

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO  
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
APRIL 19, 2018**

**Enabling and Accelerating Research: The Role of McMaster's Archives and Research Collections**

*"The lost cannot be recovered; but let us save what remains: not by vaults and locks which fence them from the public eye and use, in consigning them to the waste of time, but by such a multiplication of copies, as shall place them beyond the reach of accident."*

**Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia, February 18, 1791** (written in a letter to Ebenezer Hazard when returning two manuscript volumes of the Records of the United Colonies of New England)

In my last written report to the Board, I highlighted the upcoming 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the acquisition of the Bertrand Russell Archives, the University's largest research collection, used by scholars from around the world. Later this Spring the collection will be installed in its new home at 88 Forsyth Avenue; the prominence of the location both underlines the importance of the collection to scholars working in fields as diverse as peace and religious studies, philosophy, history, political science, literature and mathematics, and also serves as a visible manifestation of the fundamental importance of archives and research collections to the work of research intensive institutions.

The Archives and Research Collections form part of the McMaster University Library, the vision for which is to "be a catalyst of intellectual activity for the University and its community". The collections are a crucial part of this work, allowing for the direct engagement with source material that enables scholars to accelerate their research, and enhancing the relevance of the learning experience for students. McMaster's collections serve as vital concentrators of knowledge. The records held within the collections are essentially extensions of human memory, providing information about individuals and institutions, telling stories and providing evidence and perspectives on events and actions, and helping support our understanding of cultures, society and ourselves.

The University is fortunate to hold a rich variety of archive materials, the details of which are summarized below:

**The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections**

The William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections is home to over 100,000 monograph volumes, among them more than 37,000 volumes published before 1800, and to an extensive collection of archives totalling more than 4,000 linear meters.

**Pre-1800 publications and the Eighteenth-Century Collection**

The 18<sup>th</sup> century collection, which consists of books, pamphlets, journals, newspapers, maps, and other ephemera, is one of the strongest of its kind in North America. The collection has great strengths in British and European literature, as well as the history of Britain and Europe, social reform, and titles in philosophy, fine art, and music. The Division's larger collection of works published before 1800 includes first editions of thousands of literary and historical works; a copy

of Galileo's *Dialogo*, published in 1632 and suppressed by the Inquisition in the following year; and a first edition of Newton's *Opticks*, published in 1704, among many others.

### **Post-1800 Book Collections**

The post-1800 book collections contain excellent research resources on Canadian and British literature, social history and culture, peace and war, and many other topics. The collection also contains one of the finest Canadian pamphlet collections of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century period to be found in Canada, with materials in both official languages. The Pamphlet Collection has been digitized and is available online. Thousands of historical volumes from Canadian publishers McClelland and Stewart, Clarke Irwin, and Macmillan Canada are also to be found in the Division's book collection, and form part of the archives of those publishers.

### **The Bertrand Russell Archives**

As mentioned previously, the Bertrand Russell archives and its supporting materials are a cornerstone of the Division's collections. Consisting of more than 250,000 original documents, the Russell papers span a century of activity and involvement in social and political causes, from the failed political aspirations of Russell's father, Viscount Amberley, to the protest movements of the 1960s. A significant accrual of new documents has recently been acquired from the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation in the United Kingdom and will be added to the Library's existing Russell archives holdings in the near future. The Russell archives are supplemented by more than 3,400 volumes from Russell's personal library and 3,900 volumes of Russell's published work and other supporting scholarly materials.

### **Archives**

Building on the acquisition of the Bertrand Russell archives in 1968, the Division has amassed outstanding collections relating to peace, pacifism, and war in the twentieth century, including the papers of Vera Brittain, Sir Norman Angell, Adrian Grand Duff, and C.K. Ogden, among others, together with extensive collections on Canadians in the world wars, the Holocaust, and underground resistance movements of the Second World War.

Canadian literature, society, and culture are strengths of the Division's archival collections. Canadian literature is especially well represented, including such iconic authors as Farley Mowat, Margaret Laurence, Pierre Berton, Austin Clarke, Terry Fallis, and Stuart McLean and publishing houses McClelland and Stewart, Clarke Irwin, Macmillan Canada, and Key Porter. Archives concerning Canadian social history in a number of areas are also actively acquired. Canadian music is also well documented with archives of Bruce Cockburn, Ian Thomas, Boris Brott, and pianist Valerie Tryon among the University's holdings. Other well-represented areas include student activism, labour, business and industry, and radical political organizations.

