

News from Newfoundland and Labrador

News from Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador Libraries

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University News:

The search committee for the role of dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science has completed its work and recommended **Dr. Octavia Dobre** for the position. Dr. Dobre, who has been Interim Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science since May 2022, will begin a five-year term effective January 1, 2026, upon completion of a year of administrative leave during which she will be focused on her tier 1 Canada Research Chair program. [Read more.](#)

The search committee for the role of dean of the School of Music has completed its work and recommended **Dr. Karen Bulmer** for the position. Dr. Bulmer, who has acted as interim dean of the Faculty of Music since June 2021, begins a five-year term effective November 5, 2024. [Read More.](#)

The search committee for the role of dean of the Faculty of Nursing has completed its work and recommended **Dr. April Pike** for the position. Dr. Pike began a five-year term effective October 4. Dr. Pike has been interim dean of the Faculty of Nursing since September 2022 and is currently the associate dean of research. [Read More.](#)

Memorial's Board of Regents approved the Student Code of Rights and Responsibilities (SCRR) (former Student Code of Conduct) and the Respectful Learning Environment Policy (RLE) on July 11, 2024. Both the SCRR and RLE came into effect on September 3, 2024. [Read More.](#)

Research/Teaching and Learning:

Dr. Patrick Gamsby published his 3rd book - *The Dialectic of Herbert Marcuse*. [Read More.](#)

Archives and Special Collections' **Matthew Keels** and **David Mercer**, as well as Library IT staff member **Dennis Flynn**, participated in a podcast called *Our Unsung Heroes: World War One Stories from Newfoundland and Labrador*. Episode one called "Objects of Remembrance" features both David and Matthew. Dennis is listed as a story collector for the podcast. [Have a listen.](#)

The Libraries launched a new and enhanced LibChat service that can now accept texts, as well as messages.

The Education Library launched a new event series entitled "Tales to Teach, Tales to Reach." Students, staff and faculty will have an opportunity to engage with talented writers, illustrators, and storytellers in Newfoundland and Labrador. By partnering with a local teacher librarian, students, staff and faculty will learn valuable lessons about integrating books and presentation skills in the classrooms. This collaborative series will highlight the rich collection at the Education Library and promote the love of

literacy and the art of reading and writing. The first event is set for November 19 with local historian and author **Dale Jarvis**.

The Commons in the QEII Library has created a unique way to de-stress for students before and during exam period. Students are able to book one-hour [virtual reality equipment](#) to use the technology and games specifically purchased for de-stressing to meditate, colour, or even go on a world adventure.

The Centre for Newfoundland Studies and the Archives and Special Collections were both presenters at another very successful [Whale of a day](#), an event that happened on October 5th, and that showcases various of Memorial's departments and faculties and the impact they have in our communities.

The Grenfell Library participated in Academic Prep Week from August 26-30, welcoming first year students to the Grenfell Campus and orienting them to university life. Librarians **Chelsea Humphries** and **Crystal Rose** delivered 6 unique classes, teaching students skills ranging from how to search for library resources and access course readings, to working with academic integrity and understanding and evaluating generative AI tools.

On October 10th, for World Mental Health Day, the Grenfell Library partnered with Counselling and Psychological Services to host a movie screening of Inside Out 2 accompanied by a discussion about anxiety and mental health resources on campus, plus free popcorn and door prizes! There was also displayed resources from the wellness collection in the library and screened Inside Out (captions only) on loop in the library all day.

Archives and Special Collections' **Michaela Doucette** participated in a panel at the Canadian Association of Geographers Conference along with Chief Mi'sel Joe, Sheila O'Neill, Madelyn White and Charles Mather (MUN Geography) on August 15th titled "Unsettling Geography's Colonial Legacy."

Dan Duda and **David Mercer** hosted the Fabian O'Dea Map Collection in the Archives & Special Collections Reading Room as part of the Canadian Association of Geographers Conference August 15th-16th. Caroline Boone, a co-op student from the University of Toronto who worked in the Map Room, embroidered the Mason Map of Newfoundland, also known as the "Upside down map of Newfoundland", and gave it to the Map Room as a gift. She presented it to Dan Duda during the conference.

