

**Speaking Notes  
Dr. Gary Kachanoski  
Annual Report to the Community  
The Rotary Club of St. John's  
Thursday, March 24, 2011**

**Slide #1: Opening Slide:**

**Thank you President Tony. Rotarians, guests, colleagues and Board of Regents, it is a pleasure to be at Rotary today. Thank you for inviting me. I am honored to become part of this annual tradition of reporting to the community about the people, activities and accomplishments of Memorial University.**

**As you know, I was scheduled to speak to you on Feb. 3rd, when the first major snow storm of the season arrived and forced us to reschedule until today.**

**The short delay presented us with a very interesting dilemma and opportunity for my**

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**presentation that was, of course, prepared for Feb. 3rd, but a lot has happened in these few intervening weeks. So much so that it is really a kind-of-window into the accelerated pace of growth that we are experiencing at Memorial these days – so we thought we would highlight the range of activities just since Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**Slide #2 A: Celtic Explorer:**

- **Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> the *Celtic Explorer* from the Irish Marine Institute in Galway, a state-of-the-art fisheries science and oceanographic vessel, arrived in Newfoundland and then left with a team of MUN graduate students and researchers to survey overwintering cod stocks.**

**Slide #2 B: Mary Bluehardt:**

- **Feb 11<sup>th</sup> the conclusion of our national search with the appointment of Dr. Mary Bluehardt**
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as our first ever Vice-President for the Grenfell campus.

**Slide #2 C: News conference photo:**

- Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> \$650K investments in our Ocean Engineering Research Centre and the Marine Institute's Centre for Marine Simulation.

**Slide #2 D: Family medicine expansion:**

- Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> two announcements of over \$9M for expansion of our family medicine's rural physician residency training program for rural Newfoundland and Labrador, and also Nunavut and Arctic communities.

**Slide #2 E: SurvivalQuest:**

- Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> Transfer of leading-edge simulator equipment and systems called SurvivalQuest
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**to the Marine Institute from the St. John's company, Virtual Marine Technology.**

**Slide #2 F: Suncor Energy announcement:**

- **Feb 28<sup>th</sup> a \$6.8M investment for the creation of the Suncor Energy Offshore Research and Development Centre in the Faculty of Engineering.**

**Slide #2 G: Hebron scholarship:**

- **March 7<sup>th</sup> The launch of a new \$1.5M scholarship and endowment fund from the Hebron Project to support increased diversity in education, training and the workforce.**

**Slide #2 H: AIF funding:**

- **March 14<sup>th</sup> Significant research and development funding of over \$10m from the**
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**Atlantic Innovation Fund for four Memorial research teams.**

**Slide #2 I: NSERC-Altius research chair:**

- **March 18<sup>th</sup> Creation of a new research chair in the faculty of science, with \$2.2M in combined funding from Altius Minerals, and federal and provincial partners.**

**Slide #2 J: Hibernia investment:**

- **March 23<sup>rd</sup>, just yesterday we held a reception to recognize an investment in the Marine Institute's Offshore Safety and Survival Centre from the Hibernia Management Company valued at \$2.4 million.**

**Slide #2 K: Smart Bay:**

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**And also, yesterday morning the federal and provincial governments announcement that they would be providing another \$5 million so we can continue the work of the Marine Institute's Smart Bay project.**

**All of this just since Feb. 3, tens of millions of dollars in investments by the private sector and governments to support and recognize our talented faculty, staff, and students....the university is all about talented people.**

**But there is so much more to report from just the past few weeks.**

**Slide #3: Memorial Sea Hawks curling team:**

**Just last week our Memorial University Sea Hawks curling team became national champions when they won the Canadian Intercollegiate Sport Championship. We are all very proud of them, of**

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course, and will be cheering them when they represent Canada in Japan in 2012.

**Slide #4: SIFE Memorial wins regionals:**

And also just last week, our Students in Free Enterprise, better known as SIFE Memorial, past world champions and four time national champions, they returned from the 2011 regional competition in Halifax, where they swept all three topic championships and will now once again go to national competitions.

Premier Dunderdale reflected on that award-winning status earlier this week in her address to the Faculty of Business partner's reception..."Memorial University: world champion. I like the sound of that," she said. And I can tell you, as President I like the sound of that too!

