

THE (PETRI) DISH

Faculty of Science Newsletter



President Vianne Timmons, here with Dr. Travis Fridgen, acting dean of Science, and Dr. Garth Fletcher, head of Ocean Sciences, visited the Ocean Science Centre on Sept. 17, 2020.

NEW FACULTY

Shyamchand Mayengbam,
Biochemistry
Amilar Soares, Computer Science
Vinicius Prado da Fonseca, Computer
Science
David Lowe, Earth Sciences

NEW STAFF

Barb Hynes, Computer Science
Steph McIntyre, Computer Science
Mary-Beth Smith, Math & Stats
Alison Highsted, Dean's Office

RETIREMENTS

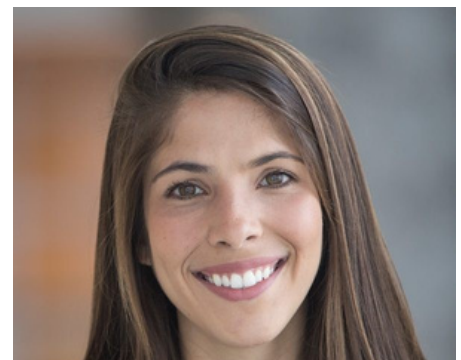
Sharon Deir, Computer Science
Ingrid Verbree-Barnes, Computer Science
Charles Hurich, Earth Sciences
Elliott Burden, Earth Sciences
Mike Carrigan, Ocean Sciences
Brad de Young, Physics
Jolanta Lagowski, Physics
Brenda Carew, Psychology

FUTURE LEADER

Juliana Vidal (Chemistry) has been taking part in the [2020 CAS Future Leaders program](#). She is one of 30 elite young chemists worldwide to be chosen for this program.

The program awards early-career scientists with leadership training and participants were selected from hundreds of applicants. They represent 18 countries and a wide array of scientific disciplines.

Ms. Vidal has been attending weekly webinars and got to present to the group herself. She has also recently given a virtual seminar on green chemistry at the University of Rio de Janeiro.



MEMORIAL'S JOHNSON GEO CENTRE & FACULTY OF SCIENCE

PRESENT

THE SIGNAL HILL Science Show

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

CONFERENCE & EVENT SERVICES
AT MEMORIAL'S EMERA INNOVATION EXCHANGE

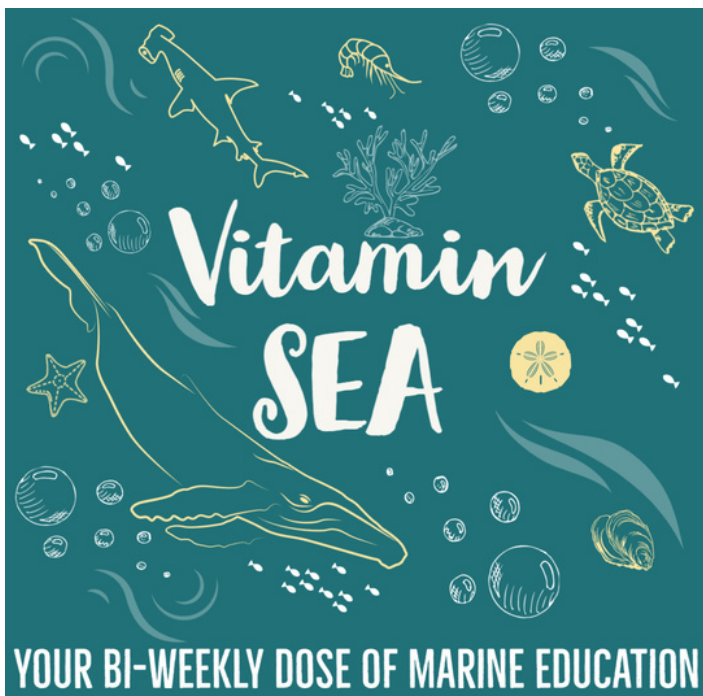
SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT

This fall, members of the Faculty of Science joined with the Johnson GEO Centre to host [The Signal Hill Science Show](#).

The family friendly episodes featured Silvana Rodrigues Pereira (Chemistry), Dr. Mark Berry (Biochemistry), Dr. Mike Morrow (Physics) Dr. Kris Poduska (Physics), Dr. Terrence Tricco (Computer Science), Dr. Scott Harding (Biochemistry) and Dr. Chris Kozak (Chemistry).

