THE (PETRI) DISH
Faculty of Science Newsletter

January 2021

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. CBC

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. Phillipa 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
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 #Chemi1050Art. Gazette
**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
- Ananyada Madhushika Silva (Biochemistry) - J. Beryl Truscott Graduate Scholarship
- Cerren 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 Monefa (Biochemistry) - 2nd place, Faculty of Science 3MT Competition; 1st place, School of Graduate Studies 3MT Competition
- Indrayana Phadatara (Biochemistry) - 3rd place, School of Graduate Studies 3MT Competition

**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. Feriedoon 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 Piercey (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 (Biology) - President’s Award for Outstanding Research

**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.

**PASSENGS**

- Dr. Derek Burton, Biology

**BIRTHS**


**FAREWELLS**

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