Creating a University launched;

Creating a University: The Newfoundland Experience (ISER Books) is an unusual book. Edited by Stephen Harold Riggins and Roberta Buchanan (Sociology and English) and launched before a standing room only crowd in the Junior Common Room on May 2nd, it already has a number of firsts: It is the only book that treats Memorial University's history from its establishment in 1949 to its first book to emerge from the Memoir Group, MUNPA’s oldest special interest group, and the only book whose publication MUNPA, along with MUN’s Provost, Noreen Golfman, has co-sponsored and funded. A quick look at its table of contents will tell you why: This is a book of stories about an institution that all of us, whether fighting to unionize or change facets of it, or just doing our jobs, have helped make it what it has become.

Creating a University is not an academic history or sequel to Malcolm MacLeod’s A Bridge Built Halfway: A History of Memorial University College (1990) but rather a collection of stories that were either read aloud in the Memoir group or elicited through a call for contributions.

This is a book you will want to read. Read at the launch, the stories that bookend the collection attest to that: In the first, “The Creation of Memorial University of Newfoundland,” David G. Pitt tells us how in 1950 he and others grappled with students ready to graduate under regulations that had yet to be written. In the second, “Another Viking Invades Newfoundland,” Kjellrun Hestekin recalls early days of the music school in a rat-infested temporary building where the Arts Annex now stands in ways that make you want to laugh and cry. Sadly, neither is still with us.

Should you read this book? Yes, if you like a good story and want to know more about how Memorial became what it is. But don’t take my word for it. Ask others or locate a copy and decide for yourself,

Steven Wolinetz, Political Science and editor, Your Voice

Creating a University is available directly through ISER books, by visiting their office or website, online from Chapter or Amazon, and at retail stores like Broken Books, Downhome, Chapters, Coles, and the Memorial University Bookstore.