

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO
McMASTER UNIVERSITY'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DECEMBER 10, 2015**

INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME: FOSTERING A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE ON OUR CAMPUS

I recently attended the annual conference of the International Association of Universities, which took as its overarching theme “The Internationalization of Higher Education: Moving Beyond Mobility”. While acknowledging that student mobility has traditionally been seen in many quarters as the essence of internationalization in higher education, discussion at the conference focused on the transformation that needs to take place within institutions if we are to ensure that the education students receive is truly international in scope, whether or not overseas travel is involved.

It is no doubt the case that because the impetus to internationalize rapidly and energetically has been largely economic, internationalization remains intractably a numbers game in which the tally of foreign students on our campuses is understood less as a measure of our success in escaping parochialism than as an end in itself. That organizations such as the International Association for Universities are questioning this approach, and challenging institutions to consider the fundamental changes that must be made on their own campuses as their sphere of operation shifts from the local to the global, is clearly a positive development. I suspect that few would dispute that without an internationalized curriculum no university can possibly claim to be international in standing or to be capable of graduating well-prepared global citizens; the transformation from parochialism to an internationalized, multicultural or multiethnic curriculum must therefore be the focus of our efforts over the coming years.

One of the primary goals of *Forward with Integrity* is to enhance the connections between McMaster and the communities we serve, locally, provincially, nationally and around the globe. Beyond entering into research collaborations, student exchange arrangements, or other initiatives that require a physical presence overseas, establishing such connections requires us to become actively engaged in the challenges facing our world—to consider the role of the academy in understanding and educating ourselves and others about the problems, conflicts and inequities, whether local or global, which beset us.

In comparison to many institutions our thinking on this issue is well-advanced, but it is clear nonetheless that we have a great deal more work to do. In support of this, Peter Mascher, our Associate Vice-President (International Affairs), is working with the International Strategy Advisory Group to formulate a series of principles, an overarching framework, to govern our approach to internationalization and consideration of these issues. We are also taking steps through outstanding international education programs, such as the Master of Science in Global Health program, run in collaboration with Maastricht University, to offer students an educational experience that stretches beyond borders and equips them to address emerging challenges in globalization and health throughout the world.

Beyond formal academic programming, there is also much that we can achieve informally on our own campus. I have spoken to Board Members on a number of occasions about the *Perspectives on Peace* campaign, which is intended to engage the campus community in an ongoing discussion about the complexities of peace-building and conflict-resolution from a variety of perspectives and to build understanding and respect for the views and experiences of people from different cultures, backgrounds and faiths. As we approach the end of the first term, the initiative is gathering momentum, with a wide variety of events completed, including lectures, film-showings and discussions, story-telling circles, dialogue groups and an art competition.

At the last Laureates of Peace lecture, held just last week, Samantha Nutt, the Founder of War Child Canada and McMaster alumna, spoke about her experiences and the steps needed to effect change, even in the most war-torn and divided of places. She emphasized the power of education, and the importance of improving our understanding of the challenges being faced across the globe. The number of questions from the large number of students in the audience underlined the thirst for such knowledge and the desire for a broader internationalized perspective. Next term the highlight of *Perspectives on Peace* will be McMaster's first ever Model United Nations conference, which will, I hope, provide an opportunity for the many participants to reflect on critical global issues and attempt to find possible solutions.

The McMaster Seminar on Higher Education, which is this year focusing on the theme of *The Engaged University* is also intended to challenge the members of the McMaster community to consider the role and responsibility of the academy and its members in a variety of crucial global issues ranging from climate change to the protection of free speech, city-building and the role of the United Nations. As indicated in *Forward with Integrity: The Next Phase*, in addition to providing opportunities to gain a global perspective, one of the important outcomes of this will be to increase awareness and respect for the perspectives and experiences of others, and to appreciate and celebrate the rich diversity of our campus community.

As always, the enthusiasm of our students to learn, and their willingness to be challenged and to seek positive change in the world, is nothing short of inspiring. Our task, as the leaders of the academy, is to find ways to harness and encourage that enthusiasm and provide the meaningful opportunities that ensure that our graduates will leave McMaster equipped with the skills needed to become thoughtful and engaged global citizens.

CAMPUS UPDATE

Maclean's Rankings

In its annual rankings, Maclean's places McMaster as Canada's 5th best university in terms of overall reputation. The ranking compares 49 universities from coast-to-coast, and this year McMaster rises to fifth place (from sixth place in 2014). McMaster also ranked well in terms of student satisfaction and growth in meaningful research.

McMaster named a Top Employer in the Hamilton-Niagara Region

McMaster University has been named one of Hamilton-Niagara's Top Employers for 2016. Now entering its ninth year, Hamilton-Niagara's Top Employers is an annual competition organized

by the editors of Canada's Top 100 Employers. This special designation recognizes the Hamilton-Niagara employers that offer exceptional places to work.