Employee News:

Dr. Bonnie Morgan has joined the Centre for Newfoundland Studies as a public services librarian. Dr. Morgan brings over 20 years of library experience across the province, beginning her career at the College of the North Atlantic and most recently serving with the NL Public Libraries System in a range of leadership roles. She holds an MLIS/LLB from Dalhousie University and a Ph.D. in History from the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Morgan started October 1st.

Philip Baluk has joined Library IT Services as our newest Systems Administrator. Some of you may remember Philip from the mid 2010's when he assisted LITS for a couple of years. Alongside Peter, who focuses on Linux, Phil will be providing support for Windows servers and services LITS provide to the MUN Libraries and the University. Philip comes to us from ITS and brings a wealth of skills and experience.

SK Maston has accepted the position as Cataloguing & Metadata Librarian at the QEII Library. The start date of her tenure track appointment is December 2, 2024. SK brings a strong background in library science and archives, having earned her Master of Information with High Distinction from the University of Toronto in 2023.

Patrick Warner, Special Collections Librarian in the QEII Library, returned from sabbatical on September 1st!

Cool Stuff:

The Libraries' Project Learn Planning Team is excited to announce a conversation with **Dr. Michelle Porter** at the upcoming Project Learn Book Club Gathering on November 28th. Dr. Michelle Porter (Manitoba Métis Federation) is a Métis author, storyteller, educator, and Assistant Professor of Creative Writing in the Department of English at Memorial University. Porter is the descendent of a long line of Métis storytellers.

The QEII Library hosted a lighting of the Kullik ceremony to celebrate International Inuit Day on Nov. 7, 2024. The Kullik, an oil lamp traditionally made of soap stone and fuelled with animal fats, was used in traditional Inuit home life for light, heat, cooking, and more. It is now lit during important events and ceremonies to welcome community.

The Education Library has launched an Instagram account. Check it out. @edlib2025

The Libraries' Project Learn Team also did an Orange Shirt Day Pin craft workshop on September 19th for Orange Shirt Day and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. The team also had a Book Club gathering and conversation with **Dr. Billy-Ray Belcourt** on September 24th. Dr. Belcourt is a writer and academic from the Driftpile Cree Nation. He is an Associate Professor in the School of Creative Writing at the University of British Columbia.

Head of the Centre for Newfoundland Studies, **Colleen Field**, had a photo finish at the Paddle in Paradise event - Dragon Boat Festival in late August. [The Avalon Dragons](#) (a team made up of breast cancer survivors and supporters) inched ahead of the Magic Wok to win the race. The Avalon Dragons then headed to Stratford, Ontario to compete nationally.

Congrats to Library IT manager **Gord Little** of the QEII Library who released a new video game called "Moving Houses" in October. [Read more.](#)

Archives and Special Collections' **Linda White** was recognized for her work and dedication to the Greenspond Historical Society while commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the [Greenspond Letter](#) in late August. She was presented with a Certificate of Recognition by Greenspond Mayor Herbert Burry.

Grenfell Library had a busy start to the fall term with a variety of well-attended orientation events, including an annual Board Game Night, Library Yoga, an Introduction to Zotero workshop run in partnership with Graduate Studies, and a webinar targeted towards undergraduates called "What is Generative AI?" organized in partnership with Grenfell Business.

The Grenfell Library also welcomed 60 high school students from Corner Brook Regional High School on October 17th, teaching them how to evaluate resources for upcoming research projects, touring them through our stacks, and registering them for guest library cards.

Education Librarian **Courtney Crocker** got creative with her library info orientation session with over hundred students by using Kahoot, a game-based learning app. It was very well-received by students.

The QEII Library was the venue for the Countdown to the Centennial event on September 17th. Faculty, staff, students and retirees were invited to a special coffee break to mark Memorial's Countdown to the Centennial. There were performances, refreshments, a nature walk and a chance to kick off the University's centennial celebration.