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May 2020

McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

McMaster IT News

McMaster Women in Tech: Christa Morrison



“Choosing to work in technology is choosing to make the world a better place by coming up with more options and better solutions as part of teams.”

-Christa Morrison
Digital Pedagogy Specialist
McMaster University



The McMaster Women in Tech series recognizes changemakers across our community. The Office of the AVP & CTO is proud to share the stories, expertise, and experiences of women tech changemakers in diverse roles across campus. [Read about how Christa is changing and enhancing digital pedagogy on campus.](#)

Nominate yourself, a colleague, student, faculty member, or McMaster community member for this recognition.

[Nominate a Marauder](#)

In Conversation with Christa Morrison and Gayleen Gray





In this conversation with AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray, McMaster Women in Tech changemaker Christa Morrison shares her advice on how to create change with technology adoption and advancement. Christa is an expert in digital storytelling and the powerful tools that enhance how we practice pedagogy. She also shares why Higher Ed provides a good environment for young women to pursue a career in IT.

Bringing McMaster's Campus to You with Virtual Backgrounds



As Zoom and other web and video conferencing tools have become a fixture in our work week, there is now a new way to bring the university into your routine.

McMaster virtual backgrounds are an easy way to add a McMaster theme to your virtual meetings. Choose from a variety of campus images and branded designs that offer professionalism and privacy. These assets and instructional guides are available on the [Brand Standards website](#) and on the [University Resource Library](#).

McMaster Mail: A Note on Delegates



For those who await migration, it is important to note any delegates associated with your account. As whole departments migrate, delegates will too. However, there are instances where delegate connections will be broken.

- Within departments, delegate connection will resume when all associated accounts migrate.
- Across departments, delegates will migrate at different times and the connection will be temporarily broken. This connection will resume when all associated accounts in each department are in the new environment.

To learn more about how to use the new email and calendaring environment, click below for upcoming training sessions.

[Upcoming sessions](#)

Lessons from being hacked: IT Security is more than a role

By Greg Atkinson, Manager - Information Technology (Science)

It's important to know that email and communication tools are not the only target for attacks. Websites (e.g. WordPress) are common targets because of their public visibility, so users and administrators must be vigilant on all platforms. In 2017, a website I built was "hacked" by an intruder who sought to extort us. It was a disruptive and scary incident that shifted my perspectives on IT Security.

Plugin updates and software patches are only one part of the picture. Understanding server design and management philosophy became a priority. I encourage web developers to collaborate with system administrators and enterprise technology peers and take time to understand their technology, design philosophy and how they approach IT security. Join the [McMaster Cyber Security Squad](#) on Teams to discuss security topics with professionals and stakeholders and mention @atkinsgj for some quick tips on WordPress security and introductions to the community.

COVID-19 and Accessibility Challenges

The Faculty of Science has increased its dedication to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to address increased teaching and learning challenges. Through several campus initiatives and technology partners, Course Developers and Media Specialists within Science are supporting the [AccessMac](#) program to develop a webinar series on accessible document creation within the Office 365 ecosystem. Topics include AODA auditing, media production experiences, and tips for online classrooms. Special thanks to Jessica Blackwood (blackwja) and Kate Brown (brownk33) for their work on this initiative.

Connect with [the Blended Learning Community of Practice](#) Team to learn about resources, communities and experts that can help your instructors design inclusive virtual classrooms.

Items of Interest

Gartner Expands Access to IT Resources for Technical Professionals During Pandemic

Gartner has made several resources available from an emergency planning perspective across business functions in response to the pandemic. These resources are provided in addition to your regular access. Resources, such as webinars, podcasts, articles and best practices, that were restricted to CFOs, VPs HR, CMOs are now available to everyone if the content is labeled "COVID." To access these resources, technology professionals can use their Gartner portal provided by McMaster.

Additional Gartner Resources

Gartner Webinars

<https://www.gartner.com/en/information-technology/events/webinars>

Gartner Podcasts

<https://www.gartner.com/en/podcasts/thinkcast>

Have a story or something you want to share with the IT Community?

Email Mary Taws (Acting Manager, Communication & Culture) at tawsm1@mcmaster.ca to feature an article!



2020, McMaster IT

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