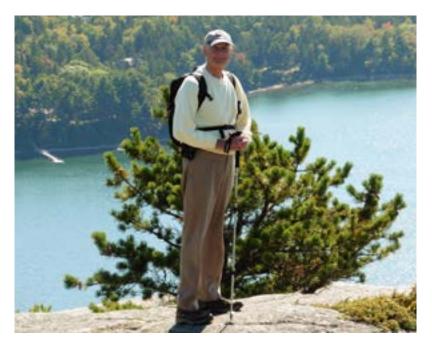


Mevry Christmas and a Happy New Year Toyeux Noel et Bonne Année



THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION What My O'Brien Fellowship Means to Me



Dr. Mike Cherry (1978)

2018 will mark 40 years since I held an O'Brien Fellowship at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. Forty years – half a lifetime and a complete career. After all that time, I perhaps now finally have the experience and maturity to recognize – and acknowledge – the significance of that fellowship to my life.

In 1978, I was a year removed from completing my Ph.D. in geology at UNB, for which I undertook a study of how a major body of granite that underlies much of south-central New Brunswick had formed. The time that I spent doing that research was one of the happiest of my life – no real responsibilities to anyone but myself,

adequate financial resources to live comfortably, and surrounded by professors and colleagues who were all of similar minds – curious about things for no other reason than that they were curious. Curiosity alone was reason enough to investigate: there didn't have to be an economic or social benefit from the results of the academic work, but perhaps the knowledge and understanding gained from it would make some contribution to man's understanding of the world.

Granite is one of the most common rock types throughout the world and throughout geological time. Not precious like gold or diamond nor valuable like hydrocarbons, but ubiquitous and useful for things like crushed stone, building stone, memorials and counter tops. One of the principal mineral species in granite is potassium feldspar, which has the chemical formula KAlSi3O8. An academic curiosity is that the distribution of the Al and Si atoms in a molecule of potassium feldspar varies, and my study of the New Brunswick granite revealed a geographic pattern to that distribution that I attributed to the rate at which the molten granite cooled and crystallized during its formation. But the doctoral work wasn't sufficient to prove this hypothesis. My O'Brien Fellowship allowed me to pursue this idea, in that wonderfully convenient atmosphere – maybe better termed cocoon – of a university. That time also showed me that my talents were not best suited for a long-desired university career, and at the end of the fellowship I began a very satisfying career as a scientist and administrator with geological survey organizations in both provincial and federal governments.

So, now, the arrival of each newsletter from the O'Brien Foundation reminds me that I am a member of a privileged elite: one that has been provided an opportunity to pursue a curiosity. When I see the shifts in government funding in Canada occurring today, away from basic research toward objectives that must have an economic or social benefit, I am reminded of the importance of organizations like the O'Brien Foundation, which continue to support purely academic pursuits. And that leaves me with the profound sense that I should regularly contribute whatever funds I can to ensure that this continues, and that future generations will benefit in the same way that I did. I will do so, and hopefully will be in a position to leave a legacy bequest to the Foundation as a final contribution.

THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION CONGRATULATIONS Dr. Emily Gesner (2009)



Dr. Emily Gesner (2009)

Originally from Fredericton, New Brunswick Emily completed a BSc. (Honours) with a double major in Biology and Chemistry at the University of New Brunswick, Fredericton. Under the supervision of Dr. Andrew MacMillan she completed a PhD at the University of Alberta in the Biochemistry Department. Emily undertook several projects studying small regulatory RNAs in a variety of species including *Drosophila*, *C. elegans*, Humans, and Bacteria

While finalizing her thesis, she began working for Resverlogix Corp., a Calgary biotechnology company, in February 2010. Resverlogix is developing apabetalone (RVX-208), a first-in-class, small molecule

selective BET bromodomain inhibitor. BET bromodomain inhibition is an epigenetic mechanism that can turn disease-causing genes off, returning them to a healthier state. Apabetalone has potentially important benefits for patients with diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, chronic kidney disease, peripheral artery disease, Orphan diseases (PNH), and neurodegenerative diseases, while maintaining a well described safety profile. Resverlogix has commenced a Phase 3 clinical trial in CVD patients with type 2 DM and low HDL, with a primary endpoint of time to first occurrence of Major Adverse Cardiac Events (MACE).

In 2013, Resverlogix Corp. spun out a newly incorporated company, Zenith Epigenetics with whom Emily is currently employed. Zenith Epigenetics is a clinical stage biotechnology company developing best in class bromodomain (BET) inhibitors for the treatment of cancer and other disorders with significant unmet medical need. The lead product, a pan selective BET inhibitor, is in clinical development for treatment of solid tumours, including prostate cancer.

