

McMaster Review

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Ron Scheffler

inside

- Bontis means business
- All eyes on ALMA
- The great house hunt
- Quarter Century Club
- UFE gold medalist

Michael G. DeGroote (second from the left) receives a standing ovation as he presents a \$105 million cheque to McMaster's (l to r) Dr. John Kelton, Peter George and Roger Trull at the student centre.

Thanks a \$105 million!

McMaster
University 

BY JOHN BUGAILISKIS

Michael G. DeGroote's cash donation, the largest in Canadian history, will have a profound impact on education and health research

Canadian businessman and philanthropist Michael G. DeGroote's gift of \$105 million to McMaster University will have both an immediate and long-term impact not only for the University, but for the rest of the country as well.

The donation will be used for various projects, including establishing three medical centres specializing in pain, cancer and infectious diseases research and education. It will also complete the funding requirements for the construction of a centre for learning and discovery, that will provide state-of-the-art classrooms and research facilities. In addition, an endowment fund will be created to

attract researchers, physicians and teachers. As a result of the donation, the University's medical school will be called the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

"Health and health care are clearly the most prominent concerns for Canadians. I am investing in new discoveries in health care and in the delivery of health care. The dividends of that investment will not only impact our community, but others around the world," says DeGroote.

He received a standing ovation from 500 invited guests plus students, faculty and staff when he made his surprise announcement during a special ceremony in the University's new student centre on December 17.

Story continues on page 4

Commerce student scores gold



Giacomo Angelini '02

McMaster commerce alumnus Giacomo Angelini '02, has been named the Ontario gold medallist in the latest round of Uniform Final Exams (UFE), administered by the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Successful completion of this exam entitles the writer to adopt the C.A. designation. Angelini is currently employed with Deloitte & Touche LLP in Burlington.

"It feels great to be the Ontario Gold Medallist for the UFE," says Angelini. "It is the standard for entrance to the C.A. profession in Canada and is frequently

cited as among the more challenging of professional examinations. My standing as top writer of approximately 1,100 candidates in Ontario is an excellent accomplishment and a satisfying reward for all the hard work I put into this process."

Also on the honour roll is another 2002 commerce graduate, C. Scott Badau. Badau is currently working for Deloitte & Touche LLP in North York.

Khalid Nainar, chair of the accounting and financial management area at DeGroote, explains why these achievements are so important: "The professional designations are the gold standard in business. The fact that two of our grads have achieved such high profile success in these exams means that we have produced the best of the best."

This is the first time in recent memory that a DeGroote graduate topped the Ontario list of successful writers. Nainar attributes this success to a rigorous summer program that he created along with sessional lecturer David Hiscock.

"The accounting curriculum was changed to give our students a better chance of passing the UFE on the first try. We made the courses a lot tougher to reflect the type of questions that could be expected on the exams," Hiscock says.

The challenging curriculum was coupled with mentorship from professionals within the industry. Chartered accountants from various firms in the area came in as guest lecturers and offered their on-the-job experience as real-life examples of classroom lessons.

"My training at the DeGroote School of Business has provided me with the technical knowledge required to succeed in an accounting career. As well, the Bachelor of Commerce program covers a broad range of subjects where are part of the fundamental knowledge needed for the UFE and required in any career in commerce," Angelini states.

The UFE demands that C.A. candidates demonstrate the high level of knowledge, analytical ability, integrative thinking and professional judgment that is expected of chartered accountants. Through their analysis of complex business simulations, successful candidates demonstrate their competence in a wide range of areas critical to success in business.

A total of 662 candidates out of approximately 1,100 were successful in writing the exam in Ontario. Angelini had the best score out of those 662 writers. "His score was likely in the 100th percentile in order for him to achieve the gold medal standing," says Hiscock.

The DeGroote School of Business will offer UFE preparatory classes in February, May and August of next year. The summer program this year will follow a similar format to the previous year using professionals within the industry, challenging cases and UFE style marking. Commerce student scores gold

For more information, contact David Hiscock at hiscock@mcmaster.ca or Nainar at Nainar@mcmaster.ca.

—VICTORIA MIECZNIKOWSKI

These stories are excerpted from the McMaster Daily News web site.

