THE (PETRI) DISH
Faculty of Science Newsletter

In the News

Dr. Yolanda Wiersma (Biology) is featured in this article about the push from ecologists for more reliable research. Science

Alumna Dr. Lisa Barrett (Biology) has been an essential source of reliable info about the coronavirus. Nova Scotia Health

Alumnus Gen. Rick Hillier has been tapped by the Ontario government to oversee the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in the province. CBC

Dr. Penny Morrill & Dr. Alison Leitch (Earth Sciences) are featured in this article about Gros Morne National Park. BBC

Recent grad Jan Mertlik (Computer Science) was named one of Atlantic Canada’s 30 Under 30 innovators. Atlantic Business Magazine

Dr. Andy Kerr (Earth Sciences) is helping identify potential geopark sites in Western Newfoundland. Saltwire

Anthony Akerele (Biochemistry) represented Memorial at the 2020 NAGS 3MT Competition, taking on some of the best graduate students in North Eastern US and Canada. Watch his presentation here (at 18m15s).

DEAN’S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a restful holiday. Learning from our experiences of a remote fall semester, it is my sincerest hope the winter semester goes smoothly for educators and learners alike.

One of the lessons I think we learned this fall is that we can all be flexible. If necessary, and if it makes sense, we make changes while keeping academic integrity and learning foremost in our minds.

We all are looking forward to the end of remote learning, but what we learn from this year will not be wasted.

In this issue, you will read about some of the recognition and funding that has been bestowed upon our faculty, staff, and students. Let’s celebrate these successes as well as the careers of retiring faculty and staff. At the same time, let’s wish our newly arrived faculty, staff, and students well as they begin a new experience.

All the best for 2021!

NEW FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Phillipe Belley, Earth Sciences
Dr. Caroline Lotout, Earth Sciences (PDF)
Brent Snow, Ocean Sciences

RETIREMENTS

John Robinson, Biochemistry
Dan Wade, Chemistry
Joe Anle, Chemistry
Ernest Stapleton, Procurement Services

Sydney Collins (CABE) is one of several researchers featured in the Gazette for finding ways to safely continue their activities and studies throughout the pandemic. Read
Chemistry professors, including Dr. Chris Kozak, have gotten first-year students engaged by incorporating ‘art’ into their courses. They made creative chemistry assignments worth 20 per cent of their final grade.

Submissions included comics, videos, songs, biographies and more. Bonus marks were given if the work was posted to social media.

Examples can be found at #Chem1050Art. Gazette
RHODES SCHOLAR

Jevon Marsh, who graduated from Memorial University in 2018 with a joint B.Sc. (Hons.) in biochemistry and chemistry, has been named Newfoundland and Labrador’s newest Rhodes Scholar.

Considered to be one of the most prestigious international scholarship programs, the Rhodes Scholarship is a postgraduate award for students to study at the University of Oxford. The scholarship covers all tuition and fees, plus recipients receive an annual stipend. Read

Faculty & Staff Awards

Dr. Ferreidoon Shahidi (Biochemistry) - Dean of Science Distinguished Scholar Medal

Dr. Christina Thorpe (Psychology) - Dean of Science Distinguished Teacher Award

Marie Codner (Biochemistry) - Dean of Science Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Stephen Piercy (Earth Sciences) - University Research Professor

Dr. Kris Poduska (Physics) - President’s Award for Distinguished Teaching

Dr. Christina Bottaro (Chemistry) - President’s Award for Outstanding Graduate Supervision

Dr. Shawn Leroux (Biography) - President’s Award for Outstanding Research

Student Awards

Marie Flanagan (Earth Sciences) - Imperial Oil Best Poster Award

Sarah Greene (Earth Sciences) - Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists Award

Lindsay Oldham (Earth Sciences) - Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists Award

Brandy Bigger (Ocean Sciences) - Canadian Society of Zoologists Public Awareness Award

Anthonydura Madhushika Silva (Biochemistry) - J. Beryl Truscott Graduate Scholarship

Ceren Richards (Ocean Sciences) - Canadian Society of Zoologists Public Engagement Award and International Graduate Student Leadership of the Year Award; Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies

Samantha Crowley (Ocean Sciences) - Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies

Julie Jacques (Ocean Sciences) - Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies

Anne Provencher St. Pierre (Ocean Sciences) - Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies

Modeline Longjohn (Biochemistry) - Cancer Research Training Program Fellowship from the Beatrice Hunter Cancer Research Institute.

Kelly McDonald (Biology) - 1st place, Faculty of Science 3MT Competition

Marzana Monfa (Biochemistry) - 2nd place, Faculty of Science 3MT Competition; 1st place, School of Graduate Studies 3MT Competition

Indrayana Phadare (Biochemistry) - 3rd place, School of Graduate Studies 3MT Competition

PROGRAM COMPLETION

David Belanger, PhD, Biology

Amir Taheridehkordi, PhD, Physics

Ben Peterkin, M.Sc., Biochemistry

Evelyn Roberts, M.Sc., Marine Biology

Jose Ignacio Vasquez Solis de Ovando, M.Sc. Sustainable Aquaculture.

PASSINGS

Dr. Derek Burton, Biology

BIRTHS

Dr. Mike Katz (Chemistry) welcomed Noa Eva Katz on Jan. 2, 2021.

FAREWELLS

Dr. Garth Fletcher finishes his appointment as the first head of the Department of Ocean Sciences (2012-2020)