Given the importance of the archives and research collections to the intellectual life of the University, I am delighted to welcome Vivian Lewis, University Librarian, and Wade Wyckoff, Associate University Librarian (Collections), as the guest speakers at our meeting. I look forward to hearing them speak in more detail about the current holdings, the areas of focus of the collections, and the important position the archives and collections occupy at the heart of our research community.

## CAMPUS UPDATE

### Research

#### **Leading Evolutionary Ecologist joining McMaster as Canada 150 Chair**

Jonathan Pruitt, an internationally recognized evolutionary ecologist, will be joining McMaster as the Canada 150 Research Chair in Biological Dystopias — part of a program introduced by the federal government to attract the world's top researchers and scholars to Canada. The announcement was made in Ottawa by Minister of Science, Kirsty Duncan. Pruitt, who comes to McMaster from the University of California, Santa Barbara, studies how the collective traits of different animal societies – including those of ants, wasps and spiders – affect their survival.

#### **McMaster Researchers recognized for ground-breaking paper exploring Origins of Life**

Two McMaster researchers have received the prestigious Cozzarelli Prize from the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS) – one of the world's leading scientific publications – for their ground-breaking paper exploring meteorites and their role in delivering the essential biomolecules necessary for the emergence of life on Earth. Ben K.D. Pearce and Ralph Pudritz, both of McMaster's Origins Institute and Department of Physics and Astronomy, were lead authors on the paper which suggests that the molecules making up first life appeared 4.2 billion years ago when meteorites splashed down and leached molecules, called nucleobases, into warm little ponds – in which chemical reactions can take place – creating the conditions needed for the formation of RNA polymers, the first genetic material found in all life today.

#### **McMaster Water Expert honoured for Research on Aquatic Ecosystem Health**

Karen Kidd, the Jarislowsky Chair in Environment and Health, has received an international environmental award from a Stockholm-based organization for her research looking at the impact of pharmaceuticals and other contaminants on the health of aquatic ecosystems. This research has been instrumental in generating public awareness of the environmental impacts of pharmaceuticals in wastewaters, and has raised important questions about how wastewater treatment could be improved to reduce the presence of these compounds in the effluent that flows from treatment plants into rivers and streams.

#### **Two Faculty Members named Distinguished University Professor**

Harriet MacMillan (Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences and Pediatrics), and Eric Brown (Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences) have been named Distinguished University Professors. This title is conferred only on faculty members who have demonstrated distinction and impact well beyond McMaster. Those awarded the title must have demonstrated an outstanding and sustained research record that demonstrates international impact and recognition.

#### **University Scholar Prize awarded to McMaster Researchers**

Dawn Bowdish (Pathology and Molecular Medicine), Daniel Machiela (Religious Studies), Prashant Mhaskar (Chemical Engineering) and Guillaume Paré (Pathology and Molecular Medicine) have been named University Scholars. The title is awarded to recognize faculty members in mid-career who have already distinguished themselves as international scholars.

### **Indigenous Voices come together at MIRI Symposium**

Scholars and experts from across Canada gathered to talk about issues facing First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities at a joint symposium hosted by the McMaster Indigenous Research Institute. With eight wide-ranging panel discussions over two intensive days, the symposium featured leading Indigenous voices from across the country speaking on issues related to the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) inquiry, the child welfare system and its link to incarceration, language revitalization, identity, rights, and governance.

### **McMaster hosts International Workshop on Climate Change**

Scientists, academics and experts from around the world gathered in Hamilton on March 15-16 to discuss how advances in clean energy materials can combat climate change. More than 70 people attended the Clean Energy Materials Innovation Challenge Workshop at McMaster Innovation Park, the second in a series of international meetings. Mission Innovation is a global initiative of 22 countries, including Canada and the European Union, working to dramatically accelerate global clean energy innovation by supporting research and development in key areas, such as sustainable biofuels, smart grids, off-grid access, carbon capture and clean energy materials.

### **‘Champion of Palliative Care’ receives Honour**

A physician, educator and researcher highly regarded as an advocate for change has been awarded the 2018 Elizabeth J. Latimer prize in palliative care. Samantha Winemaker, an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Family Medicine in the division of palliative care at McMaster’s Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, received the award. The award is for a clinician, teacher, researcher or administrator whose work continues to pave the way for continued growth and improvement of end-of-life care in the region.

