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January 2020 McMaster Connectivity Newsletter

For the IT community, by the IT community.

McMaster IT News

McMaster IT Forum: February 20, 2020



Peter George Centre for Living and
Learning (PGCLL)

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



McMaster IT

[Register Here](#)

An engaging opportunity for professional development, Connectivity 2020 will feature new campus technologies and collaborative initiatives.

McMaster AVP & CTO, Gayleen Gray, and President of Cisco Canada, Rola Dagher, will kick off the day of learning with an animated armchair discussion. Afternoon sessions will offer a deep dive into various initiatives from SharePoint solutions to live captioning in campus classrooms.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn, network, and create a more inclusive tech community on campus — [register today!](#)

New McMaster VR App Allows You to See a Nuclear Reactor, Up Close and Personal



Experience the inside of a nuclear reactor, up close and personal through a new McMaster application: 'McMasterVR: Nuclear Facilities'. Technicians and researchers join you on this Virtual Reality (VR) exploration, sharing key facts about the facilities and common misconceptions about the industry.

This initiative was developed in partnership with the Education Program in Anatomy, McMaster Nuclear Operations and Facilities, and the Office of the AVP & CTO. Pictured above are project team members (from left to right): **Karin Stephenson** (Manager of Commercial Operations at McMaster's Nuclear

Operations and Facilities); **Joshua Mitchell** (Education Program in Anatomy), **Bruce Wainman** (Education Program in Anatomy), and **Chris Heysel** (Director Nuclear Operations at McMaster University). Thank you to the whole team for bringing this application to life!

The app is now available via the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#). As the team refines the app and makes adjustments, we want to hear your feedback. To share your experience, please join the McMasterVR: Nuclear Facilities channel on Microsoft Teams.

Celebrating Year One of the McMaster IT Strategic Plan

January 23, 2020 saw the one-year milestone of the McMaster IT Strategic Plan. This is an opportunity to celebrate early wins and recognize the accomplishments of our cross-campus collaborations. In 2019, there were 12 projects endorsed through IT Governance, including [campus-wide wireless enhancement](#) and [O365 email & calendaring migration](#) for faculty and staff. Thank you to the entire IT community for your contributions in making year one a success!



AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray reflects upon the past year of collaboratively creating a connected, seamless, and transformative McMaster.

Town Hall Kick-Off: O365 Email & Calendaring Migration



Computer Services Unit (CSU) and University Technology Services (UTS) came together earlier this month to discuss email and calendaring migration to the Office 365 cloud solution. Thoughtful questions were posed and integrated into the project team's next steps for implementation of this critical initiative for faculty, staff, retirees, and medical school students. For more information about the migration, [please visit the project page on the CTO website](#).

Items of Interest

McMaster Student to Participate in Competition Tackling 'Fake News' with Artificial Intelligence

McMaster sophomore Jay Mody has qualified for the [second round of a Communitech competition](#) that requires participants to develop an Artificial Intelligence (AI) solution to stop the spread of 'fake news'. Mody, a software engineering student, is also working part-time with the [Magarvey Lab](#) at McMaster. He is one of 10 finalists selected out of more than 150 applicants.

"My work with lab involves collaborating with my colleagues to come up with novel ways of using AI to accelerate the process of drug discovery and leverage the abundance of biochemical data," Mody says. "I'm also an executive with the McMaster AI society, for which I help organize events, teach bi-weekly tutorials, and set up project teams."

Mody will leverage these experiences as he competes for the top prize of \$1 million CAD. Communitech is working in partnership with the Schulich Foundation, Leaders Fund, and the University of Waterloo to host the first-of-its-kind competition. Please join us in following [Mody's journey in this competition](#) and wishing our fellow Marauder the best of luck!

New GIS Computer Lab in Science

The Faculty of Science is proud to announce the completion of a new instructional computer lab for undergraduate and graduate students. Located within the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) lab has deployed 52 new computers that will be used by over 700 students annually.

What sets this lab apart are the performance specifications of each machine: i7 processors, extra RAM and a performance GPU (graphics card) that enable big-data processing for a variety of STEM disciplines. Administered by Patrick Deluca with system design and maintenance support from Alex Poulin, the learning outcomes from the new GIS lab will prepare students for a wide range of industry and academic pursuits.

To visit the lab or learn more about GIS, contact: delucapf@mcmaster.ca

Mistakes Happen: McMaster Leaders Discuss Professional Mishaps and Resilience

Last week, McMaster's Healthy Workplace Committee hosted Thrive Week, a series of events focused on helping students, faculty and staff explore their path to psychological wellness. As part of this series AVP & CTO Gayleen Gray participated in a panel entitled [Mistakes Happen](#), which featured leaders reflecting on their career highs and lows. Speakers discussed resilience and the importance of overcoming mistakes to improve professionally and personally. [Please visit the HR website for upcoming Healthy Workplace events](#)

and opportunities.



2020, McMaster IT

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