Welcome to the November 2016 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 again named a Top Employer in the Hamilton-Niagara region

McMaster University has been named one of Hamilton-Niagara's Top Employers for the second year in a row.

Hamilton-Niagara's Top Employers is an annual competition organized by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers to recognize the Hamilton-Niagara employers that offer exceptional places to work. This is the second time McMaster has submitted an application to this rigorous competition - and the second time the University has won.

"I'm tremendously pleased we've been chosen again as a top employer," says Patrick Deane. "This really speaks to the quality of our McMaster employees. Their talent, dedication, and expertise help to make McMaster a wonderful place to learn, work, and thrive."

Wanda McKenna, Assistant Vice-President and Chief Human Resources Officer, notes that this year's winning submission highlighted many new and enhanced initiatives put into place over the past year.

"Thanks to the efforts of all our wonderful employees at Mac, we've made significant strides in creating an environment that is more inclusive, diverse, and healthy - in all senses of the word," says McKenna.

McMaster University has a thriving presence across four regional campuses: downtown Hamilton, Burlington, Waterloo, and Niagara.

To be selected as a Hamilton/Niagara Top Employer, organizations must complete an extensive application, which includes eight categories: Physical Workplace; Work Atmosphere & Social; Health, Financial & Family Benefits; Vacation & Time Off; Employee Communications; Performance Management Training & Skills Development; and Community Involvement.

Close to 100 staff members from across all areas of the University collaborated on the winning submission.

For more information, click here.
McMaster University, is now ranked the country's 2nd most research intensive university in the 2016 Research Infosource Inc. rankings released last month. McMaster's reputation as a research powerhouse attracts global talent to our local community.

The average research funding attracted by faculty members is $358,300 - nearly doubling the national average. And with a total sponsored research income of $324.6 million, McMaster maintained its eighth overall position.

Research Infosource also looked at total sponsored research income over the last 15 years, with McMaster securing some $4.6 billion, and ranking sixth overall, rivaling universities nearly double its size.

"Our researchers know that their work has the most meaningful impact when it is shared with those who can put it to the best use," says Rob Baker, vice-president of research. "They are committed to sharing their knowledge with greater public - be that governments or industry partners - to capture the true economic and social value of their research."

Research Infosource figures are based on 2015 financial data obtained from Statistics Canada. Publication data was gathered from Observatoire des sciences des technologies (OST).

For more information, click here.

Highly satisfied students, meaningful research and employability power McMaster's top rankings

McMaster continues to place among the country's very best universities, earning a leading position in the latest Maclean's magazine rankings.

This year, McMaster retains its rank as Canada's sixth best medical/doctoral university. The University ranks second in the country for total research dollars received, behind only the University of Toronto.

For many years, a high level of student satisfaction on campus has contributed to McMaster's strong position in the Maclean's rankings. This year is no different, McMaster ranks fourth in the country for student satisfaction and fourth for quality course instruction.

McMaster has also been ranked among Canada's top universities when it comes to graduate employability. Times Higher Education's Global Employability University Ranking surveyed thousands of international recruiters and managing directors across 20 countries and ranked the top 150 post-secondary institutions. The survey ranked McMaster 75th in the world (up from 86 last year) and fifth in Canada.

For more information, click here and here.
McMaster's Strategic Plan on Community Engagement in Hamilton

The Network for Community Campus Partnerships (NCCP), which is coordinated by McMaster's newly established Office of Community Engagement, developed the plan, Working Together for an Inclusive, Sustainable Hamilton, after more than six months of extensive consultations with more than 300 students, staff, faculty and members of the Hamilton community.

"Strong relationships are at the heart of community engagement," says Sheila Sammon McMaster's Director of Community of Engagement. "McMaster is committed to building principled, sustainable, and reciprocal relationships with our community partners and, guided by the principles in this plan, to connecting people across communities, sectors and disciplines so that, together, we can be a force for good in our community."

The plan establishes six key principles of community engagement and identifies the goals that will drive the work of the NCCP over the next five years.

Goals include: establishing the principles of community engagement as the foundation of community-campus partnerships; building bridges by embedding the University in the community and inviting the community into the University; aligning with neighbourhoods, community groups, governments, and institutions to partner on collaborative projects that respond to community-driven priorities; and to assess and learn from the outcomes and impacts of community engagement work on an ongoing basis.

"Whether it's working with community partners to develop research projects that address urgent challenges, or creating opportunities for our students to enrich their understanding of what it means to engage with communities, this plan represents McMaster's commitment to engaging in a way that enhances both our research and academic missions, while supporting the vitality and well-being of the Hamilton region," says Searls Giroux, Associate Vice-President (Faculty).

For more information, click here.

McMaster students hand out pizza to those in need in downtown Hamilton

A group of McMaster students descended on downtown Hamilton this month, delivering 2,000 pieces of pizza to those in need.

The students, members of the Humanity First club, also gave out pizza at the Salvation Army shelter and Notre Dame House.

Founded in order to fuel social change in the local community, Humanity first organizes a number of events throughout the year, including clothing and food drives.

For more information, click here.

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