

# Newsletter

Volume 44.3  
Editor: Gail Gauvreau

McMaster University Faculty Association - January 2018



## President's Report

Delivered at the General Meeting, December 11th, 2017

I hope that everyone had a productive and rewarding fall semester. This year has been somewhat quieter for MUFA compared to last year when we were negotiating and reviewing many university policies. In October the new Provost, David Farrar, arrived on campus and in November he took over from David Wilkinson. David Farrar has a lot of relevant experience as a former provost at the University of British Columbia.

The year started with a report on the new budget model from an external review committee. The committee was largely positive about the new model, with the additional changes that have been made since it was first implemented, but did provide some criticism of governance, particularly around how the University Fund is administered. The new provost has committed to addressing the concerns raised in the report after he has seen one full cycle of the budget process. MUFA will continue to monitor the budget model and its implementation and will reinstate the budget advisory committee as needed.

Some of the issues on our agenda for this year include continuing to push for faculty renewal, changes to the faculty general grievance procedure, issues around the evaluation of teaching, and monitoring the pension situation in the province.

### FACULTY RENEWAL

It is no surprise to any of us that as student numbers have increased there has not been parallel growth in the number of faculty. In fact, in some corners of campus the number of faculty has shrunk considerably. The new budget model has also had the effect of creating wealth in some parts of campus and deficits in others. With a healthy overall budget and reduced pension burdens we are strongly encouraging the university to invest its future through faculty renewal. Faculty renewal remains our top priority.

### POLICY

I am happy to report progress regarding possible changes to the Faculty General Griev-

## SAVE THE DATES!

### MUFA Award for Outstanding Service

Nominations Due  
February 21, 2018

### MUFA Annual General Meeting

April 25, 2018  
3:00 p.m.  
Great Hall,  
University Club

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ance Procedure (FGGP). Our current policy is dated and not in line with other universities in the province. The scope of the policy is also quite limited and excludes many relevant causes for grievance. An adhoc drafting committee has now been struck with representatives from MUFA and from the Senate Committee on Appointments. This committee will work on proposed changes to the policy with a deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>.

**TEACHING EVALUATIONS REPORT**

Hopefully many of you have seen the report on recommendations to improve course and teacher evaluations written by the Course and Teacher Evaluation Committee (CTEC) and posted on the Provost’s website. The mandate of the CTEC was to examine McMaster University’s system for evaluating teaching in relation to instructional quality, instruction improvement and course and departmental/program administration as well as for the purposes of instructors’ advancement through the tenure, permanence and promotion processes.

The report does propose some improvements to our current methods of evaluating teaching; however, MUFA was disappointed that the report did not devote much attention to bias (gender, race, accent, class size), nor did it advise disregarding evaluations when there is a low response rate. At MUFA we are particularly concerned about how teaching is evaluated in Tenure and Promotion and also in annual CP/M evaluations. The answer to one question in student evaluations of teaching is often used as the only metric for annual evaluations of teaching for the purposes of CP/M. MUFA continues to push for better procedures for annual evaluations of teaching and we are hopeful that more work is to come on providing best practices and guidelines for annual evaluations.

**PENSIONS**

As you may recall there has been a movement within the province to create a university sector jointly sponsored pension plan (JSPP). The province provided funding re-

sources to develop a plan. The work was led by the COU on the university administration side and OCUFA on the labour/employee side. Last year this effort stalled when it was clear that major concerns over the governance of the proposed plan could not be overcome. Three universities (UofT, Guelph and Queen’s) decided to work together on developing their own JSPP. They have reached a deal on a pension plan for those three institutions. They plan to launch this new plan in 2019 and it is expected that other universities could join at a future date. The details are not yet all known but we continue to monitor this JSPP to see whether there is any interest

among our faculty members in such a plan. It is important to remember that joining a university sector JSPP would be voluntary.

**TEACHING STREAM APPOINTMENTS**

The number of teaching stream positions in each Faculty is a fixed number (found in SPS A9) and any increases need to be negotiated and approved by the University and MUFA.

As was communicated in late 2016 (<http://macfaculty.ca/mufa-proposes-expansion-of-the-teaching-stream/>)

MUFA would like to move to a more sensible ‘proportionality’ arrangement for the complement of faculty. We have started discussions about teaching stream appointments with the new provost.