### **Mac spin-off company wins Life Sciences Company of the Year Award**

Fusion Pharmaceuticals, led by John Valliant, Canada Research Chair in Medical Isotopes and Molecular Imaging Probes and Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, was named Life Sciences Company of the Year by Life Sciences Ontario. The cancer therapeutics company got its start on McMaster’s campus and is now set to make its new home at McMaster Innovation Park. The award recognizes an Ontario-based company that has demonstrated strong leadership and achieved significant milestones in life sciences research and development through the commercialization of innovative products.

## **Global and Community Engagement**

### **Five McMaster community members presented with Women of Distinction Awards**

On March 8, five McMaster community members were among the recipients of the annual YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. Chelsea Mackinnon, Erin Dunham, Kimberley Dej, Jill Wiwcharuk and Anju Joshi were all recognized for their commitment 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.

### **Inaugural Maroon in Black formal celebrates members of the McMaster community**

On March 12, McMaster celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of black students, alumni, faculty, and staff at the inaugural Maroon in Black formal. The event included talks from prominent black figures in the McMaster community including current MSU President Chukky Ibe, Sara Mustafa, Jordan Lentinello, Omobola Olarewaju, Satish Seegobin, Leo Johnson, and Tumi Adegroye. The event was supported by McMaster University, the McMaster Students Union, MacAfricans, and the Alumni Association.

### **Engineering Professor appointed Chair of Ontario Network of Women in Engineering**

A McMaster University professor has been appointed as the new chair of the Ontario Network of Women in Engineering (ONWiE). Kim Jones, an Associate Professor in Chemical Engineering, will assume the role on July 1, 2018. Formed in 2005, ONWiE is a network of 16 schools of engineering from across Ontario, which aims to inspire young female students to pursue careers in engineering and supports female engineers and students.

### **Celebrating the Archives of iconic Canadian story-teller Stuart McLean**

Family, friends, and more than 100 members of the McMaster community paid tribute to the extraordinary life and work of the late Stuart McLean – one of Canada’s most beloved story-tellers – at a special event to celebrate the gift of McLean’s personal and literary archive to McMaster. The celebration, which took place in L.R. Wilson Hall, included live musical performances and showcased materials from his extensive archives, produced and gathered throughout his life and career as an award-winning author, journalist, and host of the popular CBC radio program, the Vinyl Cafe.

### **McMaster Children and Youth University Event**

About 300 children and teens visited campus on March 3 for a special event created by the McMaster Children and Youth University program. The MCYU Curiosity Crawl drew pupils from elementary and secondary schools across the region and enabled participants to select from a menu of 15 one-hour sessions. The broad aim of the program is to engage young people in university-style learning, with the goal of building knowledge for its own sake, previewing the kinds of learning available at university and showing participants that a university education is within their reach.

### **McMaster recognized as United Way Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year**

The tireless work of McMaster’s United Way committee has earned the University the charity’s Outstanding Corporate Citizen of the Year award. The recognition was announced at the United Way of Halton and Hamilton’s recent awards banquet. McMaster was nominated alongside the City of Hamilton, Cogeco Connexion, Ford Motor Company of Canada, Mattamy Homes, Rockwool and UPS Canada. McMaster’s 2016 United Way workplace campaign was the region’s largest, raising \$280,000 in support of the organization.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **McMaster Students offer solutions to some of the world’s most pressing challenges**

From improving access to life-saving C-sections for women in developing countries, to increasing the public’s awareness of the health of our oceans, teams of McMaster students

recently presented their ideas for taking action on some of the world's most pressing problems. The students were taking part in the McMaster round of the World's Challenge Challenge, an international competition developed at Western University, which aims to bring together teams of students to present innovative solutions that address global issues identified in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. The teams were competing for the chance to represent McMaster at the International World's Challenge Challenge which will be held at Western in June and includes a grand prize of \$30,000 to enable the winning team to develop and implement their solution.

**McMaster Faculty and Students create Emergency Medicine Board Game**

McMaster emergency medicine faculty and medical students have designed a unique new board game. The game, called GridlockED, is an educational tool to help future doctors and those training to be specialists in emergency medicine learn system approaches to multi-patient management in a safe, low-stakes environment. All of the proceeds from sales of the game will support research initiatives in emergency medicine at McMaster.