For additional details or to read other McMaster news, visit <http://dailynews.mcmaster.ca>

Financial plan, sports complex highlight Board of Governors, Senate meetings

The Board of Governors recently approved McMaster's three-year financial plan. The plan presents the University's operating fund, including income from government grants, tuition and miscellaneous fees, expense recoveries, other income, contracts and interest from endowments and other investments.

Operating income funds the expenses in the University's six faculties, academic support areas, institutional infrastructure and student financial assistance.

Recently the government froze tuition fees, eliminating a planned two per cent increase in undergraduate fees at McMaster. To make up for the tuition shortfall, the government is looking at increasing grant income, although details of the new funding have yet to be worked out.

The basic grant McMaster receives from the Ministry of Training, College and Universities has been frozen at \$94 million for the past several years and there is no indication the allocation will change.

A performance fund also is allocated to Ontario universities based on how they perform on three specific indicators: graduation rates, employment rates six months after graduation and employment rates two years after graduation. McMaster's share is expected to be just under \$1.8 million in 2003/04.

The Accessibility Fund allocation is projected to increase from the \$16.5 million projected in 2003/04 to an estimated \$24.6 million in 2006/07, representing a nearly 50 per cent increase.

Income from the Quality Assurance Fund (QAF), designed to address concerns raised by universities about the challenges of the double cohort, is estimated to be \$4.5 million based on a province-wide fund of around \$72 million and McMaster's roughly six per cent share of total enrolment in the province. Based on an expected increase of the province-wide QAF to \$200 million in 2006-07, it is expected McMaster's share will be \$12 million.

Remaining income, including research overhead grants, investment income and other donations and grants, revenues/transfers and recoveries and other income, has been set at \$63.4 million. Compensation for salaries, wages and benefits is \$183.3 million. This represents more than 63 per cent of total expenses. Year-over-year inflation increases average 3.5 per cent. A year-over-year inflation factor of five per cent has been added to the plan for utilities and maintenance expenses. Each one per cent equals about \$250,000.

An additional \$1.2 million will be provided for undergraduate scholarships and bursaries. This increase is in response to attracting more top-quality students. Entering students with an entering average of 80 per cent or higher qualify for entrance scholarships. Student financial aid projections increase by an inflation factor of two per cent.

Except for the debt payment/financing charges of \$7.38 million that represents the interest cost of the University's long-term debt to fund capital expenditures, all other expense items have increased by an annual inflation factor of two per cent.

Campus Eye continues on page 6

—CHANTALL VAN RAAY

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Hit your career running

Nick Bontis preps students for the real business world

BY DIANA CAWFIELD

Click onto the web site of Professor Nick Bontis at www.bontis.com and you know you've tapped into the mind of an innovative thinker.

A neon-blue brain pulsates and twirls to the beat of sci-fi music, accompanied by homey links to family photos. Creative energy virtually zings off the screen.

That's no surprise when you meet the associate professor of business policy and strategy at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Business. Bontis's energy practically bounces off the walls of any space he occupies, cyber or otherwise.

McMaster students take note: "Your web site is your calling card," says Bontis.

As one of the bright Faces of Innovation, it is fitting that Bontis pushes the envelope in creativity. Known as a pioneer in the field of intellectual capital, Bontis brings his talents in knowledge management to MBA students and is the business policy and strategy course coordinator for the undergraduate commerce program.

Bontis's contagious enthusiasm and love of teaching all add up to an award-winning teacher. The personable professor, with an open-door policy, was awarded the most outstanding professor of the year in 2001 and 2003 at the business school by the MSU.

Sharing innovative energy and creativity is a big component in the classroom. A full 25% of the final grade stems from classroom participation. Bontis feels that classroom presentations offer students hands-on experience to enter the business world. "We train our students to, Hit your career running, the motto of the business school," says Bontis.

Bontis also tells his students, "You know what? You have a sixth course: Managing your life after university."

The most common remark that Bontis hears from students who are graduating concerns career management – what tactics are necessary to get noticed. In this regard, Bontis highly recommends that students tap into the skills and resources offered by the Career Services Offices on campus. "Taking advantage of those services is very important," says Bontis. "You owe it to yourself as a student, you already paid tuition."