These issues combined with lots of other things that come up throughout the year keep us busy. We are a volunteer organization with representatives from every Faculty. We meet every two weeks to gather broad input from across the campus which I take into one-on-one meetings with the university provost and president and MUFA brings to monthly joint committee meetings with the administration. If you have any concerns or questions you can contact us anytime at [mufa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mufa@mcmaster.ca) or [mufapres@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mufapres@mcmaster.ca).

Wishing everyone a healthy and happy 2018.

**Laura Parker**  
**MUFA President**

**“At MUFA we are particularly concerned about how teaching is evaluated in Tenure and Promotion and also in annual CP/M evaluations.”**

## Elections to the Senate and Board of Governors

The election process is underway and MUFA would like to encourage faculty members to get involved in either Senate or Board of Governors. This type of service is key to maintaining robust collegial governance at McMaster. Your voice matters!

### Senate: Two Stage Process:

A call for nominations from the Faculty's nominating body is followed by a general call for additional nominations. If you are interested in participating on Senate, please be sure to let your Chair or Director know.

### Board of Governors: One Step Process:

A general call is issued to all faculty.

## Welcome New Members

**Katie Moisse**  
School of Interdisciplinary Science

**Peter Robinson**  
Computing and Software

## Convocation SAVE THE DATES!

Tuesday, May 22, 2018, 8:00 pm  
McMaster Divinity College

\*Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 2:30 pm  
**School of Nursing**

Thursday, May 24, 2018, 2:30 pm  
Faculty of Health Sciences (excluding Nursing)

Monday, June 11, 2018, 2:30 pm  
Faculty of Humanities, Arts & Science Program

\*Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 9:30 am and 2:30 pm  
**Faculty of Business/DeGroote School of Business**

Wednesday, June 13, 2018, 9:30 am and 2:30 pm  
Faculty of Social Sciences

\*Thursday, June 14, 2018, 9:30 am and 2:30 pm  
Faculty of Science (**including Medical Radiation Sciences Program**)

Friday, June 15, 2018, 9:30 am and 2:30 pm  
Faculty of Engineering

**\*New this year!** The Nursing convocation ceremony will take in May; there will be 2 ceremonies (morning and afternoon) for the School of Business, and the Medical Radiation Sciences grads will convocate along with the Faculty of Science grads.

**McMaster faculty are invited to participate in the Academic Procession. A future communication will be shared once online registration opens.**

**Event Volunteers are welcomed!** For all those interested in volunteering at the convocation ceremonies, please contact [convo@mcmaster.ca](mailto:convo@mcmaster.ca).

## Unauthorized Use of Course Materials\*

### Copyright and Ownership

Copyright is a type of intellectual property protection for a specific type of tangible works such as literary, artistic, dramatic or musical works. Generally, the author of the work is also the copyright owner and that person is said to hold the copyright in the work. In other words, the author of the work in question is also the owner and has the right to control if and how the work will be produced, copied, performed, etc. While the default rule under copyright law is generally that copyright materials created under one's employment would be owned by

the employer, McMaster University has in place policies which state that unless under specific circumstances, the authors of those copyright materials are the owners. That is to say, members of faculty personally own the original teaching and

course materials that they create for their courses, including, by way of example, handouts, slides, syllabi, presentations and lecture notes.

### Note-Sharing Websites

As faculty members, generally speaking, own the original teaching materials they create, should a faculty member find their lecture notes posted, for example, on a note sharing website, the faculty member has a right to seek to have the content removed. Many websites, particularly US websites, will have online forms or message templates to complete so as to register such a claim. For example, here are links to the contact for OneClass and Course Hero, two popular course material sharing websites:

OneClass: <https://oneclass.com/support>  
(select "Copyright Complaint" from the contact reason drop-down menu")

Course Hero: <https://www.coursehero.com/copyright-infringement/>

If there is no form or other process specified on the host website, then the relevant template ([Canadian](#), [American](#), and [other international](#) websites) should be used for the purpose of giving formal notice to a website that it is hosting content that infringes the faculty member's copyright.

### Preventing the Reposting of Course Materials

Is there anything that faculty can do, proactively, to help prevent the reposting of their materials? The easiest and simplest way to prevent the reposting of faculty owned copyright materials is to have a copyright notice on the materials that have been created. Although a copyright notice, such as use of a copyright symbol "©", is not legally required to gain protection for a faculty member's work under the *Copyright Act*, it is generally good practice to note ownership of materials on all handouts, slides, tests, and exams etc. that have been created. It is also recommended that faculty members notify students on the course syllabus, if a faculty member does not them to share their work online. There are two examples of copyright notices that can be used ([course syllabi](#) and [individual material](#)).

