

[View this email in your browser](#)



May 2019

McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

Features:

Big data and community impact

How does our IT work impact the community outside of McMaster?

For [Patrick De Luca](#), the answer has become increasingly clear during his time at McMaster as a GIS Specialist & Instructional Assistant. The GIS technology he deployed to instruct students has become a keystone for bridges between big-data and decision making. Greg Atkinson, Faculty of Science IT Manager, down with Pat to talk about his work, his technology, and a project that closely aligns with our mission to advance societal health and well-being.

[Read the full interview here.](#)

Interview with Kathy Denney

By Greg Atkinson

Many of us had an opportunity to meet Kathy Denney during the IT review process. Her excellent work on this project helped our community better

understand the challenges and opportunities within our IT landscape. In many ways this review served as a foundation for current projects. I caught up with Kathy over lunch and asked her to share some reflections on where we've come from, and where we are going.

Which aspects of the IT Review were the most complicated to communicate?

Kathy: I think the most complicated challenges were communicating effectively around the review objectives. Stakeholders had made certain assumptions around what the ultimate objectives were and therefore it was difficult at times to ensure these were well understood.

How did your understanding of IT @ Mac change over the course of the review process?

Kathy: I came to see how common some of the challenges are across the whole institution, and how few opportunities (at the time) there were to develop collective solutions. Numerous units/departments/faculties were struggling with the same issues but didn't have the framework in place to work effectively together.

What excites you about the work taking place today across our IT communities?

Kathy: There's a strong IT community now. It feels like the university is moving in the same direction towards common goals and objectives and people are working together collectively to find solutions.

Do you have any advice for members of our IT community who are confronting changes or new challenges?

Kathy: Engage stakeholders with different perspectives. Talk to the people who are doing the work to understand their true needs. Don't assume what people need and what their challenges are. Engage stakeholders (staff, faculty, students) in the overall process so that they don't feel as though change is happening to them; rather they are part of the solution and can have an impact.

Thank you Kathy for your time!

McMaster IT Strategic Plan Update

Across the month of May, the McMaster community has turned up to provide their input to assist with the next steps and implementation of the [McMaster IT Strategic Plan](#). IT service providers and end-users including students have shared their valuable time and thoughts as contributions to McMaster's IT future. Thank you to all who have participated! So far, the following sessions have been held:

- Mosaic Systems Improvements
- Identity & Access Management
- Microsoft Office 365
- Campus IT Support Model
- Mobile Apps/Virtual One Card
- Data Centre Consolidation
- IT Community & Culture

Late May will see the Classroom Technologies/Teaching & Learning; Digital Spaces and Document Management sessions. Further engagement sessions may take place across the summer. Please keep an eye on your inbox and cto.mcmaster.ca for further updates and communications.

Tracking HR Digitization Efficiency Gains

Moving forward, HR will increasingly be asking the community to help gauge the impact of both new and proposed HR Digitization initiatives, which focus on continuously improving how we work. Efficiencies in HR processes allow hiring managers and administrators to redirect their time to other value-added activities. If you are interested in learning more about HR Digitization, please contact [Dave Hall](#).

CIRC Conference

The [Computing Infrastructure Research Centre](#) (CIRC) is once again proud to host the 2nd Annual Great Canadian Datacentre Symposium, on June 19 and 20, 2019. More information can be found here <http://www.gcdcs19.ca/>.

IT Community Writing Group

How do we become better writers? Practice! In recent months, community members from Faculties, UTS and RHPCS have gathered to practice the art of writing through fun, creative exercises. Our group is informally named “Freedom Ink” and we practice in a safe, inclusive and supportive environment. We welcome you to join us every other Tuesday at lunch. All skill levels and language backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to participate.

Interested in learning more?

[Find us on Microsoft Teams.](#)

Items of Interest:

- [Back to summer school for high performance computing](#)
- Design thinking for the future health needs: [Design thinking students showcase the future needs of health in an interactive exhibit](#)
- **Missed OHEIT.TKF.RUCD 2019?**
Find the full schedule and topics here: <https://oheit2019.ca/schedule/>
Special thanks to Gayleen Gray, Amanda Baldwin, Nevine Chawra for presenting on behalf of McMaster!
- **Educause release 2019 Horizon Report**
The [2019 Horizon Report](#) details the key trends, significant challenges, and important developments in educational technology, as ranked by an expert panel.
[Big Data Science: Establishing Data-Driven Institutions through Advanced Analytics](#)
[How Can Edtech Address Evolving School and Workforce Needs?](#)

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,

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).