NEW BRUNSWICK'S FIRST FEMALE CHIEF JUDGE



Jolène Richard (1982)

Judge Richard, a former civil and family law litigator and partner with Stewart McKelvey, obtained her law degree from the Université de Moncton in 1992 and was called to the New Brunswick bar in 1993. She is the daughter of Guy Richard, former chief justice of the Court of Queen's Bench.

"She is a very talented individual and a jurist of the highest competence," said Chief Judge Arseneault in a statement. "Her great personal energy, her work ethic and her experience on the bench amply qualify her not only to see the administrative tasks in the court are carried out but also to address the needs of the public generally."

New Brunswick Chief Justice Ernest Drapeau hailed as "historic" the appointment of the provincial court's first female chief judge. "It is also superb in that it reflects not only her impeccable credentials, work ethic and abilities as a jurist, but also her remarkable human qualities," he said by e-mail.

Jolène had served as vice-president of the Family Law Section of the Canadian Bar Association and as an instructor with the Bar Admission Course.

THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION Dr. Christopher M. Pearce

Dr. Christopher M. Pearce (1990, 1992)



Dr. Christopher M. Pearce (1990, 1992), BSc, MSc, PhD Research Scientist, Fisheries and Oceans Canada Pacific Biological Station, Nanaimo, British Columbia

Dr. Pearce completed a BSc degree in Biology (University of New Brunswick, 1987) and MSc (Dalhousie University, 1990) and PhD (Université Laval, 1996) degrees in Marine Biology. He spent the next five years (1997–2002) working as a post-doctoral fellow on Grand Manan Island (New Brunswick), funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and the National Research Council (NRC). He then moved to the west coast of Canada (Nanaimo, British Columbia) to work as a Research Scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, where he

remains today. His field of study is invertebrate aquaculture and his research interests include:

- aquaculture of marine invertebrates including abalone, clams, cockles, oysters, sea cucumbers, and sea urchins;
- integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (IMTA);
- invasive tunicates;
- ecosystem and aquaculture interactions;
- ecology of sea urchins and abalone; and
- settlement and metamorphosis of benthic marine invertebrate larvae with special emphasis on biochemical/physical mechanisms of metamorphic induction.

He is an adjunct professor at Vancouver Island University (Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture) and the University of Victoria (Department of Geography) and has supervised numerous graduate students and post-doctoral fellows over the years. He was President of the Aquaculture Association of Canada (AAC) in 2006–2007 and is presently a member of both the AAC and the National Shellfisheries Association (NSA).

Pearce, Christopher M., Fredericton, New Brunswick; Doctoral Studies in Marine Biology, Laval University. Chris actually received two O'Brien Fellowships. The first was in 1990 and the second was in 1992.

Dr. Pearce can be reached at: E-mail: Chris.Pearce@dfo-mpo.gc.ca / Tel: 250-756-3352

THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION CONGRATULATIONS David Themens (2014)

Young Scientist Wins International Award



David Themens (2014)

The Young Scientist Awards recognize an international group of individuals who have made innovative contributions and discoveries in **multidisciplinary research** related to electromagnetic fields and waves. David is this years' winner of the Union of Radio Science Young Scientist Award for his research on the upper atmosphere in the Arctic. This is his second time to win this award as he also won in 2014.

David has been working to develop a new model of the ionosphere. The ionosphere can be used like a mirror to bounce high frequency signals around the globe, allowing for long range communications, but it can also slow signals and lead to errors in navigation systems, such as the Global Positioning System.



Dr. Mary Ellen Themens, David's mother accepted his O'Brien Fellowship in 2014 from J. Gordon Thomson. David was on assignment.



David received his Fellowship in person in 2015

THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION We were wrong. We apologize: Trudeau

On November 28, 2017 Prime Minister Justin Trudeau apologized to Canada's LGBTQ2+ community, including the federal employees, RCMP and military members who were discharged, forced to resign, blocked in their career advancement or whose positions disappeared; to those who were denied security clearances to do their work; to those the special investigation unit interrogated and pressured to inform about their peers and friends; to those who were assaulted, whether sexually or otherwise; to all women who experienced interrogations about their sexual activities by male military officers; to all those from whom the RCMP or Military police tried to obtain information about who was gay or lesbian; to all partners, friends, and families of those directly affected; and to all those who took their own lives as a result of this Purge campaign against LGBTQ2+ individuals.

"We were wrong. We apologize. I am sorry. We are sorry," Trudeau said, standing before the House of Commons.



Dr. Lynne Gouliguer (1999) and Dr. Carmen Poulin



Dr. Carmen Poulin, Right Hon. Justin Trudeau Prime Minister of Canada and Dr. Lynne Gouliquer

Lynne is an O'Brien Fellow (1999) and former member of the Selection Committee. Carmen is a former Chair of the Selection Committee and Chair of the O'Brien Foundation Board.

The apology was the direct result of years of research and advocacy work from 1997 to 2017 spearheaded in a significant part by Dr. Carmen Poulin an Associate Dean of the University of New Brunswick and Dr. Lynne Gouliquer, a professor of Sociology at Laurentian University.