### Student Owned Materials

Faculty should note that not all uses or postings of faculty owned material will necessarily constitute a violation of copyright law. Copyright law does not protect facts or information, *per se*. McMaster students own

**Ensure you  
review the new  
[Copyright Policy](#).**

\*This document was revised, with permission, from University of Brock's, James A. Gibson Library, "Unauthorized Use of Teaching and Course Materials FAQ"

their own notes, summaries, assignments, and all other course work they create themselves. Therefore, if a student has not reproduced a substantial portion of a faculty member's actual work, then the student generally has the right to post their own work, even if it is a summary that contains information from the faculty member's course materials or lessons. Additionally, the *Copyright Act* contains numerous users' rights, such as fair dealing, that allow the use of member of faculty's copyright-protected material without seeking permission for certain purposes, within some circumstances.

### **University Owned Materials**

As previously mentioned there are circumstances where members of faculty may not exclusively own the copyright materials that they are an author of. This applies in limited and specific circumstances, and can apply, for

example, when McMaster staff assists with the creation of the materials or when significant University resources are used. If a faculty member has any questions regarding their ownership in their materials, they should contact the relevant [copyright contact](#).

For both ethical and legal reasons, McMaster cannot give faculty members legal advice about their personal intellectual property rights. If a member of faculty requires legal advice, independent legal counsel should be sought. However, please feel free to contact [copyright@mcmaster.ca](mailto:copyright@mcmaster.ca) for general guidance, concerns, or questions about this document or copyright law in general.

**Sarah O'Byrne**  
**Legal Counsel, Copyright & Research**

## HR Updates

### **Bill 148 Updates**

On November 27, 2017, Bill 148, the Fair Workplaces, Better Jobs Act, 2017, received Royal Assent. Bill 148 makes significant amendments to Ontario's Employment Standards Act, 2000 (the ESA), Labour Relations Act, 1995 (the LRA), and Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA). Certain amendments under Bill 148 have come into force already, with other amendments coming into force throughout 2018 and 2019.

More information:

- [Fair Workplaces - Timeline of Changes](#)
- [Overview of Bill 148 Changes](#)
- [Project Plan Highlights](#)
- [Bill 148 FAQ for People Managers](#)
- [Bill 148 Communication for People Managers](#)
- [Template Substitute Day for Working on a Public Holiday](#)
- [Implementation Chart](#)

### **Personal Address Updates**

The start of a new tax year is the perfect time to review your home address and other personal information listed in Mosaic. If you have not opted into [electronic delivery](#) of your tax slip(s), this information will be

mailed to the address listed in Mosaic. A [step-by-step guide](#) is available to assist you in reviewing and updating your personal address details.

### **TD1 – Personal Tax Credits Return Form**

The start of a new tax year is also a good time to review your TD1 form. This form indicates how much tax should be deducted from your pay by McMaster. Update this form if your employment status has changed (from part-time to full-time) or if the amount of tax deducted from your pay should change. The TD1 form is available from the [Canada Revenue Agency](#).

Forward your completed form to your [HR Advisor or FHS HR Representative](#) or contact them if you have any questions.

### **Tobacco and Smoke-Free Campus**

On January 1, 2018, McMaster adopted a [tobacco and smoke-free designation](#). A [toolkit for people leaders](#) has been developed to assist you and your team through this change.

## 2018-2019 MUFA Executive

If you are interested in serving on the Faculty Association Executive or know of someone who would make an excellent candidate, please complete the form below and mail to the Nominating Committee, Faculty Association, Hamilton Hall 103A. If you prefer, give us a call (ext. 24682/20297) or drop us an e-mail note (mufa@mcmaster.ca).