McMaster holds Fall Convocation

McMaster held its Fall Convocation ceremonies in downtown Hamilton recently. Mental health advocate, Bill Wilkerson, and mathematical biologist, Simon Levin, were presented with honorary degrees.

Suzanne Labarge to be Honoured with Lifelong Achievement Award

Suzanne Labarge is being honoured by the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine with a Lifelong Achievement Award for her dedicated leadership and support of McMaster's focus on research and education around aging. The award honours inspirational leaders in the field who have shown forward-thinking, integrity, a commitment to lifelong learning and a selfless contribution to the building of caring communities within the Hamilton, Niagara, Haldimand and Brant Local Health Integrated Network.

Three Campus Leaders named to Faculty of Health Sciences' Community of Distinction

A trio of influential University figures have had their names added to the Faculty of Health Sciences' Community of Distinction. Jack Gaudie, world-renowned as a pioneer in gene therapeutics; Peter Dent, the clinician scientist behind the creation of the McMaster Children's Hospital; and Peter George, President Emeritus of McMaster, were honoured at a presentation and reception in the Ewart Angus Centre of the Health Science Centre on November 6. Between them, they established McMaster's outstanding reputation for pediatric research and care, its pioneering advancement of gene therapeutics, and coached its growth and development.

Mac Grad Matthew Sheridan named Ontario's Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Matthew Sheridan, inventor of the Nix Colour Sensor and a McMaster alumnus, was named Ontario's Young Entrepreneur of the Year at the 2015 Ontario Business Achievement Awards on November 25. The Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, presented by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, is awarded to a young Ontario entrepreneur who has successfully built a unique and game-changing venture.

Women's Rugby wins first National Title in Program History

The McMaster Marauders are CIS women's rugby champions after beating the tournament host Queen's Gaels 27-3 in Kingston on November 8. CIS Player of the Year and Tournament MVP, Cindy Nelles, and tournament all-star, Colleen Irowa, scored two tries apiece to help the Marauders take home the gold and earn their first Monilex Trophy in program history.

McMaster launches Sexual Violence Response Protocol

McMaster now has a clear way of providing guidance to community members on how to effectively respond to, and support, survivors of sexual violence. McMaster has launched its new Sexual Violence Response Protocol, which sets out guidelines for the way in which staff, faculty and students can provide a consistent and supportive response to those who disclose sexual and gender-based violence.

Research

Drs. Warkentin and Kelton to receive Prix Galien Canada award

Research partners Ted Warkentin and John Kelton have won the 2015 Prix Galien Canada prize, the highest award for Canadian scientists who have made significant advances in pharmaceutical research. Both are Hematologists and Professors of Medicine, as well as Pathology and Molecular Medicine, at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, and clinicians at Hamilton Health Sciences.

How ‘Big Data’ can help solve Big Problems

As part of the University’s Research Showcase series, more than 300 members of the McMaster and Hamilton communities gathered over two evenings for a series of talks on how McMaster researchers are using Big Data to transform health care and drive creative solutions to some of the complex challenges facing modern cities. McMaster experts from a number of Faculties delivered a series of 10-minute mini-lectures on topics ranging from how Big Data is being used to combat antibiotic resistance, to the ways in which data is helping to reshape the urban landscape and build sustainable societies.

McMaster introduces new Asper Chair in Communications

Patrolling the invisible borderline where helpful technology becomes intrusive technology is but one of the many pursuits Paula Gardner is taking on in her new role as Asper Chair in Communications. As she starts her term as Asper Chair, Gardner is keenly interested in understanding whether the technology we so eagerly embrace for monitoring and guiding our fitness, health and daily activities is improving our lives or eroding our independence and individuality.

Teaching and Learning

MSc Global Health receives Award for Outstanding International Education Program

McMaster’s Master of Science in Global Health program recently received the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE) Panorama Award for Outstanding International Education Program. This prestigious award recognizes innovation and excellence in design, planning, implementation and management of high quality endeavours in international education.

DeGroot School of Business launches new EMBA Program

The DeGroot School of Business launched its new Executive MBA in Digital Transformation at the Toronto headquarters of founding partner theScore Inc. last week. The program is the latest offering in DeGroot’s portfolio and aims to provide the core management training of an MBA program with a focus on new strategic approaches, organizational structures and sources of value creation proposed by the influx of digital innovations in business.

Centre for Continuing Education celebrates Graduating Class

More than 160 graduands took part in this year’s Centre for Continuing Education graduation ceremonies on November 12. McMaster’s Public Relations office highlighted the story of one graduate who returned to school after a 15-year absence.