

# THE (PETRI) DISH

*Faculty of Science Newsletter*



Dr. Greg Naterer, dean, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science; Dr. Andrew Furey, Premier; Dr. Vianne Timmons, president, Memorial University; Minister Seamus O'Regan and Dr. Travis Fridgen, acting dean, Science 'cut' the ribbon to officially open the new Core Science Facility.

## In the News

Dr. Brad de Young, Physics & Physical Oceanography, on risks to communities due to flooding caused by global warming. [Saltwire](#)

Dr. Andrew Lang, Biology, weighs in on the avian flu recently discovered in St. John's birds. [News Nation USA](#)

Dr. Ian Jones, Biology, lends his expertise to this story, also about the avian flu. [CBC](#)

Cleaner fish R&D at Ocean Sciences helps span new industry. [Genome Atlantic](#)

Dr. Scott Harding, Biochemistry, weighs in on the TikTok lettuce tea craze. [Healthing](#)

Dr. Dave Churchill's intro to game programming course has been featured on Hackaday. [Hackaday](#)

Dr. Duncan McIlroy, Earth Sciences/Bonne Bay Marine Station, is looking for help to find fossils around Quidi Vidi Lake before the snow covers them up. [CBC](#)

Memorial's sleep expert, Dr. Sheila Garland, Psychology, has tips for dealing with the depression that often takes hold this time of the year. [Saltwire](#)

Dr. Sheila Garland also says the most difficult aspect of the fall time change is the lack of sunlight, especially in the late evening hours. [VOCM](#)

Dr. Brad de Young, Physics & Physical Oceanography, says a North Atlantic carbon observatory would be a first step toward truly integrated and coordinated ocean carbon measurement. [The Energy Mix](#)

Jessika Lamarre, a Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology graduate student, says seagulls possess the skills to solve problems in order to access food. [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#)



## DEAN'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and all the best for 2022!

Once again, we have been forced to pivot to a primarily remote instruction situation. I'm sure we all hope this will be temporary and we will be back face-to-face on January 31st.

Because we cannot physically distance in the classrooms where our lectures are held, most of our classes are being held remotely. However, we have carefully weighed what losing valuable hands-on lab experience would mean for our students against the risks. We've determined that because we can physically distance in our laboratories, we will go ahead with face-to-face labs beginning January 17th, in most cases. There is at least 52 sq. ft. of space per person in our labs, we are providing three-ply surgical masks for our students, our spaces are very well ventilated and nearly everyone on campus is vaccinated. These lab experiences are vital for students to gain the hands-on skills necessary for future course, for research and for jobs requiring these skills.

In this issue of the Petri Dish, you will see the Faculty of Science has been very busy leading into the new year, pandemic aside. From innovative teaching, awards, outreach and research grants, to contributing to science discussions in the community, or having fun trying to start a new sock fad—and supporting a worthy charity while doing so—I urge you to look through the links and see what our colleagues and students have been up to.

I hope you all have a prosperous 2022!



Biology staff Sock It for Sick Kids and their families, in support of Ronald McDonald House Charities.

## In the News (cont.)

Dr. Ivan Booth and his former post-doctoral fellow, Dr. Robie Hennigar, Math & Stats, have been interviewed regarding their research on black hole mergers. [Phys.org](#)

## FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Kris Poduska, Physics & Physical Oceanography, has been featured in a career profile by Let's Talk Science. [Read](#)

Dr. Len Zedel, Physics & Physical Oceanography, took part in an event at the Johnson Geo Centre to recreate Marconi's first transatlantic radio experiment in 1901 in celebration of the 120th anniversary of that accomplishment.

Dr. Steve Piercey, Earth Sciences, was appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee for the Geological Survey of Newfoundland and Labrador (2021-2024) and the Technical Liaison Committee for the Yukon Geological Survey (2021-2024.)

Dr. John Jamieson, Earth Sciences, participated in a virtual panel discussion on demystifying deep-sea mining hosted by Hakai Magazine. [Watch](#)

Dr. Javier Santander, Ocean Sciences, was nominated to the [Sigma Xi Scientific Research Honour Society](#) in recognition of his scholarly achievements and contributions to the advancement of knowledge in his field.



### BIRTHS

A boy, Averie Ernest Huelin, to Sheldon Huelin, Chemistry on Nov. 5

### NEW STAFF

Chris Davis, Chemistry  
Michelle Corbett, Computer Science  
Daifi Linto Paul, Computer Science  
Carl Dohey, Computer Science  
Perry Cahill, Ocean Sciences

### PASSINGS

Dr. Bruce Shawyer, Math & Stats  
Roy Ficken, Biology

## In the Gazette

Babette the seal dies at the Ocean Sciences Centre. [Read](#)

Dr. John Jamieson, Earth Sciences, is among an international team of scientists who have been the first to dive to a hydrothermal vent field under the polar ice cap. [Read](#)

Cathy Hyde's hidden talent for glass fusing is featured in this story, which profiles the Computer Science academic program manager. [Read](#)

The Board of Regents has approved changes to the tuition rates for new students enrolling in select course-based graduate program, including the master of science (computer science) program. [Read](#)

Creating scholarships can do more than financially support a student's journey to higher education. In certain circumstances, such as that of Xiaolei Li (M.Sc.'16) and Fereshteh Shahhoseini, receiving funding can be life-changing. [Read](#)

Minister Andrew Parsons has announced nearly \$1.2 million in funding for four projects, including some with Science PIs and collaborators. [Read](#)