**Deadline: February 14, 2018.**

CANDIDATE \_\_\_\_\_

FACULTY \_\_\_\_\_

RANK \_\_\_\_\_

PORTFOLIO PREFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

(E.G., academic affairs, budget advisory committee, human rights & equity, membership, OCUFA, pension, public relations, remuneration, special enquiries & grievances, tenure/permanence)

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_ CAMPUS ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EXTENSION \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_



A voluntary organization such as MUFA can succeed in serving the interests of its membership only to the extent that the members participate in formulating and executing policy. At any given time, approximately two dozen individuals carry the burden for all of the members and after a few years most of them are exhausted by the tasks which they have voluntarily borne. Their valuable experience and wisdom is then lost to us. The best way to lessen this attrition of talent is for more of the membership to give some time and effort to the Association. If you are not interested in putting your name forward for the Executive Committee, please use the form below to let us know if you would like to participate in MUFA's efforts by serving on one of the following committees.

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I am interested in working more closely with the Faculty Association. My interests are:

- |                           |                          |                  |                          |                               |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| MUFA Council              | <input type="checkbox"/> | Membership       | <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Enquires & Grievances | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Academic Affairs          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pension          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Tenure/Permanence             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Budget Advisory Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | Public Relations | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ad Hoc Committees             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Human Rights & Equity     | <input type="checkbox"/> | Remunerations    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Special Assignment            | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Are there other areas where the Faculty Association might be useful to its members? \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EXTENSION \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Return form to McMaster University Faculty Association, HH 103A**

# Call for Nominations

## The MUFA Award for Outstanding Service

### PURPOSE

The purpose of the MUFA Award for Outstanding Service is to provide annual recognition<sup>1</sup> for faculty and professional librarians who have made an outstanding contribution to the mission of the University through the provision of exceptional service to faculty, librarians, staff and/or students.

### THE AWARD

Each year there will be a maximum of three awards in the amount of \$1,500.

### ELIGIBILITY

The Awards are open to all Full Members of the McMaster University Faculty Association (MUFA)<sup>2</sup>.

### PROCEDURES

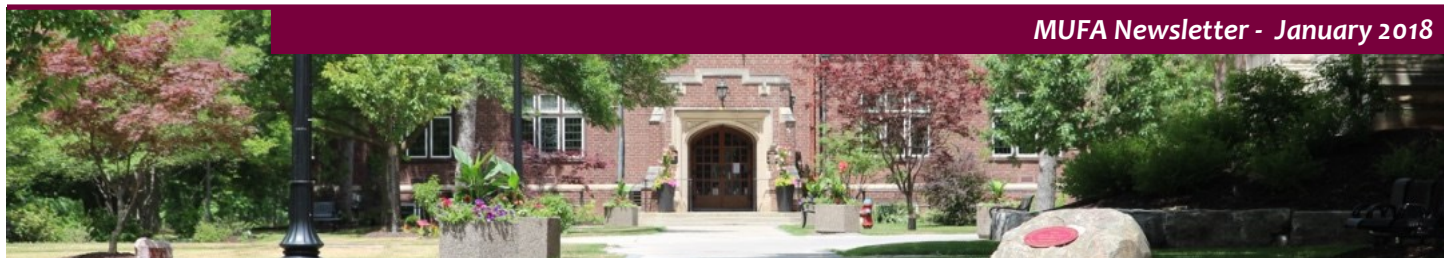
1. The MUFA Executive will appoint a selection committee to be drawn from amongst the categories of faculty, librarians, staff and students (undergraduate and graduate).
  - a. The Committee shall be comprised of no less than four, and no more than seven members, including the Chair.
  - b. The MUFA Past President normally serves as Chair and is not counted as the faculty representative.
  - c. The Secretary to the Committee will be the MUFA Executive Director.
  - d. A quorum for a Committee meeting shall be four members in attendance, including the Chair.
2. Nominations
  - a. There will be a call for nominations through the University and MUFA electronic distribution lists, in the MUFA Newsletter, and on the MUFA webpage.
  - b. Nominations must be emailed to MUFA (Hamilton Hall, Room 103A or emailed (mufa@mcmaster.ca) no later than **FEBRUARY 21, 2018**
  - c. The nomination must include a summary of not more than 750 words highlighting the candidate's accomplishments.
  - d. Each nomination must be supported by a minimum of two and not more than four reference letters. The reference letters must be e-mailed or mailed

to MUFA, either through the nominator or directly from the reference. Reference letters should not exceed 500 words.

