purchase books online.

ISER Books welcomes expressions of interest and manuscripts within its mandate of contributing to a greater understanding of Newfoundland and Labrador through direct studies of social and cultural features within the province or comparative work that helps inform an understanding of the area. Those interested in submitting a manuscript to ISER Books should contact Dr. Lawrence Felt on lfelt@mun.ca or at 709 864 4340.

AWARD-WINNING ALUMNI

CHRISTINE HEALY, a Faculty of Arts alumnus has been named to Canada’s Top 40 under 40 list. A staunch supporter of Newfoundland and Labrador, Ms. Healy worked as a commercial advisor to the provincial government for many years and is now employed by Statoil. She holds a BA in economics with a minor in linguistics.

DIANNE KELDERMAN, another Faculty of Arts alumnus, was recently named one of Atlantic Business magazine’s Top 50 CEOs for 2010 (she was also selected in 2000).
THE VALUE OF AN ARTS DEGREE

WE’VE all heard it.

“So what are you going to do with an English degree (or philosophy, or history, or archaeology – fill in the blank!)?”

We’re doing our best to answer that eternal question by compiling testimonials and links on our website (www.mun.ca/arts/prospective/) that highlight the value of studying humanities and social sciences. There is a growing body of commentary that suggests these disciplines might very well be vital to society. What do you think? We’d love to hear from you. Please email your thoughts and/or links to jharron@mun.ca and help us build the case for studying the humanities and social sciences.

WHAT IS THIS?

JOIN THE FACULTY OF ARTS FACEBOOK GROUP and keep up to date on events, network with students and alumni, and help to reinforce the value of an arts education.


DO YOU TWITTER? Well we do. Follow @memorialarts.

ARTS GRADUATES have phenomenal critical thinking skills. Now’s the chance to prove it! Put your thinking caps on and try to guess what this object is. Extra points if you can tell us where it lives on campus! Hint: It’s over 100 years old.

Email answers to jharron@mun.ca. First correct answer will receive a signed copy of Philip Riteman’s Millions of Souls: A Holocaust Memoir.

For further details on any of the stories in this edition of ArtsWorld see www.mun.ca/arts/news.

SPARKS FLY

THE INAUGURAL SPARKS Literary Festival was a huge success in January 2010. So much so that the Faculty of Arts has committed to making this celebration of Newfoundland and Labrador’s literary creations an annual event. Professor Mary Dalton, the festival’s founder and director, has once again assembled a stellar group of writers to entertain and enlighten audiences.

The 2011 Sparks Literary Festival will take place at Petro-Canada Hall in the School of Music on Sunday, Jan. 23. Confirmed participants this year include Bernice Morgan, previous writers-in-residence Kevin Major and Jane Urquhart, and recent Faculty of Arts alumnus James Langer. Langer was recently awarded the 2010 Gerald Lampert Award for the best volume of poetry by a first time poet. Further details can be found at www.mun.ca/arts/events/sparks.php.