

THE (PETRI) DISH

Faculty of Science Newsletter



Dr. **Sheila Garland**, Psychology, received national recognition and \$600,000 in funding from the Canadian Cancer Society to improve the lives of people impacted by cancer. [Read](#)

In the News

Psychology student **Hannah Murphy** has received the City of St. John's Building Healthy Communities Volunteer Award. [Saltwire](#)

Dr. **Rod Taylor**, a post-doctoral fellow in Earth Sciences, says while trilobite fossils are commonplace in Conception Bay South, a recent find is interesting nonetheless. [VOCM](#)

Also with Dr. **Rod Taylor**, *Haootia quadriformis* fossil discoveries on the Bonavista Peninsula will help shed new light on these early life forms. [VOCM](#)

Dr. **Derek Wilton**, Earth Sciences, talks to Labrador Morning about the history of uranium exploration in Labrador (23:26 mark) [CBC](#)

Dr. **John Hanchar**, Earth Sciences, says there's nothing geologically distinctive about Labrador that makes it a more suitable place for a nuclear waste facility. [CBC](#)

Memorial University (**Ocean Sciences Centre**) has been named Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association's 2020 Aquaculture Supplier of the Year.

Psychology grad student **Jared Trask** has been recognized by Art Show International, an online art gallery, with a solo exhibition featuring 10 of his most recent works. [View](#)

Dr. **Travis Fridgen**, dean, and **J.C. Loredó-Osti**, Math & Stats, discuss the Faculty of Science's proposed Master of Data Science program. [CBC](#)



APPOINTMENTS

Dr. **Sharene Bungay**, Interim Head, Computer Science

NEW FACULTY

Dr. **Heloise Therien-Aubin**, Chemistry
 Dr. **Matthew Hamilton**, Computer Science
 Dr. **Terrence Tricco**, Computer Science



DEAN'S MESSAGE

With another remote semester behind us, I want to thank everyone in the faculty for their continued hard work and dedication to our students. With this being mental health week as well, I hope everyone finds some time over the coming days and weeks to recharge and take care of yourselves.

With the increasing rate of vaccination in the province, Canada, and the world, we have reason to be optimistic about the future. That is why, after one more primarily remote spring semester, Memorial plans to be back to function primarily on campus this coming fall. We will be welcoming many new faces, two cohorts of students who have not yet been to campus, including two cohorts of international students many of whom have not yet been to Canada! I am sure I speak for all of us when I say we can't wait to see you in person.

While we have been remote for more than a year, you can see by looking through this issue of the Petri Dish that we have certainly kept busy outside of the classroom as well. Our faculty, students, post-docs and alumni have been featured in news articles and have won prestigious awards. We have also been replenishing faculty and staff positions and I would like to send a special welcome to our new faculty and staff who have arrived over the past two months. We still have many open searches and will have many more new faces in our faculty before September. I for one am very much looking forward to meeting everyone in person this fall!



NEW STAFF

Donna Bonnell, Computer Science
Katie Ann Flood, Computer Science
Jennifer Dawe, Earth Sciences
Mary-Beth Smith, Math & Stats

FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Jie Xiao, Math & Stats, is the editor-in-chief for *Advances in Analysis and Geometry* and section editor for *Fractal Fract.*

Dr. Jonathan Fawcett, Psychology, has received the 2021 Early Career Award from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science. [Read](#)

Dr. Amanda Bates, Ocean Sciences, has won the Ecological Society of America's George Mercer Award, given for an outstanding ecological research paper published by a young researcher or group. [Read](#)

Dr. Fran Kerton, Chemistry, and her grad student, Mikhailey Wheeler, have made a polyurethane-like material using fish oil. They presented their findings at the American Chemical Society. [Read](#)

Program Completion

Arun Kumar, Biochemistry, M.Sc.
Amrita Ghosh, Biology, PhD

STUDENT AWARDS

Marzana Monefa, Biochemistry - People's Choice Award, Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools 3MT Competition

