Welcome to the October 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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Thousands of children from Hamilton and the surrounding region to benefit from Joyce Family Foundation gift to McMaster

Thousands of Hamilton’s young people will get to experience what university is all about thanks to a generous $1.25 million gift and matching program from the Joyce Family Foundation to McMaster Children & Youth University.

The gift, announced during this month’s Children & Youth University weekend lecture, will help support and expand the program that attracts hundreds of children and families to campus for youth-oriented lectures and events. It seeds a unique matching program that doubles any commitment of support to the Children & Youth University.

“This wonderful gift from the Joyce Family Foundation continues its impactful philanthropic legacy at McMaster, and once again directly benefits the young people in our community,” said President Patrick Deane. “We are deeply appreciative of this generous support.”

“With this exceptional gift, more young people are going to be able to see first-hand that there’s a place
McMaster alumnus wins top prize at Lion's Lair

for them in university," says Sandeep Raha, the creator and director of McMaster Children & Youth University and an associate professor in the department of pediatrics. "This will open the door for kids who may not think post secondary education is an option, and who knows, the next ground breaking researcher or awe-inspiring teacher might first learn about university, thanks to the Joyce Family Foundation."

The McMaster Children & Youth University was launched in 2011 and is the first children's university in Canada with programming for interactive, family-based discovery. It offers on-campus, family-oriented lectures on a Saturday each month. It also operates a McMaster Children & Youth in the City program that brings McMaster to Hamilton's neighbourhoods.

"Anyone who has the good fortune of attending one of the McMaster Children & Youth University events will understand that the passion and enthusiasm of its participants and its faculty need to be nurtured," says Ronald V. Joyce, CM of the Joyce Family Foundation.

For more information, click here.

McMaster and City of Hamilton hosts global economic and business leaders to enhance competitiveness and trade

McMaster University and the City of Hamilton hosted more than fifty economic, educational and political leaders from all over the world to showcase examples of innovation, strategic partnerships and entrepreneurship.

More than 25 countries were represented at the Americas Competitiveness Exchange on Innovation and Entrepreneurship, which took place in Hamilton on September 29th.

Delegates included: the Deputy Consul General of Brazil, the Minister of Commerce, Enterprise and Small Business Development of Dominica, the president of the Jamaica Exporters Association, the Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development for St. Lucia, the Minister of Education, Science & Technology for the Bahamas and the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning for the Government of South Korea.

The week-long Exchange featured stops throughout Ontario’s innovation cluster of Toronto, Kitchener-Waterloo and Hamilton. Delegates went on tours of several facilities including McMaster's Automotive Resource Centre, the Biointerfaces Institute and the Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious Disease Research. They also heard from experts from McMaster’s and Hamilton Health Sciences' Population Health Research Institute.

As part of the day's events, a panel of leading industry experts examined Hamilton’s changing economy as it moves from traditional manufacturing to one focused on knowledge.
Hamilton youth learn about leadership on McMaster basketball courts

McMaster Athletics and Recreation hosted their annual community event earlier this month. The McMaster Basketball School Day Game is open to youth in the Hamilton community to spend a day at Burridge Gym connecting with student athletes and experiencing the exciting atmosphere of a university basketball game.

This year there were approximately 1,700 youth in attendance, the largest group ever hosted at this event. The day incorporated the educational theme of leadership - both on the court and in the community. Prior to the game students took part in different interactive games, leadership activities, and met some of the Marauder student athletes. 10 young students were recognized for their outstanding leadership within their school and local community. These "Marauders in the Making" were introduced and recognized for all of the positive impacts that they make on a daily basis. Afterwards the youth headed to Burridge gym to cheer on the women's team as they faced off and won 72-50 against the visiting Mount Royal team.

During halftime they heard from a keynote speaker, who discussed the importance of being a leader and the impact it can have on their lives, the lives of the peers and ultimately the development of their community.

For more information, click here.

McMaster has an official opening celebration for One James North

Hundreds of people, including Hamilton community members, McMaster students and university staff gathered on September 28th to celebrate the official grand opening of One James North. The downtown building hosts the McMaster Centre for Continuing Education, University Advancement, Financial Services, the office of Institutional Research and Analysis, and Internal Audit. Some McMaster undergraduate nursing classes are also held in the facility, as well as frequent community events. Approximately 200 McMaster staff call OJN their professional home.

"In the more than eight decades since the University's move here, the relationship between McMaster and the Hamilton community has only become stronger and more visible," said Patrick Deane, President of McMaster University.

"We are happy to open the doors of One James North and welcome the Hamilton community to the latest architectural manifestation of the long and productive partnership between McMaster University and the Hamilton community."

The University, in fact, has had a vital presence in downtown Hamilton for more than a decade and a half, since the move of a number of departments into what was called the McMaster Downtown Centre located in the former courthouse at the corner of Main and John. The David Braley Health Sciences Campus has been operating across from City Hall for more than a year.

In a very real way, One James North belongs to Hamilton. There are classrooms and spaces that are available for use by members of the McMaster family and the Hamilton community, with special
Suzanne Labarge gifts $15 million towards McMaster’s research in aging

- A remarkable new $15 million gift from McMaster's chancellor Suzanne Labarge was announced this month.
- This gift will fund the Labarge Centre for Mobility in Aging and is the next chapter in the McMaster alumna and volunteer's generous philanthropy supporting aging research.
- The gift invests in McMaster's interdisciplinary research into ways seniors can live more independently through greater mobility, better health and fitness and increased social connections.
- It will also support research into what lifestyle choices young and middle-aged people can make today, to have the best chance of living long and well tomorrow.
- This Centre is part of the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging. McMaster is investing an additional $3.25 million to further accelerate the University's interdisciplinary research into the pressing challenges of aging.
- In 2012, Labarge made a $10 million gift to McMaster forming the Labarge Optimal Aging Initiative.
- Dozens of research projects and activities have been supported by that gift, including the McMaster Optimal Aging Portal, a unique website that provides the public with verified advice and research on aging.
- For more information, click here.