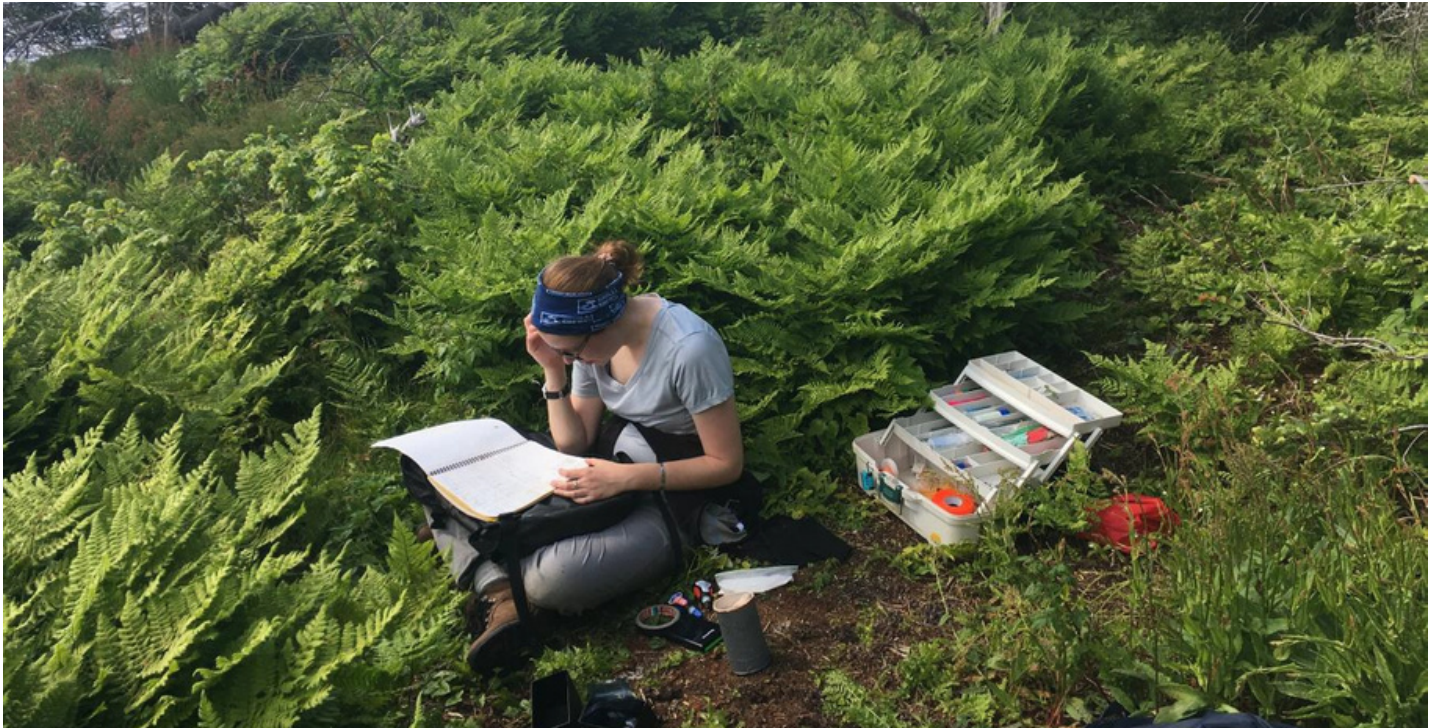


THE (PETRI) DISH

Faculty of Science Newsletter



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](#)

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

RETIREMENTS

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

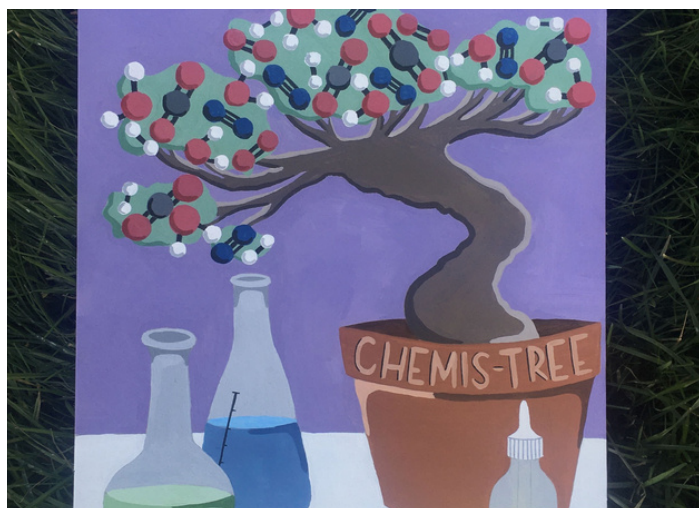


QUICK PITCH: RESEARCH FOR UNDERGRADS

For Research Week 2020, the Faculty of Science promoted research opportunities for undergraduates and potential future graduate students.

Faculty members submitted short video 'pitches' from their research groups about their work, allowing students to virtually explore different science topics being researched at Memorial.

The goal is to continue building on the video collection, so submissions are still welcome. Current videos can be viewed [here](#).



CREATIVE CHEMISTRY

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](#)

In the Gazette

Dr. Donald Dingwell (Earth Sciences alumnus), the former head of European Research Council, reflects on his time at Memorial. [Read](#)

Memorial researchers, including 37 from the Faculty of Science, are on the World's Top 2% Scientists list. [Read](#)

Julie Reimer (Geography) gives guidance on how to meet the United Nation's sustainable ocean development goals. [Read](#)

Lukas Kohl (Earth Sciences) and colleagues have found climate warming is changing the way a key soil formation process occurs in boreal forests. [Read](#)

The province announced funding for Memorial research, including projects by Drs. **Chris Kozak**, **Christina Bottaro & Fran Kerton**, (Chemistry) **Scott Harding & Rob Brown** (Biochemistry), **Christina Thorpe** (Psychology) **Kurt Gamperl & Javier Santander** (Ocean Sciences). [Read](#)

Dr. **Liqin (Larry) Chen's** (Chemistry alumnus) donation to the university will support the next generation of chemists. [Read](#)

Caroline Gini (Earth Sciences), **Sydney Collins**, **Kyle d'Entremont**, **Robert Blackmore** (CABE) and alumna **Kaitlyn Hawkins** (Biology alumna) have found ways to safely continue their activities and studies throughout the pandemic. [Read](#)

Chris Lively (Psychology) and **Darcie Valois** (Psychology) are among those sharing \$360,000 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for their studies. [Read](#)

Dr. **Dave Lundrigan** (Biology alumnus) received a Canadian Medical Association Foundation COVID-19 Support for Medical Learners Bursary. [Read](#)

Dr. **Jennifer Murphy** (Chemistry alumna) has created a new material from blue mussel shells that is now being investigated by Dr. **Fran Kerton** (Chemistry). [Read](#)

Dr. **Janice Fitzgerald** (Biochemistry alumna) was recognized nationally with a Family Physician of the Year Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. [Read](#)

Chris Galley (Earth Sciences) has created an empirical 3D model to demonstrate hydrothermal fluid circulation beneath the seafloor. [Read](#)

Times Higher Education recognized Memorial as one of the best universities in the world, ranking it in the top 401-500 universities in physical and social sciences and psychology and in the top 301-400 for computer science and life sciences. [Read](#)

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

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 Phadtare (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. Fereidoon 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.

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)