Dr. Arthur May

Dr. Arthur May retired from Memorial University in 1999 having served 9 years as Memorial’s President and Vice-Chancellor.

In the ten years since his retirement, Arthur has given generously of his time on activities that have been of significant import to Memorial, but also to the community at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

Among those areas particularly relevant to Memorial has been his chairing of the ACOA Atlantic Innovation Fund Advisory Board. This Board has been responsible for the provision of advice to ACOA on the allocation of major research funds (in excess of $800 million) in support of strategic projects proposed by universities and private sector companies in Atlantic Canada. A number of strategic research areas at Memorial have been launched and advanced under this significant regional funding program. Arthur has also served as a Board member of the Canadian Millenium Scholarship Foundation since its creation 10 years ago. In that time, some $3 billion has been awarded to students at universities and colleges nation wide, including Memorial. He was one of the main organizers of the very successful “Memorial on Parade” reunion held in August of this year. Together with his wife Sonia, he has also contributed directly to the broadening of the educational experiences of our students by sponsoring an annual scholarship at Memorial for students taking a semester for credit outside of Canada.

At the local and provincial level, this award recognizes activities such as his work with the group involved in the planning of the Cupids 400 anniversary celebrations; his involvement in a group which is promoting the establishment of a Military Museum in St. John’s (Tri service and Merchant Marine); and his chairing of the Board of One Ocean, a provincial not-for-profit corporation which brings together the major players in the fishing and petroleum industries.

On the national scene, he is a member of the Board of Ocean Networks Canada (headquartered at the University of Victoria) which is responsible for two major projects entitled NEPTUNE and VENUS which together put Canada at the forefront of leading edge research. Basically, these projects involve the wiring of the Juan de Fuca Plate with a network of seabed instruments so that data may be retrieved through underwater cables in real time and create, in effect, an underwater observatory. He is a member of the Stewardship Advisory Group of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers. This group is responsible for the selection of winning projects and activities from the various oil exploration and development companies in the categories of health and safety, environment, and social. Also of special note is his current membership on the Atlantic Regional Council of World Wildlife Canada through which he advocates conservation and the rebuilding of cod stocks.

His expertise and leadership capabilities are recognized internationally as well. He has chaired a Panel on Straddling Stocks (inside and outside the 200-mile limit) and he has also chaired an international review committee which undertook an overall evaluation and audit of the Canada Foundation for Innovation.

For his outstanding contributions to the University and to the community through his leadership at the local, provincial, national and international levels, MUNPA is pleased to recognize Dr. Arthur May with a MUNPA Tribute Award.