

McMaster students win Federal Finance Minister's Competition

Welcome to the March 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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Seen and Heard...



[Meet the 22 women who hold Canada Research Chairs at McMaster](#)

Anthropology students hit the streets of Hamilton in search of art

A group of McMaster Anthropology students took to the streets of Hamilton armed with cell phones, cameras, tablets, pens and paper to explore and document the street art in five West Harbour neighbourhoods. This community exploration was part of Rebecca Plett's fourth-year Anthropology course Practicing Anthropology: Ethics, Theory, Engagement, designed to give students hands-on experience conducting research using anthropological methodologies to investigate social problems, and how these methods can be applied to positively impact society.

As part of the course - developed in partnership with Social Sciences alumnus, Jay Carter, Hamilton Project Manager for CityWorks, part of Evergreen CityWorks, a local not-for-profit organization - students were asked to examine how art in public spaces and on private property contributes to the vibrancy of Hamilton and to identify artistic gaps and opportunities in five neighbourhoods across the City.

To do this, students were split into small groups to explore the neighbourhoods of Strathcona, Central, North Ends East and West, and the Beasley neighbourhood where they took pictures of the art they found and conducted interviews with community members about the artworks. Students also talked to residents about some of the cultural activities in the area, asked what the neighbourhoods were like in the past, and what changes community members felt would benefit their community.



[Two Mac profs presented with Order of Canada medals](#)

When their research was completed, students presented their findings at CityWorks in downtown Hamilton to Plett, Carter and Ken Coit, Program Manager of Public Art and Projects for the City of Hamilton. The students identified gaps and incorporated research on how communities in other cities have transformed vacant or underutilized spaces into culturally vibrant civic commons. They also proposed ways to integrate more art into Hamilton's neighbourhoods including artwork on chain-link fences, organizing a chalk art festival and a fire and water show to draw community members to the waterfront, as well as a pop-up theatre.

Through various initiatives such as the Cultural Policy & Plan and Public Art Master Plan, the City of Hamilton is increasingly exploring the role of art, music, culture, and creativity as crucial components to healthy cities. The students' research and proposals will be reviewed by Evergreen and the City of Hamilton over the coming year and some of these ideas could be implemented in West Harbour communities.

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



[Kinesiology student-athlete named Canada's top university women's](#)

McMaster women honoured by Hamilton YWCA

The Hamilton YWCA celebrated with its 41st Women of Distinction Awards earlier this month.

[basketball player](#)

A number of McMaster community members were nominated for and won awards at the ceremony, held at the Hamilton Convention Centre.



[Mathstronauts Executive Director shares her passion for science and Hamilton](#)

Arts and Science student Shruti Ramesh was named the Young Woman of Distinction, Associate Professor Deborah Sloboda won in the Science, Technology and Trades category and Carys Massarella, an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine, won in the Health category.

The award for Outstanding Workplace went to REfficient, whose CEO is Arts & Science alumna Stephanie McLarty.

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

McMaster students, grads recognized with John C. Holland Awards

A number of McMaster community members were recognized last month at the [Reverend John C. Holland Awards](#). The awards recognize the best and brightest of Hamilton's black community, and have been handed out over the last 21 years.

Social Work alumna Jovaune Rhodes, who helped start a number of programs for young black people in Hamilton, was given the Award of Merit. Student Gachi Issa, a member of the McMaster Womanists club, was given the Nelson Mandela Award.

The Community Service Award winner was former Marauders football player and community organizer Maurice Brown Jr. Social Psychology student Sarah Jama earned the Evelyn Myrie Political Action Award, for her work with the National Educational Association of Disabled Students and with orientation and transition activities for incoming McMaster students.

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

McMaster study looking at ways to prevent homelessness among youth with intellectual, developmental disabilities

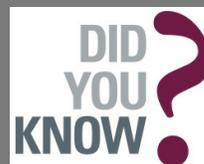
Partnering for Change is a project led by McMaster's Ann Fudge Schormans and Stephanie Baker Collins.

Taking place in Hamilton, Toronto and Niagara, the project is bringing together- for the first time - representatives from multiple sectors, service agencies, frontline workers, co-researchers with experiences of homelessness and disability, and youth themselves to study the intersection of intellectual/developmental disability and homelessness.

"Homeless youth have interrupted and intermittent connections to education and employment," says Baker Collins, an associate professor in the School of Social Work. "If these youth also have a disability which is not addressed or diagnosed, these issues are compounded."

"We know that people with disabilities are overrepresented in the homeless population," adds Fudge Schormans, also an associate professor in the School of Social Work. "But we don't know how many youth labeled with intellectual or developmental disabilities are homeless, what services are available to them, how agencies are responding to youth looking for services, or what the experiences of youth are like. The goal of this project is to collect that data."

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



McMaster students win Federal Finance Minister's Competition

- A team of students from McMaster's Bachelor of Health Sciences Program have emerged as

winners of the Minister of Finance's inaugural Post-Secondary Policy Forum competition.

- The competition enabled students from across Canada to engage with the Federal Government and present innovative policy ideas that address national priorities.
- The students were acknowledged by Minister Morneau for proposing a bold and innovative way to address an issue that touches many Canadians.
- Their proposal focuses on reforming and modernizing Employment Insurance to meet the needs of the modern labour force.
- They propose to leverage Employment Insurance to support inclusive growth through increased accessibility for marginalized groups, improved comprehensive (Re)training Programs and increased employment flexibility.
- As the winning team, the McMaster students have been invited to attend Budget 2017 activities in Ottawa, including the Minister's speech in the House of Commons.

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