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**Now, before I finally pick up where I would have started had I been here six weeks ago, I want to mention one more event from last week that speaks to the core values of Memorial.**

**Slide #5: Volunteer Incentive Program presents awards:**

**Last week, we presented awards to acknowledge the great achievements of our Memorial University student volunteers. Our Memorial Volunteer Incentive Program has grown tremendously since it was launched back in 2003 with students contributing over 4,500 hours of volunteer time this past year.**

**We are very proud of our students for giving freely of their time, energy, and skills to make a difference and serve their broader community through activities like Engineers Without Borders, MUN Oxfam, the Alzheimer's Society, the Boys**

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**and Girls Club, the Canadian Cancer Society, Daffodil House – it really is a very long list of organizations that benefit from their involvement.**

**Of course volunteering and service is something you in the Rotary Club of St John's know all about. Since 1921, the impact of your work and predecessors in this club has help shape this community.**

**As many others have said before, the true measure of a society is the way it treats its children and its most vulnerable citizens.**

**And with that in mind, I've been looking at your history and the stunning list of contributions that your club has made from its seminal support for children with special needs and the development of the Rotary Sunshine Camp, through the fostering of the Easter Seals program and creation of organizations like the Lung**

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**Association, to more recent activities including building Iris Kirby House for women and children in crisis and the facility for the Rainbow Riders for children with special needs.**

**And, as you well know, that's just a part of a long list, a list I am pleased to say that also includes the hundreds of scholarships you have awarded to Memorial University students since the late 1940s.**

**So, on behalf of the university, I want to thank you sincerely for the support you provide to our students and to the broader community.**

**Slide #6: Dr. Kachanoski with Sea Hawks shirt:**

**This is actually my second year attending the university's update to the Rotary Club of St. John's. Some of you may recall I joined you last year when my predecessor and colleague, Dr.**

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**Chris Loomis, delivered the university's annual report.**

**I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Loomis (Chris) for the leadership and dedication he demonstrated as president and vice-chancellor *pro tempore* of Memorial, and for his assistance in my transition as a new president.**

**As you may have guessed from my last name (and my accent) I didn't grow up in Newfoundland. I'm a prairie boy from western Canada. I was born in Manitoba, and grew up in small town Saskatchewan where a lot of my family still live. I came to Memorial from the University of Alberta where I worked for nine years and served as Vice-President (Research).**

**Slide #7: Dr. Kachanoski and wife Teresa:**

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**My wife Teresa and I are thrilled to be part of this community, and living in a province that has such a rich history and culture. Teresa is a visual artist and arts administrator and, of course, my partner in all things important. We have three grown children (a daughter and two sons) who are all living back west.**

**Slide# 8: Dr. Kachanoski at installation ceremony:**

**Most of my extended family (including my mother) and many of my closest friends have been to St. John's, and participated in the fantastic celebration last October that Memorial hosted for my installation as president.**

**A number of you in the audience today attended the installation, and I want to thank everyone for the warm and sincere welcome we received. My family will always remember it.**

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**Slide #9 A: Dr. Kachanoski finds *Republic of Doyle* on his doorstep:**

**We will never forget arriving home the night before the installation convocation to our house and the pandemonium both inside and outside the house that you see on the screen. With all of the police cars and flashing lights it looked like the RNC were at my house to arrest the new president.**

**Slide #9 B: *Republic of Doyle* film crew and set:**

**Of course, it was just the *Republic of Doyle* film crew using our house and the whole street to shoot a scene you may have seen just 2 weeks ago.**

**Slide #9 C: The Kachanoskis with Allan Hawko:**

**What a fantastic way to mark my installation.**

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**When I was appointed president of Memorial, it was truly a life-defining moment for me and my family. And each and every day since then, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of your university.**

**It's a university committed to working with the community and fulfilling its special obligation to the people of Newfoundland and Labrador that is enshrined in the *Memorial University Act*, an obligation that has shaped the institution's identity over the years.**

**Slide #10: Memorial on Parade:**

**This was clearly illustrated to me early in my tenure when I participated in the Memorial on Parade reunion, which brought together 450 alumni of Memorial's original Parade St. campus –**

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**alumni from every corner of the province, from across the country and around the world.**

**Slide #11: Memorial on Parade:**

**The reunion was a phenomenal success and a testament to the impact Memorial University has had on our community, and an expression of the community's pride in its university. And I'd like to publicly thank alumni and members of your club, Dr. Arthur May and Dr. Max House, who played such an important role in that success.**

**In my own professional life, I have been fortunate to work with communities in various ways across Canada. It is rewarding, and satisfying work. It's what I believe a university should be doing, and what Memorial will continue to do.**

**I am absolutely thrilled to be part of the Memorial University community, and pleased to be here**

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today to share some of our activities and accomplishments this past year.

One of those important accomplishments has been to build on the leadership team that will work with me and the other senior leaders at Memorial.

**Slide #12: Dr. David Wardlaw:**

In late January we concluded an extensive national search and announced the appointment of a renowned academic leader, Dr. David Wardlaw, to the position of Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor of Memorial.

