

# MUFA Newsletter

October/November 2013 — Volume 40.2 — Janice Hladki, Editor



## Mosaic for Faculty Members

By Fred Hall

How does a musicologist and former AVP academic end up being the chair of a major information technology project? It's because I know a few things about the needs of both McMaster people and the University.

McMaster's current patchwork of administrative systems no longer meets the needs of either the University or faculty members. Mosaic is McMaster's project to update its business and administrative processes and replace many of its current business systems with an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. It is a substantial undertaking that will ultimately touch the entire University in some way, including faculty members.

This project will replace the current systems used for student administration, finance, research administration, and human resources.

For the past year, the project team has been working through the stages required to switch to the new system. This December, the first portion of the new system will be launched, introducing PeopleSoft Financial Tools to handle the University's finance and research finance activities. This is the moment when faculty members will begin to see an impact on their day-to-day affairs.

I want to highlight four areas that will change for faculty members this December:

- Electronic workflow
- New account codes (now called chartfield strings)
- Revised processes for travel and expense claims
- New tools for managing the finances of their research projects

Currently, McMaster has many paper-based processes that require signatures to indicate that a faculty member has reviewed and approved an action such as a purchase requisition or a travel and expense claim submission. Many of those processes will be replaced with an electronic approval system.

McMaster has outgrown its current account number system (Chart of Accounts). From a faculty member perspective, simply be aware that what you think of as "account number" will change. The new chartfield strings are longer, giving McMaster plenty of room for future growth. There is a translation tool in the new system to help you make the switch.

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### McMaster University Faculty Association

Hamilton Hall, Room 103A  
Hamilton, Ontario L8S 4K1

905-525-9140  
EXT. 24682/20297

FAX: 905-522-8320  
mufa@mcmaster.ca

**MUFA on the WEB**  
<http://www.mcmaster.ca/mufa>

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Whether your research takes you to Katmandu for field work or to Edmonton for a conference, at the end you're submitting a travel and expense claim. This process has been substantially overhauled. Key process changes include a shift to paying expenses as they are incurred, a focus on the McMaster Diners Club MasterCard as the preferred way to pay for travel and expenses, and the need to scan and electronically attach receipts. Please read the recent McMaster Daily News Article for a more detailed explanation. <http://bit.ly/MacTravelChanges>

I wish they'd told me in grad school that the joy of being a researcher would always be tempered by the hassle of managing research funding. The new PeopleSoft research finance tools will give researchers up-to-date information about their projects and funding and provide them with several new tools and reports. This includes a new "portal" that provides a streamlined interface with frequently used tasks and information for researchers. The project team has worked with a focus group of principal investigators to develop tools that meet researcher needs. There will be information sessions in the new year to introduce researchers to the new functionality.

These four points are perhaps the biggest impacts faculty members will notice during this first portion of the project. For a more comprehensive look at how Mosaic will impact faculty members please refer to our recent briefing paper "Mosaic: an introduction for faculty members."  
[http://www.mcmaster.ca/mosaic/documents/mosaic\\_for\\_faculty.pdf](http://www.mcmaster.ca/mosaic/documents/mosaic_for_faculty.pdf)

## Extension of solvency relief for Ontario Universities announced

On October 23rd, the Government of Ontario announced that it was giving universities and other broader public sector pensions plans an additional three years of help to put their pension plans on a sustainable track.

Without this regulatory measure, a number of universities would have been required to put large amounts of additional money into their plans beginning in early 2014. The additional three years gives faculty associations and their membership much-needed breathing room as they work to address their pension challenges.

OCUFA had lobbied the government to provide some short term additional relief to the universities facing serious pension pressures. The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) was also active in advocating for extended solvency relief.

It is OCUFA's assessment that additional short-term relief of the kind provided in this regulation will not put pension benefits at risk. The continuation of historically low interest rates is putting unanticipated pressure on plans across the province, and this relief helps mitigate the impact of this circumstance. OCUFA and faculty associations across Ontario are currently working on pensions solutions that will ensure all faculty members receive good pensions, at a fair price, through plans that are stable and sustainable.

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Many thanks to **Marshall Beier** (Political Science) for agreeing to represent MUFA on the President's Advisory Committee on Building an Inclusive Community, and to our new MUFA Council Representative: **Konstantinos Apostolou** (School of Engineering Technology)

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## Upcoming Event!

