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April 2019 McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

NOTE: We have changed email platforms, our newsletter is now distributed via MailChimp.

Features:

REGISTER NOW! McMaster IT Strategic Plan Engagement Sessions, April – May 2019

Registration is now open for the McMaster IT Strategic Plan Engagement Sessions. To register for one or more sessions, and for more information, [please visit Eventbrite](#).

Please register by Thursday April 25th.

Engagement sessions are open to all members of the McMaster community. The Office of the AVP & CTO is seeking broad input and ideas to help with analysis and planning for the prioritized 2019 IT Strategic initiatives of the [McMaster IT Strategic Plan](#).

Exploring the possibilities for a Smart Campus: A preview of the McMaster Cisco Smart Building Occupancy proof of

concept

At their March meeting, the McMaster IT Governance Executive committee endorsed a Cisco Smart Building Occupancy proof of concept project. The purpose of this project is to better understand the opportunities related to automated management of buildings such as HVAC controls for energy savings and improved lighting comfort. This project contributes to the Seamless Foundation and Transformative Information Technologies and Services pillars of the new [McMaster IT Strategic Plan](#). the full interview with Elliot Jeyaseelan, Facility Technology Administrator [here](#).

Getting to know... Elliot Jeyaseelan:

In an effort to get to know our McMaster IT colleagues, we're getting a little bit personal. Elliott has kindly agreed to answer a few questions so we can get to know him beyond the business. Thank you, Elliott for sharing!:

Name: Elliott Jeyaseelan

Title: Facility Technology Administrator

Currently working on: Cisco Occupancy pilot, also involved with the Smart Campus initiative, Automated lighting system integration, upgrades to various building automation system platform, Campus cellular signal enhancement, Digital signage integration etc etc

My idea of perfect happiness: A world without sickness and poverty, 3 day work week, because humanity was created to be productive and useful, a world without proprietary protocol, because every technological gadget or gizmo interoperates with each other, Amazon already has global 1 hour delivery via autonomous drones and the beach is a few minutes walk from home.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?: Almost two decades ago, leaving my home country and starting a new life in Canada, and learning to love snow!

Who are your real life heroes?: Mother Teresa, for dedicating her life for the service of the poor. Bill Gates, a PC on every desk and every home, Steve Jobs, for an incredible vision and tenacity to beautifully integrate a GPS, a capacitive touch screen, an all day battery, a phone, a music player and the internet in a small easy to use package, Elon Musk, for creating an alternative



fuel vehicle platform that silenced the naysayers and still have torque, Dale Earnhardt, racing has never been the same, RIP.

MacChangers students receive first ever digital blockchain credential given by a Canadian university.

Forty-five MacChangers from programs across a number of Faculties received a digital credential anchored in blockchain on April 10, 2019. Credentials were presented at Hamilton City Hall by Faculty of Engineering Dean Ishwar K. Puri. This was the first ever digital blockchain credential given by a Canadian university.

Maclean's also [published a story](#) in which the MacChangers program was highlighted as an example of one that provides an earned microcredential.

MacBuy TownHall

More than 100 people attended the recent MacBuy TownHall where McMaster AVP & CFO and executive sponsor, Dee Henne provided opening remarks and an overview of MacBuy. Project updates and systems highlights were shared, as well as well as user/tester testimonials. The project will be rolled out in May with a phased roll-over timeline. More information can be found [here](#).

New Wireless PM joins the McMaster IT community

Lynette Greenidge has recently joined University Technology Services (UTS). Lynnette will be taking on the role of Project Manager for the Wireless Implementation project for a term of 12 months. Lynnette brings a solid track record in project management and has significant experience in working within the public sector and implementing infrastructure projects such as wireless. Lynnette will work with Strategic Procurement, the vendor/s, Facilities Services, Building Owners, UTS, and various other stakeholders from the across the university in the delivery of the campus wireless network plan. She is located at BSB235.

Events:

AI and Blockchain Advisory Group Workshop – May 7, 2019

The AI and Blockchain Advisory Group in Hamilton is hosting a workshop to present real examples where such innovative technologies are used on **Tuesday, May 7th, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., at David Braley Health Sciences Centre, McMaster University (100 Main St W, Hamilton)**. The Group recognizes the future of Blockchain and AI and the transition from centralized platforms to decentralize ecosystems. It is a future that will see privacy by design, open and transparent ecosystems, and new ways of peer-to-peer interaction in almost every aspect of our lives.

This is a free event. To register, click [here](#). If you have any questions about this event, please contact [Nevine Chawra](#) at the Office of the Registrar.

REMINDER! McMaster IT professionals have access to the Gartner for Technical Professionals (GTP) Platform.

This access is part of our organizational subscription and a great resource for information and peer knowledge for a number of technical areas facing Higher Ed IT. Before attempting to access any Gartner, first always login through the SSO setup on the [McMaster UTS site](#). If you have any questions regarding GTP, please see your manager or contact Kevin de Kock, Director, UTS.

Items of Interest:

- [McMaster CTO weighs in on digital transformation for the higher ed landscape](#)
- McMaster University is hosting [Canada Alliance 2019](#) this November! Canadian Alliance is the Canadian regional meeting for Oracle systems high education users. The 2019 conference is being hosted by McMaster University, November 4-7 at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel.
- [Digital Transformation in Higher Ed](#)
- [2019 CUCCIO Awards nominations are now open!](#) Get your submissions in before May 6! Get your submissions in before May 6!

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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