Hayley Paquette, Biology - Women's Association of Memorial University PhD Scholarship

Kate Tobin, Biology - Second place, Undergraduate Research Award, Science Atlantic Aquaculture and Fisheries and Biology Conference

Tegan Pagett, Biology alumna - Luella K. Weresub Memorial Award for Best Paper in Fungal Biology, Canadian Botanical Association

Mohammed Abdulhak, Computer Science - Departmental Graduate Student Academic Excellence Award

Majid Afshar, Computer Science - Departmental Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award (PhD)

Mustafa Yalin Aydin, Computer Science - Departmental Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award (Masters)

Carlos Salcedo, Computer Science - Departmental Graduate Student Outstanding Work-term Award

Yuhui Song, Computer Science - Departmental Graduate Student Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

Razan Abu-Labdeh, Math & Stats - Student paper competition winner, Copper Mountain Conference on Multigrid Methods

Brandy Biggar, Ocean Sciences - Graduate Student Union Award for Leadership

Xi Xue, Ocean Sciences - Dr. Joe Brown Graduate Research Award in Aquatic Ecology and Aquaculture

Harjarooba Gnanogobal, Ocean Sciences - First place, Graduate Research Award, Science Atlantic Aquaculture and Fisheries and Biology Conference

My Dang, Ocean Sciences - Second place, Graduate Research Award, Science Atlantic Aquaculture and Fisheries and Biology Conference

Lauren Squires, Psychology - Donald Mayer Student Award from the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology

In the Gazette

Canadian Nutrition Society gives top honours to Drs. Margaret Brosnan and Rob Bertolo, Biochemistry. [Read](#)

Dr. Fereidoon Shahidi, Biochemistry, is being recognized at home and internationally for his work. [Read](#).

Anna O'Grady, a math/physics alumna, now at the University of Toronto, has made a discovery that can potentially reveal what the universe is made of. [Read](#)

Dr. Derek Wilton, Earth Sciences, asks: Will N.L. seize a 'once-in-a-century' opportunity to help build a better world? [Read](#)

The Department of Biology, led by Drs. Amy Hurford and Yolanda Wiersma, and supported by lab instructors like Ed Whelan, is increasing quantitative literacy in the first to fourth year curriculum. [Read](#)

Inspired by her own mentor, Physics PhD student Shivani Semwal is volunteering her time to an organization aiming to make STEM education accessible to young women in India. [Read](#)

Madhushika Silva, a Biochemistry PhD student, thinks the way animals adapt to different environmental conditions may provide info about certain diseases in humans. [Read](#)

Dr. Ann Colbourne, a Faculty of Science alumna, got involved with Memorial's Ten Thousand Coffees mentorship program out of a desire for meaningful and impactful engagement. [Read](#)

Psychology's Dr. Carolyn Walsh and alumna Dr. Morag Ryan are conducting a needs assessment on animal-assisted therapies for families of children with autism. [Read](#)

Memorial and the Canadian Consortium for Ocean Drilling, chaired by Dr. John Jamieson, Earth Sciences, will continue participating in the International Ocean Discovery Program. [Read](#)

Dr. Amanda Bates, Ocean Sciences, is one of nine international researchers to receive a 2021 Pew Fellowship in marine conservation. [Read](#)

Bx Medical Solutions, a company co-founded by Science alumnus Malcolm Snow, placed second in this year's 2021 Mel Woodward Cup. [Read](#)

This past year has been especially challenging for international co-op education students, say academic staff members, Theresa MacKenzie and Rebecca Newhook. [Read](#)

The Canada Foundation for Innovation is investing over \$6.7 million into the Atlantic Canada Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry Centre, led by Dr. Chris Kozak, Chemistry. [Read](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

On the Menu - Tips for Preparing an Application to the Memorial University Seed and Multidisciplinary Funds with Dr. Jacqueline Blundell, associate dean, research and grad studies. May 12, 1 p.m. [Details](#)