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## November/December 2020 McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

*For the IT community, by the IT community.*

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### McMaster IT News

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AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray reflects on 2020 and the vast contributions of the McMaster IT community. [Read her reflection here.](#)

[Read article](#)

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### McMaster IT Governance Update

On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the IT Executive committee met to review and discuss proposed IT initiatives. [Read about the projects endorsed here.](#)

[Read article](#)

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### McMaster Women in Tech

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project that highlights and recognizes women tech changemakers from the McMaster community. Women working with technology are pursuing new ways to improve the our campus and beyond its borders. For this issue of Connectivity, we celebrate the achievements of Marissa Benson, cyber security expert, and Janelle Hinds, founder of Helping Hands.

### **Marissa Benson November 2020 Changemaker**

[Read Marissa's profile](#)

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### **Janelle Hinds December 2020 Changemaker**

[Hear about Janelle](#)

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### **Nominate a future Changemaker**

Do you know someone contributing to the tech landscape at McMaster? Do they champion new ideas and make change happen? Nominate a colleague, faculty member, researcher or community member!

[Nominate](#)

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## **McMaster community gets more cyber safe**



With National Cyber Security Awareness Month over, the results are in for the #MacCyberSafe contest! We had three winners selected to win some prizes. But more importantly, we engaged thousands across the virtual campus and challenged them to be more cyber aware.

Stay tuned for more cyber security activities from the IT Security team!

[Read article](#)

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## **McMaster IT celebrates successes and holiday wishes**

McMaster IT had a virtual coffee chat on November 30th to bring the IT community together before the holidays. AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray and special guest, VP (Administration) Roger Couldrey, recognized the excellent work across the IT community in supporting the university during this time and moving the McMaster IT Strategic Plan forward. So many dedicated IT professionals across campus helped make this possible. Thank you! Make sure to check out the Kudos board and viewing recommendations from the meeting!

Creating a visual representation of our positive impact on each other and the McMaster community. Colleagues are invited to visit and view the board and of course, share their appreciation, recognition and gratitude.

See and give kudos

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## McMaster IT Forum: Save the date

Get ready for the McMaster IT Forum 2021, a virtual spectacle featuring fun, knowledge sharing, networking and more!

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## Virtual hallway chats with Gayleen Gray - call for participants

### Virtual hallway chat with Gayleen Gray – Call for Participants

Take 10 minutes to share your work, share a smile and keep connected.

Contact Tanya Reid at [tanya.reid@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tanya.reid@mcmaster.ca) for more information.



AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray invites you to participate in a new series of mini video podcasts – virtual hallway chats. We want to share with the McMaster IT community so we can all benefit from learning more about each other and the connected, seamless and transformative work we are undertaking.

If you are interested in chatting with Gayleen, please reach out to Tanya Reid at [tanya.reid@mcmaster.ca](mailto:tanya.reid@mcmaster.ca).

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## UTS Holiday Coverage

IT support might look a bit different over the holiday break for the McMaster community. UTS will have holiday support from Dec. 24 to Jan. 4. Critical systems will continued to be monitored, such as such as email services, data centres and more.

[See holiday coverage](#)

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## UTS 2021 maintenance schedule

UTS has established standardized, monthly maintenance windows for repairs, installations and upgrades which may cause limited or interrupted access to McMaster's IT system resources; or may experience no interruptions at all. See what services, systems, days and times are expected to undergo maintenance in the full 2021 schedule.

[See full schedule](#)

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## Faculty of Humanities introduces new website!

The Faculty of Humanities websites has a great new look! Over 250 pages have been updated to bring new features that integrate information from Mosaic, McMaster Experts, the Humanities Course Outline System, McMaster Daily News and the new Events Calendar.

The November 2020 soft launch is phase 1 and work continues to optimize future phases and webpages. Congratulations to the many hands involved!