Dr. Wardlaw is currently the dean of science at the University of Western Ontario and prior to that served as the head of the Department of Chemistry at Queens University.

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### **Slide #13: Dr. Mary Bluechardt:**

**As I mentioned earlier, in February I was also pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Mary Bluechardt as Vice-President for the Grenfell Campus, which as many know until this past fall was called Sir Wilfred Grenfell College.**

**The new “Grenfell Campus” name is part of a whole suite of exciting new initiatives on the go for enrolment and research growth at the Grenfell Campus, fueled by a significant (30%) increase in operating resources from the province.**

**Dr. Bluechardt, our new VP, comes to us from the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, where she is currently the dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences. As the former director of the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation at Memorial, Dr. Bluechardt is already very familiar with the province and Memorial.**

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Dr. Bluehardt and Dr, Wardlaw are both proven leaders who will bring great experience and vision to Memorial. I am looking forward to working closely with them and the rest of the university community as we build on our past accomplishments and excellence.

**Slide #14: The President's Report:**

A number of those accomplishments are summarized in *The President's Report for 2010*. It is an excellent review of many of the exciting activities and initiatives over the past year. It's titled, *Wish You Were Here*, and we've placed copies on your tables, along with samples of our internationally award-winning research report, *The Shining*.

*Wish You Were Here* is a travelogue in postcards. It's designed to take readers on a journey around

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the globe, and to emphasize that the work of our faculty, staff and students is having an impact all over the world.

The President's Report also presents a number of important statistical stories as well,

**Slide #15: Memorial one of largest employers:**

- Memorial is one of the largest employers in the province with more than 5,000 employees, and direct annual expenditure of about \$450M. When you add indirect economic benefits and jobs those numbers increase substantially.

**Slide #16: Growing Student population:**

- Memorial is the also the largest university in Atlantic Canada. Our student population this year is over 18,700 and graduate enrolment is almost 3,000 students. We are up 11 per cent
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**over last year for graduate enrolment, and over the past number of years we have seen a doubling of the number of graduate students on campus, including a doubling of PhD students to 500 students.**

- The significant increase in PhD students reflects Memorial's trajectory as a research-intensive university, with annual research funding of just over \$91 million and growing.**

**Of course, all of this tremendous growth and the successes that I've mentioned do present their own challenges. As I have indicated earlier, the university is all about talented people and what they do.**

**And to ensure that we continue to attract and keep talented faculty, staff, and students, we must offer appropriate and competitive infrastructure facilities for modern teaching, learning and**

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research and that presents an ongoing challenge for Memorial.

**Slide #17: St. John's campus in 1961:**

This year Memorial marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official opening of the Elizabeth Avenue campus in St. John's. Since 1961 we have added to that campus, Memorial's largest campus with more than 15,000 students. So today in St. John's we have an inventory of some new modern buildings and facilities. But we also have a significant number of the initial older buildings that after 50-60 years, to be frank, are past starting to show their age.

Starting this fall, we will be holding a number of events to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this campus. The events will extend into next year, culminating in a special all-year, all faculties reunion in August of 2012.

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**We hope that the celebration of this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be the start of a much needed significant renewal of the St. John's campus.**

**I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge that some renewal has already started.**

**Slide #18: Burton's Pond Residence:**

- **By fall 2012, we will open new and much needed student residence buildings, along with extensive renovations of some existing residences, and**

**Slide #19: Medical School expansion:**

- **In 2013 the expansion of our medical school space will be completed which will enable us expand our enrollment by 80 new medical students.**
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## **Slide #20: New academic building:**

### **At our Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook**

- **A new academic building is slated to open this year that will add important research, classroom, and meeting and computer space, and**

## **Slide #21: New residence for Grenfell Campus:**

- **Construction on a new 200-bed residence in partnership with College of the North Atlantic will begin shortly.**

**So these are really exciting times for Memorial University, and not just on our main campuses.**

## **Slide #22: The Labrador Institute:**

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**As you may know, Memorial University operates at many locations in the province, including the Labrador Institute with sites in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Northwest River and Labrador City.**

**As part of my initial visits last summer I travelled to Labrador, and met Inuit, Innu, Métis, and other community leaders. There's so much we must do in Labrador to ensure that Memorial lives up to its special obligation to all people of the province.**

**Slide #23: Social Work program in Labrador:**

**For example, this past year, in partnership with the Nunatsiavut government we launched a new four year social work degree program that is being delivered in Labrador.**

**And as I mentioned earlier, in February the federal government announced significant new funding of \$4.5M for our Faculty of Medicine to support the**

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**training of new family medicine residents for remote and rural areas including in Labrador.**