- e. The position and contact information for the nominator and all references must be clearly indicated.
3. The Committee will review the nominations and will make the final decision regarding the selection of the award recipients. Some of the factors considered by the Committee will include:
    - Enhancement of the reputation of McMaster University
    - Provision of excellent service
    - Demonstrated innovation
    - Breadth and depth of impact
    - The ability to establish and maintain effective and harmonious working relationships
    - Evident acceptance of diversity and inclusivity at McMaster
    - Strength and diversity of supporting references
  4. The faculty/librarians selected to receive the awards will be invited to attend a special reception normally held in conjunction with the MUFA Annual General Meeting and will be presented with their awards at that time. Pictures of the individual recipients and a brief summary of the rationale for their awards will be published in the MUFA Newsletter and on the MUFA webpage.
  5. Each eligible faculty/librarian who was nominated for an award will receive a letter of commendation from the MUFA President.

<sup>1</sup>MUFA faculty/librarians are not eligible for the President's Awards for Outstanding Service, awarded by the President of McMaster University

<sup>2</sup>Those holding academic administrative appointments with the rank of Assistant Dean or higher in the current academic year are not eligible for the Award.



## OCUFA's 153rd Board of Directors meeting

On Saturday, October 21 and Sunday, October 22, OCUFA held its first Board of Directors meeting of the 2017-18 academic year, and the first with Gyllian Phillips as OCUFA President. The weekend oriented new board members to OCUFA and allowed them to discuss developments in Ontario postsecondary education system and the organization's revised priorities for the academic year: Good jobs/vibrant universities, university funding, and capacity building. During a special lunchtime reception on the Saturday, board members and colleagues celebrated the winners of the OCUFA Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards.

### Priorities

In the lead-up to the 2018 Ontario provincial election, it was agreed that the year's priorities should be strategically aligned to focus OCUFA's energies on issues most likely to gain traction with the public and political parties. In addition to good jobs/vibrant universities and university funding, capacity building was identified as an important means through which OCUFA can support the work of local faculty associations. Although not listed as priorities for the year, all members agreed that university governance and equity remain important issues and should continue to permeate OCUFA's work.

### Priority: Good jobs/vibrant universities

One of OCUFA's established long-term goals is a post-secondary education system where every academic job is a good job with fair compensation, reasonable workloads, access to benefits, and job security. The good jobs priority makes the connection between the importance of good jobs and their essential role in fostering vibrant and dynamic universities. This year, OCUFA will focus on three opportunities for improving the terms and conditions of employment at Ontario's uni-

versities: fairness for contract faculty, faculty renewal, and pensions.

### Fairness for contract faculty

In recent years, substantial progress has been made raising awareness about the challenges faced by contract faculty at Ontario universities. Through the ongoing legislative process for Bill 148, OCUFA has kept fairness for contract faculty on the agenda, advocating for amendments to the legislation to improve conditions for academic workers in precarious jobs. Faculty voices have been prominent in the debate and OCUFA will continue to support member associations through the Contract Faculty and Faculty Complement Committee and special contract faculty focused issues of OCUFA Report. OCUFA is also continuing to work closely with solidarity partners, including the Fight for \$15 & Fairness, who hosted a provincial campus assembly in September, and the Canadian Association of University Teachers, who hosted the Contract Academic Staff Conference in October, and with whom OCUFA helps organize the annual Fair Employment Week each fall.

### Faculty renewal

Full-time faculty hiring has fallen dramatically behind growth in student enrolment in the past decade. This means fewer faculty are available to carry out the core research and teaching functions of the university. Recently, the Ontario government has shown an interest in this issue and OCUFA will work hard to keep the need for faculty renewal on the agenda, both provincially and on individual university campuses.

### Pensions

OCUFA has worked with sector stakeholders for several years on an initiative to build a new voluntary jointly



sponsored pension plan (JSPP) in the university sector. This initiative is intended to provide a secure and sustainable pension option for interested university faculty associations and staff unions in the province. As the pension environment shifts, OCUFA will continue to organize workshops and meetings to help all member associations reach their pension-related goals and expand their capacity to communicate pension issues at the local level.

### **Priority: University funding**

OCUFA has held a long-standing goal of increasing public funding for universities to support high quality post-secondary education in Ontario. Over the past several years, the provincial government has been leading a process to update and streamline the university funding formula. Of concern is the government's intent to tie university funding to performance according to a series of metrics that have still not been sufficiently defined. It is expected that these will be negotiated in the next round of Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMAs). With no additional funding for universities in the last provincial budget, securing increased public funding for Ontario's universities will be a key focus of OCUFA's work in the coming months, particularly with the provincial election on the horizon.