[Check out the new website](#)

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## Automatic class Teams now available for instructors



Class Teams are available in Teams and populated with student enrollment for McMaster courses for the Winter term for 2021 from Mosaic. Instructors can follow full instructions on how to activate their course Teams below along with extra tips and services available.

[More info](#)

## Catch up on new Teams features and updates



See a demo above of the Office 365 Hub for the McMaster Community.

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- See the [TA guide](#) on how to schedule Teams meetings through Gmail and how to enable helpful meeting options.
- Checkout [Spotlight](#), a mode that pins a person's video window so they don't get lost.
- [Live captions](#) show real-time speaker attribution.
- Built-in [Polls](#) feature for Teams can be prepared before meetings and during them to collect feedback.
- [Share content](#) features can allow participants to move freely through the presentation slides without interrupting the presenter's slides and giving control to others. This can be helpful when student groups are giving presentations.
- More training opportunities are available to all staff, faculty and students on Microsoft 365 tools, such as Teams and Outlook. See more details below.

## Training sessions

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## Items of Interest

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### **New national program to fund cybersecurity initiatives across research and education sector**

CANARIE announced the launch of the Cybersecurity Initiatives Program (CIP), which will fund priority initiatives across Canada's research and education sector. The initiatives will be delivered to eligible organizations through the provincial and territorial partners in Canada's National Research and Education Network (NREN), in which CANARIE is the federal partner.

CanSSOC, one of the priority initiatives to receive funding in early 2021, is proudly supported and co-founded by McMaster and other Canadian universities.

[Read article](#)

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## visual impairments



Guy Meyer, a recent McMaster graduate in Computing and Software, has developed SerpUI, a free tool that simplifies Google search and adds assistive design and technologies for persons with visual impairments. Using Google Cloud Services, a text-to-speech algorithm allows users to use their microphone to input searches with audible feedback on their results.

[Read article](#)

## EDUCAUSE 2020 sessions and exhibits on-demand



Unable to attend the EDUCAUSE Annual Conference 2020? Get on-demand

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trends and tech in Higher Ed IT.

[Register here](#)

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## The EDUCAUSE 2021 top IT issues

EDUCAUSE has refactored its top 2021 IT issues to help higher education institutions recover from the pandemic. Three scenarios are identified: **restore**, **evolve** and **transform**, including the top five issues within each.

[See report](#)

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## CIOs put in the Student Shark Tank



As part of EDUCAUSE 2020, CIOs were put to the test as they pitched to student sharks to win funding for their initiative/project. The panel had experts from across North America, including AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray, face off against a panel of students. This was a great chance to see beyond budgets, bureaucracy and practicality to put their greatest ideas forward. The students then had a chance to comment and critique the ideas and offer "funding" (approval) for the ideas they believe in the most.

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The CBRE, one of the largest commercial real estate services companies in the world, recently published a report that analyzed the tech market in Canada. Hamilton placed 10th overall based on its competitive advantages and appeal to tech talent workers and tech employers. The report also noted the tech growth in Hamilton, with a tech talent labour increase of 35.7%, second only to Waterloo among the country's mid-sized markets.

[Ream report](#)

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## McMaster IT Holiday Watch List

During the Holiday Coffee Chat, the McMaster IT community revealed what they're watching this season (festive or not!). Get comfy and immersed in one (or more!) of these over the holiday.

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**IT Crowd**  
**Home Alone**  
**Outlander**  
**Lovecraft Country**  
**Elf**  
**White Christmas**  
**Sound of Music**  
**Money Heist**  
**Muppets Family**  
**Christmas**  
**National Lampoon**  
**Christmas Vacation**  
**The Queens Gambit**  
**Home Alone**  
**Christmas Story!**  
**Chestnut**  
**Ted Lasso**  
**All I Want For Christmas Is**  
**You**  
**Rudolf the Red Nose**  
**Reindeer**

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Have a story you want to share with the IT Community? Email Peter McDonald at [mcdonp1@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mcdonp1@mcmaster.ca) to feature an article!

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