**So we have renewed our focus on that region, and have aggressive plans to build on existing strengths with new resources and partnerships.**

**The President's Report and our Research Report list many other areas of significant research activity, achievements, and partnerships, many of them reflecting the vast, resource-rich expanse of ocean that has shaped the history, culture and economy of Newfoundland and Labrador.**

**That undeniable attachment to the sea has clearly defined us as a university and over the years Memorial has built solid, world-renowned expertise in northern oceans and Arctic-related research.**

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**Over the past year we have built on that strength and teamed up with provincial, national and industry partners**

- to launch new research chairs in ocean technology, petroleum engineering, Arctic and harsh environments.**
- to expand infrastructure for cold-oceans research at our Ocean Sciences Centre, and**
- to open a new marine base in Conception Bay at Holyrood.**

**Slide #24: Centre for Fisheries and Ecosystem Research:**

**With major new provincial funding of \$14M for fisheries research at the university we fulfilled a vision that has been part of the Memorial University Act since 1949. We created the Centre**

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for Fisheries and Ecosystem Research headed by Dr. George Rose, chartered the 65m research vessel the *Celtic Explorer*, and created collaborative opportunities among Canadian fisheries scientists, and fisheries research institutes around the world, in countries such as Ireland, Iceland, New Zealand, Tanzania and the United States.

**Slide#25: *MV Atlanticat*:**

Over the past year, with substantial provincial investments we have also expanded our ocean mapping capacity with new ocean-mapping equipment installed on the Marine Institute's new catamaran, the *MV Atlanticat*.

**Slide #26: Wreckage of Strathcona:**

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**The pictures you're looking at are of the wreckage of one of the iron ore freighters that was sunk off Bell Island by a German U-Boat in the Second World War. The images were captured using the *Atlantcat's* side-scan sonar.**

**The *Atlantcat* is equipped with the a wide range of the latest in ocean-mapping and our intent is to map our entire coastline, to help us learn as much as we can about life in the ocean, which really is the final frontier.**

**And of course, in our reports there are no shortages of stories about our exceptional students.**

**Slide #27: Rhodes Scholar:**

**In December, Newfoundland and Labrador's latest Rhodes Scholar was announced. Gabrielle Hughes received her bachelor of fine arts (visual**

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arts) last spring and was the recipient of our Arthur M. Sullivan Award, which goes to the outstanding student of the year at Grenfell Campus. She's also the first Rhodes Scholar from our Grenfell Campus.

Gabrielle is a member of the Mi'kmaq [pronounced: Mig-Maw] community, and was a founding member of the Grenfell Campus Aboriginal Society. As a Rhodes Scholar she will attend Oxford University where she'll complete a master's degree in the history of art and visual culture

**Slide #28: Based in Business:**

I mentioned at the start of my talk the latest accomplishments of our student group SIFE Memorial: Students in Free Enterprise. What I didn't mention is the national attention they are getting for their Based in Business program that they launched two years ago.

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**Based in Business is a program in partnership with the Department of National Defense that provides business training and mentorship to former Canadian Forces personnel who are pursuing entrepreneurial ideas and are looking for support. It is the first-ever program of its kind in Canada, and many others have expressed interest in expanding it across the country.**

**Well, I want to close my remarks today with an example that illustrates the variety of activity coming from Memorial.**

**Slide #29: Traditional music world conference:**

**Memorial's Centre for the Study of Music, Materials and Place is getting ready to host the 2011 International Council for Traditional Music World Conference in July. It's a great honor to be**

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hosting such a special event and only the second time for this event to be held in Canada - the last time was in the 1960s.

I think you will all agree that music has the power to bring people of all backgrounds together in the most positive of ways. And when you think of current events in the world, I think we can appreciate the importance of fostering mutual understanding.

More than 500 delegates from 60 countries will be at Memorial to take part in panel discussions, concerts, workshops and scholarly presentations. And during this week-long event in July, traditional musicians from the province will perform alongside those from around the world. I can't wait.

**Slide #30: Closing slide:**

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**Well, there is just so much more to tell you about the people, places and programs of Memorial University. I suppose when you live with THIS university in your own backyard, it's easy to forget that "world class" applies to the home team... there is so much to be proud of in the quality of our graduates, the quality of our faculty and staff, and in the quality of the work we do...we are leaders in many areas.**

**I can't think of a better place to be working than a university dedicated to making a difference in the community, one that is committed to building a prosperous future for the people of Newfoundland and Labrador.**

**I thank you for inviting me to speak to you this afternoon, and look forward to meeting you throughout the year as we ensure Memorial University maintains its close connections with your club and the community that we all serve.**

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