As the new funding model is implemented along with the third round of SMAs (negotiated between MAESD and Ontario's universities) it is vital that faculty input is meaningfully incorporated into these agreements. It is unacceptable that faculty voices were largely ignored in previous SMA negotiations. Through advocacy efforts, OCUFA will work to persuade MAESD to put in place a development process for the next round of SMAs that requires faculty input and clearer timelines for negotiations.

### **Priority: Capacity building**

Ontario's university faculty face serious challenges in their workplaces, including too few faculty to do the work, and too many precarious jobs at underfunded universities. Many changes to Ontario's higher education sector have shifted the collegial dynamic between faculty and their employers. In the coming year, OCUFA will focus on supporting member associations in build-

ing stronger unions and a university labour movement able to more effectively tackle these problems. This will include the continued strengthening of local bargaining through OCUFA's Countdown to Strong program, the development of capacity building tools that can be leveraged by member associations, and more training for local leaders.

### **2018 provincial election**

During the board meeting, board members had a chance to discuss OCUFA's preparation for the 2018 provincial election. OCUFA's three priority areas for the 2017-18 year will be key in efforts to put good jobs and public university funding on the agenda during the election. Additionally, the report generated by OCUFA's 2017 Policy Exchange will help inform a comprehensive set of proposals the organization will lobby for as provincial parties develop their platforms.

### **Guest speakers**

The board meeting featured several guest speakers. Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development, Greg Orensak spoke about the Ministry's upcoming priorities. Greg Lyle, President of Innovative Research Group Inc., provided an overview of the political landscape in Ontario and discussed the different scenarios that should be expected in the lead-up to the next provincial election. Finally, JP Hornick, Chair of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union's (OPSEU's) faculty bargaining team, updated board members on the state of negotiations between college faculty and the College Employer Council. College faculty have been bargaining for more full-time positions, fairness for contract faculty, faculty input in academic decision-making, and academic freedom. Following Hornick's address, the OCUFA Board passed a motion in support of OPSEU's efforts to improve working conditions for their members.

### **Awards celebration**

Finally, a special luncheon gala celebrated the recipients of this year's Teaching and Academic Librarianship Awards. Since 1973, these awards have recognized the exceptional contributions made by professors and librarians to the quality of higher education in Ontario.

**The 2016-2017 Teaching Award recipients are:**

- Dora Cavallo-Medved, a permanent lecturer in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Windsor
- Kimberley Dej, Associate Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Science at McMaster University
- Milena Head, Professor of Information Systems at McMaster University
- Quazi Mehbubar Rahman, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Western University
- Mira Sucharov, Associate Professor of Political Science at Carleton University

**The 2016-2017 Academic Librarianship Award recipients are:**

- Karen Pillon, Head of Access Services at the Leddy Library at the University of Windsor
- Mindy Thuna, Head of the Engineering and Computer Science Library at the University of Toronto

The luncheon featured a keynote address from Paul Kennedy, host of CBC’s Ideas, who shared thoughtful and touching stories about the importance of teaching, and the role faculty had in changing the course of his life. Attendees were also shown the premiere of a new video profiling former Teaching Award winner Shafique Virani.



McMaster faculty and staff can sign-up to get their 2017 T4 or T4A tax slip electronically by logging into Mosaic and clicking on the link under News and Information. Selecting the option is as simple as clicking a checkbox and employees who “Opt In” for electronic delivery will be able to securely access their tax slips from anywhere they can log into Mosaic. Those employees who chose the electronic delivery format will also experience the added benefit of earlier access to tax slips than employees who remain with the paper slip delivery option.

Employees will need to have consented to online delivery of their tax slips to access the electronic version of their T4 or T4A on Mosaic. Employees who already opted into the electronic tax slip delivery option last year do not need to opt in again this year.

**Passages**  
**Stanley Mak**  
 Biology  
 December 18, 2017

**Johannis Mol**  
 Sociology  
 November 26, 2017

## Open Educational Resources Instructor Information Night

One of the most foundational learning materials in academia is the textbook. For most undergraduate classes, the textbook is the first thing students consider when thinking of their course. Many times, students use textbooks as a determinant of whether they will take a course, and as a result, retention and persistence rates are lower in courses with expensive textbooks. This year MSU is trying to address the issue.