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### Open Forum Discussion

"Please join President Patrick Deane and Provost David Wilkinson for an Open Forum discussion on Monday, November 25 from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Council Room (GH 111). Next year McMaster will be required to enter into a Strategic Mandate Agreement with the provincial government which will outline the vision, objectives and priorities for the University. This session will provide an opportunity for faculty and staff to hear from the President and Provost about the government's process, what this means for Ontario's universities and colleges, and engage in a discussion about McMaster's priorities, long-term goals, and position within the sector."

**Homewood Human Solutions** is McMaster University's Employee & Family Assistance Program provider. Their services are available 24/7 and are free to employees and their families. Homewood Human Solutions provides counseling, work-life and health coaching, health risk assessments, and much more. For more information, visit the Homewood Human Solutions website at [www.homewoodhumansolutions.ca](http://www.homewoodhumansolutions.ca), or call their toll free number: 1-800-663-1142.



## Housing

**For Rent: Beautiful home on 8 acres, North Burlington - Walkers Line.** This is a truly unique home, located on 8 beautiful acres on the Niagra Escarpment and Bruce Trail. The subtle landscaping cleverly

blends with the natural environment. The house is designed to take full advantage of the huge vista looking North, East and South, with windows all around. The house has a European flair with cherry wood floors, custom cabinetry, stone double sided fireplace, heated floors, solid wood doors and much more. The kitchen is totally equipped with top-of-the-line appliances and is open to the spacious breakfast room. Although open plan, there are solid pocket doors so that many of the rooms could be contained. Don't miss the unique granite sink in the powder room, the wine cellar in the lower level and the pizza oven on the outside wall off the kitchen. This is an elegant home, full of whimsy and charm. \$5,500/monthly. Contact Nancy Gossling, Broker, Royal LePage, 905-845-4267 or by email at: [nancy@gosslingkennedy.com](mailto:nancy@gosslingkennedy.com) For photos and complete details please visit mls listing: <http://www.realtor.ca/PropertyDetails.aspx?PropertyID=13581724&PidKey=925864862>

## Welcome New Members

**Kathryn Grandfield**, Materials Science  
**Nagham Mohammand**, Math & Status  
**Frances Tuer**, Human Resources & Management  
**Li Xi**, Chemical Engineering

This Newsletter is published monthly between September and May by the Faculty Association at McMaster University. The Association's Executive for 2013/14 is composed of the following members:

President	Graeme Luke
Vice-President	Rafael Kleiman
Past-President	Martin Dooley
Academic Affairs	Qiyin Fang
Human Rights	Nancy Carter
Membership	Michelle MacDonald
OCUFA Director	Rafael Kleiman
Pension	Martin Horn
Public Relations	Janice Hladki
Remuneration	Nicholas Kevlahan
Special Enquiries & Grievances	Michelle Dion
Tenure/Permanence	Joe Rose Petra Rethman
Treasurer	Lilian Chan

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Executive Director	Mara Giannotti
Administrative Assistant	Kelly McCaughey
Returning Officer	Matheus Grasselli

Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the authors and do not represent the views of the Association or of its Executive unless so specified. Anyone wishing to contribute to the MUFA Newsletter is invited to send submissions to the Faculty Association Office (HH-103A, e-mail: [mufa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:mufa@mcmaster.ca), ext. 24682/20297). Deadlines are the 15th of each month. All submissions will be published at the discretion of the Editor.

Current and past issues of the MUFA Newsletter are posted on the MUFA website ([www.mcmaster.ca/mufa](http://www.mcmaster.ca/mufa)).

## Classroom Hotline

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Instructors should call extension **23073** for issues such as replenishment of chalk or erasers, damaged seats/tablets, no lighting, etc.

Email: [clerks@ppims.services.mcmaster.ca](mailto:clerks@ppims.services.mcmaster.ca)

Website: Submit a work request thru the Facility Services AiM Work Management system via <http://aappsrvr.mcmaster.ca/facilityservices/>  
Automatic work status updates are provided when an email address is entered into the request.

For scheduling issues or disconnects between class size and classroom capacity, call the Registrar's Office, at ext. 24453 or [bookings@mcmaster.ca](mailto:bookings@mcmaster.ca)

The Hotline is answered Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Leave a message on the voice mail as a Customer Service Clerk may be assisting another Customer. Calls outside of these hours will be answered on the next business day. Immediate classroom emergencies that occur after 4:30 p.m. - such as no heat, locked classroom, broken water pipes - should be reported to Security at ext. 24281.

### Passages

**Orville Edwin Hileman**, Chemistry, September 4, 2013  
**Samuel Ajzenstat**, Philosophy, September 26, 2013

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# Mark Your Calendars



## MUFA General Meeting

*Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013*  
*10:30 a.m.*

**Council Chambers**  
**(Gilmour Hall, Room 111)**