Memorial University held the official opening of the Core Science Facility. [Read](#)

The Discovery UNESCO Global Geopark was built around recent discoveries by, and with support from, Earth Sciences researchers, students and alumni. [Read](#)

Ocean Science student Madison Malloy is one of two Memorial Loran Scholars this year. [Read](#)

Dr. Karl Jobst, Chemistry, is the 2021 Terra Nova Young Innovator. [Read](#)

Memorial researchers discover the first gene for a common cause of hearing loss in adults. Dr. Valerie Booth and her team in Biochemistry played a role in looking at the structure of the mutated protein. [Read](#)

Dr. Duncan McIlroy, Earth Sciences/Bonne Bay Marine Station, challenged the public to help search for early animal life in the walls and breakwaters around Quidi Vidi Lake. [Read](#)

Dr. Alex Bihlo, Math & Stats, is leading a collaborative research group focused on scientific machine learning. [Read](#)

Sit back and let us tell you a tale ... of a whale of an ale. [Read](#)

Dr. Steve Piercey, Earth Sciences, was named University Research Professor last year. [Read](#)

In September, a team of researchers deployed one of Memorial's eight underwater gliders off the west coast of the island. [Read](#)



Ocean Sciences piloted their Grade 7-9 marine ecosystem lab at MacDonald Junior High and Prince of Wales Collegiate to approximately 90 students.

## Program Completion

Tomer Katan, PhD, Marine Biology

Shahinur Islam, PhD, Marine Biology

Chris Galley, PhD, Earth Sciences

Ryan Love, PhD, Oceanography

Behzad Sadri, M.Sc., Physics

## EVENTS

The call for speakers for Soapbox Science NL is open. They are seeking women and gender diverse folks in STEM who want to share their research with the public in a fun, informal setting. [Apply](#)

## STUDENT AWARDS

**Karandeep Dhillon**, Computer Science, winner of the Faculty of Science 3MT competition. Runners up: **Katja Kochvar**, Cognitive and Behavioural Ecology and **G. Adam Meyer**, Biology.

**Karandeep Dhillon**, Computer Science, third place, School of Graduate Studies 3MT competition.

**Dr. Anthony Akerele**, Biochemistry, People's Choice Award Winner, CAGS National 3MT Showcase.

**Md. Ahmed Hossain**, Marine Biology, GSU Grad Student of the week.

**Emily Johns-Buss**, Earth Sciences, Graduate Student Research Award of the Calgary Geo-and Thermochronology Lab.

**Payton Peach**, Behavioural Neuroscience, Fry Family Foundation Charlotte Penwell Dolimount Memorial Scholarship.

**Victoria White**, Chemistry, Fry Family Foundation Hugh J. Anderson Scholarship.

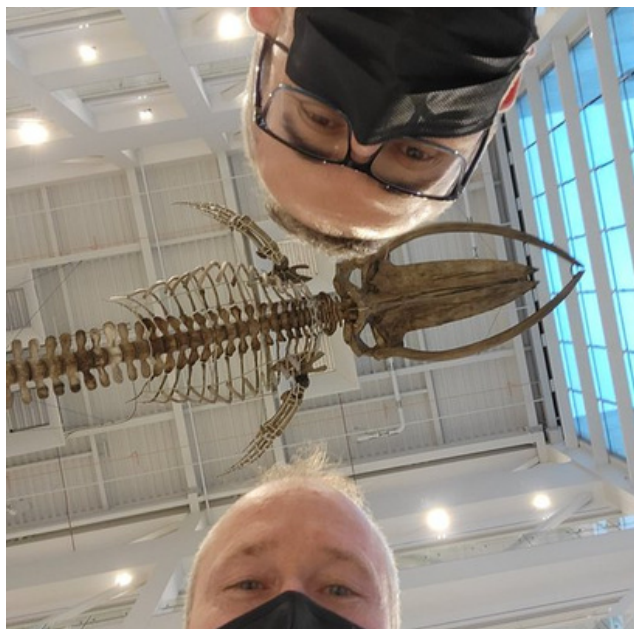
Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies - **Dalainey Drakes**, Psychology; **Sara Jobson**, **Nichole Smith**, Ocean Sciences;

**Science Atlantic Math, Stats and Computer Science Conference Award Winners**

**Andrew Pearce**, Math & Stats, first place, Stats Science Atlantic Research Award,

**Dylan Smith**, Math & Stats, Science Communication Award

**Sam Bauer and Anders Cornect**, Math & Stats, First Place, Problem Solving Competition



Dr. **Travis Fridgen** hosts Oleg Stephanov, the new Russian ambassador to Canada, on a tour of the new Core Science Facility.

## NSERC USRA & FACULTY OF SCIENCE SURA

16-week competitive program of paid employment for science undergrads

DEADLINE:

FEB. 9, 2022, 9 AM

<https://www.mun.ca/science/undergraduates/how-to-apply-for-usra-and-sura-awards/>

## WORKING IN THE COLD

- Listen to the weather forecast
- Develop a cold weather safety plan
- Dress in layers. Cover as much exposed skin as possible.
- If wind chill is significant, limit the time you spend outside.
- Wet clothing chills the body. Remove outer layers if you are sweating.
- Walking and moving will warm you by generating body heat.
- Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.

## Student Supports

[Student Wellness and Counselling Centre](#)

[Blundon Centre](#)

[Indigenization Student Resource Centre](#)

[Internationalization Office](#)

[Career Development](#)

[School of Graduate Studies](#)