In partnership with the Campus Store and the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, the McMaster Students Union is proud to bring you #TextbookBroke: an advocacy campaign about Open Educational Resources (OERs). The benefits of OERs as a learning tool, accessibility feature, pedagogical innovation, and financial burden relief are clear. As instructors, you are critical to the integration, use, and development of OERs. Attend our seminar to learn more about OERs and how you can use them.

**On January 18 from 3:30pm - 5:30pm in Celebration Hall, we will be holding an Open Educational Resources Faculty Info session.**

Joining us for a presentation will be David Porter. David is the current CEO of eCampusOntario, adjunct professor at the University of British Columbia, and former CEO of BCcampus. David will discuss exactly how you can integrate OERs into your classroom, get rewarded for your time, and facilitate the process using government and McMaster resources. He will also discuss the benefits of using OERs both to yourself as an instructor and to the students. Also in attendance will be professors across campus who are currently using OERs. Stay tuned to the event registration page for the most up to date information. If you are interested in participating as a professor who uses an OER in the classroom, feel free to reach out Ryan Deshpande, Vice-President (Education), McMaster Students Union, [vped@msu.mcmaster.ca](mailto:vped@msu.mcmaster.ca).

Please register at the link below if you plan on attending. Food will be provided.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/open-educational-resources-faculty-info-night-tickets-41954909263>






**Open Educational Resources Faculty Info Night**

Learn about the benefits of using open educational resources in your classes

January 18  
3:30pm to 5:30pm  
Celebration Hall

#TextbookBroke

## Remembering David Gerry



It is with great sadness that we share news that beloved School of the Arts music teacher, mentor, friend, and colleague, David Gerry, has passed away on December 4, 2017.

David was an Assistant Professor in the Music program in the School of the Arts and for many of the last 25 years has taught music students in the program. The flute was his passion and regularly performed in concerts locally as well as directing the Flute Ensemble here at McMaster.

In 2014, David's work with students was recognized by a McMaster Student Union Excellence in Teaching Award and by the CNIB's "White Cane Award" in 2015 for his work with visually impaired McMaster students.

Holding a Bachelor and Masters in Music Performance from University of Toronto and a PhD in Music Cognition from McMaster's School of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behavior David was also registered as a teacher with the Suzuki Association of the Americas and Europe and a graduate of the Talent Education Institute in Japan.

David worked both locally in Hamilton as well as stretching around the world teaching music internationally in Japan, New Zealand, and England and working with students from all across the world stretching to places like Bermuda and Taiwan.

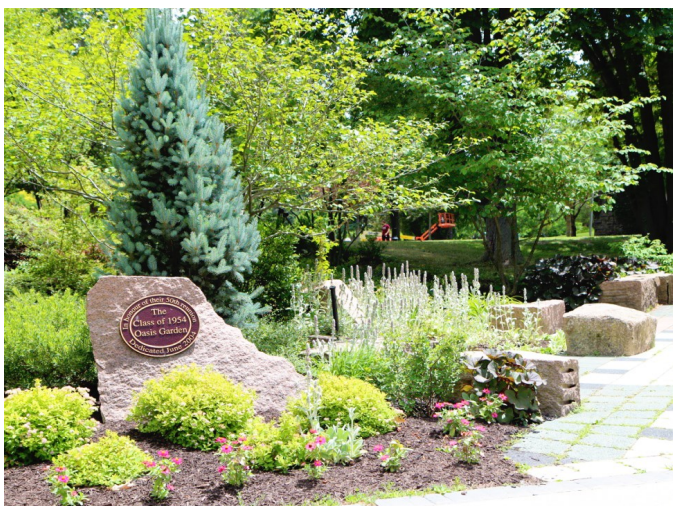
David passed away peacefully on Monday night. He will be greatly missed by his students, friends, and colleagues at McMaster, in Hamilton and around the world.

A memorial service will be prepared for a later date.

More articles on David Gerry:

- [‘I just want people to celebrate my life through music’](#) (The Spec.com)
- [David Gerry: Maker of Beautiful Music](#) (School of the Arts)
- [Beautiful Music for a Beautiful Soul](#) (School of the Arts)
- [David is at peace](#) (School of the Arts)

*-Colin Czerneda, Faculty of Humanities*



### MCMASTER UNIVERSITY FACULTY ASSOCIATION

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