New issue of Prescience

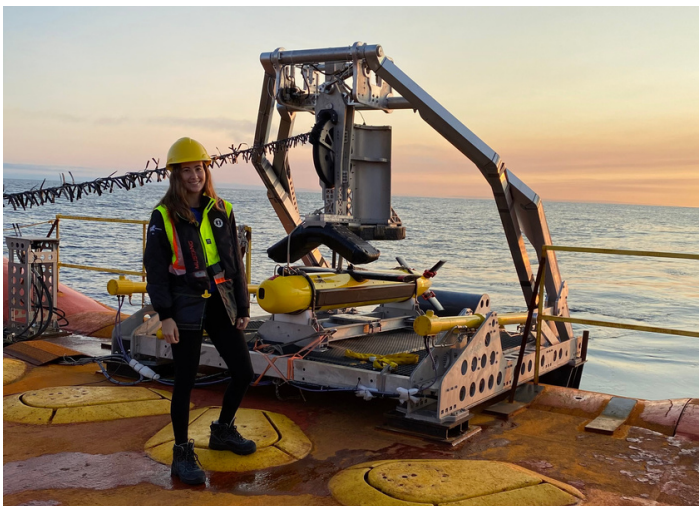




VITAMIN SEA

[Vitamin Sea](#) is an online marine education learning series created by the Department of Ocean Sciences.

The program streamed live this past summer as part of the department's public education program. Videos included Oil Spills with **Dr. Uta Passow**, Marine Habitat Mapping with **Dr. Pat Gagnon**, Ocean Biogeochemistry with **Dr. Rachel Sipler**, Marine Mammals and Ocean Noise with **Ashley Noseworthy**, Edgewise Environmental and Live Touch Tank with **Dylan Mahon**.



DEEP-SEA MAPPING

Caroline Gini (Earth Sciences) has recently returned from three weeks on the Grand Banks on the *Atlantic Kingfisher*, an offshore supply ship chartered by Kraken Robotics to collect seabed images and test new deep-sea mapping sensors and equipment. Ms. Gini is developing data processing workflows for geological characterization of the seafloor.



MASTER OF SCIENCE COMPLETION

Logan Zeinert, Aquaculture; **Robert Gill**, Biochemistry; **Peter Isesele**, Biochemistry; **Adrian Young**, Biochemistry; **Emmanuel Asante**, Biochemistry; **Alexandria Tobin**, Biochemistry; **Sarah Nicholas**, Biology; **Xingtong Yue**, Earth Sciences; **Euri Papanicolaou**, Earth Sciences; **Julie Jacques**, Marine Biology; **Cerren Richards**, Marine Biology.

In the Gazette

Dr. Paul Snelgrove (Ocean Sciences/Biology) joins an international group of experts recommending how to save nature from extraordinary biodiversity loss. [Read](#)

Sixteen Memorial University professors, including four from the Faculty of Science, have been accorded the professor *emeritus/emerita* designation [Read](#)

Dr. Marco Merkli (Math & Stats) teaches a course at Cameroon's African Institute for Mathematical Sciences. [Read](#)

Dr. Bill Montevocchi (Psychology) receives the Jamie Smith Memorial Mentoring Award in Ornithology from the Society of Canadian Ornithologists. [Read](#)

Cross-campus effort ensures high school students up to speed on math. [Read](#)

Devon McGrath (Chemistry) is learning how to take his passion for entrepreneurship to the next level. [Read](#)

Computer Science students take first place in Minecraft competition. [Read](#)

New physics grad will dedicate his career to the planet. [Read](#)

In the News

Dr. Chris Kozak (Chemistry) talks about what causes the changing scents of the seasons with [Downhome Magazine](#) and the chemistry behind farting with [CBC](#).

Carter McNelly, founding member of OceanUS, the Ocean Sciences undergraduate society receives funding to make trash clean-ups safer. [Telegram](#)

Dr. Jacqueline Blundell (Psychology), talks about fear and why we like being scared. [National Post](#).

Student News

David Bélanger (Biology) successfully defended his PhD thesis titled Growth controls of Lithothamnion glaciale rhodoliths and relationships between structural complexity and macrofaunal diversity in subarctic rhodolith beds.

Mike Piersiak (CABE) successfully defended his thesis, titled Examining the effects of in-situ aquaculture on marine ecosystem structure and function.

Nikitha Kendyala (Biochemistry) and her husband **Purvikalyan Pallegar** (Biology), won the 2020 Mel Woodward Cup with their company Nucliq Biologics.

Student Awards

Chevron Canada Limited Rising Star Awards: **Emily Johns-Buss**, **Maya Soukup**, **Theodore Stanoev**, **Pei Yang**, **Steven Lethbridge** (Earth Sciences)

School of Grad Studies F.A. Aldrich Fellowship: **Nova Hanson** (Earth Sciences)

Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies: **Emmanuel Assante**, **Indrayani Phadtare**, **Tharindu Ruchira Senadheera**, **Madhushika Silva** and **Alexandria Tobin** (Biochemistry), **Logan Zeinert**, **Ignacio Vasquez Solis De Ovando** and **Zoe Zrini** (Ocean Sciences).