Carmen and Lynne were in Ottawa on Tuesday where Prime Minister Trudeau apologized. They have a personal connection to the apology as Lynne was a member of the military for 16 years when soldiers, police and members of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service [CSIS] were targeted because of their sexuality. They are research collaborators and life partners. Carmen said that when they first met, all LGBTQ2+ military members such as Lynne were forced to live two lives, hiding their sexual orientation and family life from the military. Canada has a lot of work to do if it aspires to be a true leader in honouring LGBTQ2+ individual's rights; but Trudeau's apology is a historical moment for them, and they hope that it is the start of compensating those who suffered the discrimination and the persecution they endured. Carmen said "we have an obligation to never forget this past history of discrimination and learn from our past so that we may never repeat such injustice, not only against LGBTQ2+ people but any marginalized group."

THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION Brian and Barbara Trenholm



Brian and Barbara Trenholm

Brian and Barbara were honoured recently by the University of New Brunswick.

In 2011, Barbara and Brian established the Trenholm Scholarship, an annual award valued at \$1,000.00 for a New Brunswick resident who has completed at least the first year of a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree program.

Barbara joined the University of New Brunswick's Faculty of Business Administration in 1980, and enjoyed a rewarding career and continues to research and teach after receiving her designation of Professor Emerita in 2008.

Brian's career in accounting and finance was equally successful, as he spent more than three decades as a partner of Grant Thornton LLP, Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants.

We are fortunate to have Brian as Chair of the Finance Committee of the O'Brien Foundation.



Ian Burdon and William (Bill) Simons provide a delightful musical background as guests arrive at Government House for the O'Brien Foundation Reception

Actually, this was a special tribute to Bill's Partner and Ian's brother Van Burdon (1976) who passed away a few months earlier. It was Van's wish that upon his death donations would be made to the O'Brien Foundation.

This was such a wonderful and thoughtful way for Van to express his support for the foundation. It is the first time that this has been done and it sends a powerful message to other members of the alumni.

Personal letters of appreciation were written to each person along with an Income Tax receipt. Members of the Board of the O'Brien Foundation and members of the Alumni have shared expressions of sympathy and appreciation in reference to Van. He certainly was held in highest regard by those who came to know him. He will be fondly remembered.

Van received his Fellowship in 1976 to pursue Cello Studies at Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London, England.



Van and Bill at Government House in 2016

THE O'BRIEN FOUNDATION Financial Appeal



As I prepare this Newsletter, applications for Fellowships for 2018 are being reviewed by the Selection Committee. This is an exciting time within the foundation.

The O'Brien Foundation is one of the few sources of funding available to post graduates in New Brunswick. We are excited about what we have been able to do to assist post graduates but we want to be able to do more, and post graduates need even more support and financial assistance.

We know the financial assistance received by our Fellows is critically important to them and comes at a stage in their studies and career when they can obviously use and need the money the most. We have heard from many of you about how important the O'Brien Fellowship was and how it allowed you to continue your post graduate studies and establish your careers.

As you know, we have established the 'O'Brien Fellows Appeal' within the O'Brien Foundation. We take 100% of the funds received in each calendar year and award them as one or more special O'Brien Fellowships, in addition to our normal awards, the following year.

This year we granted the highest financial awards over the forty-two years of the Foundation. In addition to the \$50,000.00 awarded by the Foundation for the first time \$10,000.00 was awarded from the alumni. A total of \$60,000.00 was presented to deserving recipients.

In its forty-two years of operation from 1975 to 2017, the Foundation has received 2,367 applications and granted 323 fellowships. In 2017, the sixth Alumni Fellowship was presented. The total value of the awards granted in these years is now \$1,637,000.00.

Members of the alumni have donated more than \$42,600.00 since the Alumni Fellowship Award was established. Alumni members have been invited to contribute toward this additional award to deserving candidates that might not receive funding due to limited funding of the Foundation.

In 2018, \$70,000.00 will be available for Fellowships. \$55,000.00 will be provided by the Foundation and \$15,000.00 by the Alumni.

Life Insurance Policies

You can make The O'Brien Foundation the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, but it is even more advantageous to your estate to make The O'Brien Foundation both the owner and the beneficiary of the policy. Premium payments can be claimed on a new policy (or the cash value of an existing policy) as a charitable donation. The death benefit of a life insurance policy is not counted as a part of your estate, so it does not add to the estate's tax burden.

We are a registered charitable organization with Canada Revenue Agency and are able to issue charitable donation receipts. We ask you to consider making a donation to the O'Brien Foundation.

It would be wonderful to hear from you. Best always,

Dr. W. Barry Miller O'Brien Fellow 1977 Executive Director, O'Brien Foundation drbmillr@nbnet.nb.ca