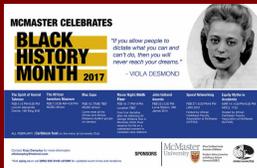


Two Mac grads shortlisted to become Canada's next astronauts

Seen and Heard...



McMaster celebrates Black History Month



McMaster study one of most influential of 2016

McMaster researchers receive funding to pursue international partnerships



Welcome to the February 2017 edition of *McMaster Highlights: Hamilton Edition*, the monthly e-newsletter keeping you up to date on what's happening at McMaster.

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McMaster working with the City of Hamilton to help youth find pathways to higher education

Peer supporters from the City of Hamilton's Xperience Annex program were on campus last month to learn more about university life and explore ways they can help other youth find pathways to post-secondary education..

While on campus, the group participated in a drop-in course taught by Social Sciences professor, Tina Fetner, attended a show at the W.J. McCallion Planetarium, participated in a campus tour, and took part in an information session to learn more about student financial aid and how to apply to McMaster.

Xperience Annex- an initiative delivered with funding from the Local Poverty Reduction Fund-connects Hamilton youth between the ages of 18-29 with a range of social services that can help them with anything from meeting basics needs, to education and employment opportunities.

"The value of coming to campus is to educate our youth leaders so they can bring that knowledge back to the peers they're supporting," says Irene Heffernan, Senior Project Manager of employment and education for the City of Hamilton's Neighbourhood Action Strategy, and lead for the Xperience Annex. "We work with youth that may not have been exposed to opportunities for education. Many of them face barriers and fears. The more information we can bring back to dispel those fears, the more opportunities these youth will receive."

McMaster and the Xperience Annex are continuing to look at ways to develop future links.

For more information, click here.

Connect to Careers invests in the future of Hamilton

Connect to Careers, a partnership between McMaster University, City of Hamilton, Mohawk College, Redeemer University College and Workforce Planning Hamilton, took place earlier this month in downtown Hamilton.

The Connect to Careers job fair seeks to bridge the gap between local organizations and job seekers by giving them an opportunity to engage in quality, face-to-face networking. The job fair had about 150 organizations participate, with one third from the Greater Hamilton area. The event also brought in 1500 job seekers, connecting them to jobs in the area. It was attended by students, alumni, and community members across the city.

"The quality of the partnerships that our institutions have nurtured with local organizations over the past four years has generated many opportunities for our students, including full-time, summer, co-op, and/or internship opportunities," says Gisela Oliveira, manager of Career and Employment at McMaster's Student Success Centre.

Local organizations at the fair included ArcelorMittal Dofasco, Maljohn Company Ltd., McKeil Marine Ltd., Ancaster Mill, Felton Brushes Ltd., NLS Engineering, and Walters Group.

For more information, click [here](#).

STEM Hacks competition teaches youth about science and technology at McMaster

This past month, Mathstronauts, a Hamilton-based not-for-profit organization hosted its second annual Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Hacks competition at McMaster University. The day brought together 150 middle school students and nearly 80 McMaster students as volunteers and mentors.

Teams of students were given science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) related challenges for a chance to win a prize and bragging rights. A panel of judges graded projects and the best "hacks" were announced at a grant closing ceremony in which parents, families, students, and volunteers all joined to witness their work.

"At Mathstronauts we're building a new STEM-culture, where STEM is the new 'cool' thing to do - where kids are driven by a curiosity about their surroundings, and are encouraged to realize that STEM exists in their everyday lives and affects most, if not all, of what they do," says Sehrish Zehra, Executive Director of Mathstronauts and a McMaster alumna.

Mathstronauts' goal is to change the landscape of STEM education through innovative and creative experiential learning opportunities.

For more information, click [here](#).

McMaster students, staff, faculty, grads nominated for Women of Distinction Awards in Hamilton

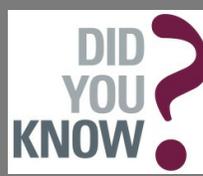


Many members of the McMaster community are among those nominated for [YWCA Women of Distinction Awards](#). Students, staff, faculty and alumnae were all nominated in areas ranging from excellence in arts, culture and design, to science, technology and the trades.

The awards recognize outstanding women and organizations who are committed to the development of other women and to the overall improvement of the community.

The Women of Distinction Awards are nationally recognized as one of the most prestigious awards for women. Nominees will be celebrated on March 9 at the Hamilton Convention Centre.

For a list of the nominees from the McMaster community, click [here](#).



Two Mac grads shortlisted to become Canada's next astronauts

- Two McMaster alumni are among the 72 people hoping to become the next astronauts with the Canadian Space Agency.
- Thomas Karakolis (BEng '07, MAsc '10, Mechanical) and Charles-Philippe Lajoie (PhD, Physics and Astronomy '10) are among the contenders.
- Karakolis, who has a PhD in Kinesiology, is a scientist with the Department of National Defence. He researches how to prevent injury and improve the performance of members of the Canadian Armed forces.
- Lajoie is an astronomical optics scientist who works on the James Webb Space Telescope, a project led by the Canadian Space Agency, NASA and the European Space Agency.
- 3,772 applicants from across Canada applied to the Canadian Space Agency and that list was cut down after a rigorous screening process.
- For more information, click [here](#).

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