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June 2019

McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

Features:

Interview with Courtney Sheppard, IT Analyst IV, Faculty of Social Science

By Greg Atkinson (Science)

We aren't ashamed to admit that we look to our peers for guidance, and in some cases, outright follow their lead! Courtney Sheppard's team in the Faculty of Social Sciences is a step-ahead of us on important IT and accessibility challenges. When we heard that her Faculty is experimenting with a second Jira service desk instance, I couldn't turn down an opportunity to ask a few questions.

[Read Full Interview](#)

McMaster AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray receives CUCCIO

2019 Community Award

Last week at the 2019 CUCCIO Awards presented alongside the CANHEIT-ARC Conference, our AVP & CTO, Gayleen Gray received the community award for her dedication to and stewardship for the CUCCIO Leadership Development Program. Congratulations, Gayleen!



Join the McMaster IT Summer Social happening this week!

As a small thank you and in direct response to feedback and requests for more opportunities to connect as an IT community, the Office of the AVP & CTO will be hosting a McMaster IT Summer Social on Wednesday June 26 from 12:30 – 1:30PM on the lawn in front of BSB.

This is an opportunity for us to get away from our desks, connect with colleagues we might not see every day and enjoy a sweet treat. All members of the McMaster IT community are welcome to attend.

[View Event Details](#)

The Office of the AVP & CTO presents:

MCMASTER IT SUMMER SOCIAL

Join your IT colleagues from across campus on
Wednesday June 26, 12:30 - 1:30 PM
on the lawn in front of BSB.
Sweet treats provided!

Connected. Seamless. Transformative.



McMaster IT.



Tech Tuesdays with AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray – coming this July

In support of McMaster IT Strategic Plan strategic pillar of ‘A Connected McMaster Community’, McMaster AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray is inviting the McMaster community to ‘Tech Tuesdays’ for the months of July and August*. Gayleen would like to continue to find opportunities over the summer to hear the community's thoughts, ideas and perspectives about technology and the possibilities for IT at McMaster.

[View Event Details](#)

McMaster IT Student Advisory Committee delivers year-end report

Recently, Christa Morrison from the MacPherson Institute, and Marzena Kielar

with University Technology Services (UTS), both co-chairs for the Information Technology Student Advisory Committee (ITSAC), presented the committee's first year final report to the McMaster IT Executive Committee.

[Check out the full story and access the report](#)

MacBuy up and running with controlled live orders and pilot group

McMaster has begun transitioning to an online purchasing system. [MacBuy](#) is integrated with Mosaic and allows buyers to use an online shopping cart to order items directly from showcase/catalogue and non-catalogue suppliers. The first live testing took place on May 6 and the office supplies were delivered without difficulty.

[Read Full Story](#)

Completion of Wireless Network Upgrades (JHE, ITB, ETB)

The Faculty of Engineering, University Technology Services (UTS), and Facility Services are pleased to announce the completion of the wireless (WiFi) network upgrade project for the Faculty of Engineering. In total, 218 new wireless access points have been added to JHE, ITB, and ETB. All are fully installed and functional, resulting in added coverage and connectivity (accessible via the usual [Mac-WiFi or MacSecure](#) networks/SSIDs).

The intent of this project was to provide complete and ubiquitous wireless coverage within these buildings. This implementation has been a collaborative effort between the Faculty of Engineering, UTS, and Facility Services.

[MacPherson Institute and Office of the AVP & CTO collaborating to review Avenue to Learn](#)

[UTS schedules monthly maintenance mornings June to November](#)

McMaster IT community helping support girls in STEM

The 2019 [Technovation](#) Niagara Regional Pitch competition was a huge success, and McMaster IT played a big role in that.

Three members of the [McMaster IT community volunteered to judge the live presentations](#). Thank you to Shirley Marshall (UTS), Christa Morrison (MacPherson) and Roy Russell (RHPCS) for sharing their time. There were 14 judges in total, representing Government, Industry, and Higher Education, with McMaster having the largest representation.

Four teams from Niagara have moved on to the Global semi-finals, two in the junior division, and two in the senior division.

Norman Education Research Day (#NERD19) & VR

The 2019 Norman Education Research Day (#NERD19) was hosted last month by the MERIT program of the [Faculty of Health Sciences](#). The activity brought forth a multitude of topics that displayed the advances of health sciences when in partnership with emerging technologies. During the 'Insights into Technology' presentations, topics ranged from podcasts to virtual reality to assist in medical learning. Akanksha Aggarwal presented her research with McMaster's Dr. Wainman on the topic of Virtual Reality (VR) as an educational tool within the anatomy classroom.

[Learn more about Dr. Wainman's work on VR and teaching](#)

Items of Interest:

Mohawk College's Digital Literacy Series

The Digital Literacy Series consists of four topics that every leader should know about. These topics are emerging technologies on the cusp of major, impactful change to all businesses across unlimited sectors.

[Learn more](#)

IEC Hamilton Coding Bootcamps (Free!)

[Learn more & Register!](#)

McMaster's Employee Accessibility Network

The McMaster Employee Accessibility Network functions as a peer networking group for employees with disabilities, as well as a consultative group to the McMaster Accessibility Council (MAC). Meetings are hosted by the Equity and Inclusion Office in response to provincial accessibility legislation. They take place on McMaster's main campus, with teleconferencing/webinar sign-in available for those off-site. To join the mailing list, attend an upcoming meeting, or ask related questions, send a **confidential email to**: Kate Brown, AccessMac Program, Equity and Inclusion Office: access@mcmaster.ca

McMaster IT Community! Share your stories, project successes and ideas!

The McMaster IT Newsletter has a strong audience of over 500 readers across campus and excellent readership rates. We need your content and stories to truly capture the great work and ideas from the McMaster IT community and make the newsletter even better. Please submit any McMaster-related IT ideas and stories to c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca. McMaster IT Newsletter is distributed on a monthly basis.



Thanks for reading!

[How to contribute to this newsletter:](#)

We welcome content submissions from all IT employees across campus.

Do you have an update, event or story from your unit that you would like to share in the next newsletter?

Are you looking to raise awareness about an upcoming launch, service or discovery?

Do you have a great article to share?

- Email your content to c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca

or

- Create a blog post on Confluence and send a link + synopsis to c-it-newsletter@mcmaster.ca

2019 McMaster University,

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