Bontis is also on a mission. "I live and breathe the mission statement of the university – a research-intensive, student-centred institution – and I'd like to continue to push the fore-

front because that's what McMaster is known for and I have the responsibility as a faculty member to sustain that reputation. The competition is fierce."

There are three main research thrusts that Bontis is focussing on: leveraging intellectual capital in organizations, measuring intellectual

extra-curricular sports is a natural fit for the 34-year old athlete.

Many "fortuitous steps" led to a career change for Bontis and McMaster University. After graduating in 1992, with a HBA from the Ivey Business School at the University of Western Ontario, Bontis was personally recruited by the CEO of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Toronto.

Shortly afterwards, his mentor retired.

Prior to that time, Bontis was intrigued by the June 1991 cover story of Fortune magazine,

citing the importance of intellectual capital. In fact, Bontis was so excited about this burgeoning field that he decided to take a "huge" risk and pursue further studies in the new area.

In 1994, Bontis left CIBC and returned to Ivey to do his Ph.D. Then in 1996, while giving a Ph.D. presentation at the first World Congress on intellectual capital at McMaster University, he met Dr. Christopher Bart, who would later become his mentor and fellow colleague.

Two years later, Bontis was invited for a recruitment interview at McMaster. That is when he found himself driving, unbeknownst, towards his future destination, accompanied by his girlfriend of just a few weeks. As Bontis turned off the 403 onto Main Street, his future wife pointed to the hospital in the distance. "I'm going to give birth at that hospital to your baby son," she predicted.

"I started here in 1998," says Bontis, "and received my doctoral degree in 1999. I received tenure this year. And my wife gave birth to our first baby boy, Charlie, at McMaster Hospital in May 2003. It's just uncanny."

"I started here in 1998," says Bontis, "and received my doctoral degree in 1999. I received tenure this year. And my wife gave birth to our first baby boy, Charlie, at McMaster Hospital in May 2003. It's just uncanny."

Don't miss the next World Congress on intellectual capital – the largest in the world – celebrating its 25th year anniversary at McMaster University, from January 14-16, 2004.



Nick Bontis (centre), surrounded by his business students

capital among countries, and knowledge management.

The hot topic is knowledge management. No wonder. By the year 2010, the world's cumulative codified information base will double every 11 hours – that's a lot of knowledge to manage.

Any student or faculty member can benefit by learning more about their computer software, especially the automatic folder capacity of e-mail messages.

What does Bontis like about McMaster? "It's got to be the people, no question," he says. "And one of the reasons why I like the business school is because the McMaster vision aligns so well with who I am as an individual."

When it comes to student-centred commitment, you need look no further than the soccer field (Bontis plays soccer semi-professionally), or any sports event for that matter. The university's strong tradition with varsity and

Thanks a **\$105 million!**

continued from page 1



Ron Scheffler

Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences, gives Michael G. DeGroot the renamed School of Medicine's first white coat bearing its insignia, as McMaster University president Peter George looks on.

The \$105 million donation will be divided between a \$64-million endowment fund, supporting education, health care and medical research in perpetuity and a \$41-million capital fund directed to the construction and outfitting of laboratories and hospital units.

DeGroot told the audience gathered at the student centre that the gift will further strengthen McMaster's mission to attract the best researchers in the world to the University.

"With this gift, I know that McMaster will be able to make new breakthroughs and make a real difference in more people's lives," added DeGroot.

McMaster president Peter George called DeGroot's donation a "historic gift."

"It is not only a landmark for McMaster and the Hamilton community, but for all of Canada."

The gift to McMaster University came about after DeGroot was approached by University president Peter George and Dr. John Kelton, dean and vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences two months ago at a meeting in a Toronto hotel. Over the course of dinner the same day they were able to finalize the amount of the

unprecedented gift said president George.

DeGroot, who is retired and lives in Bermuda, had a stroke 2 1/2 years ago and suffers from a chronic con-

**"WITH THIS GIFT, I KNOW THAT
MCMASTER WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE
NEW BREAKTHROUGHS AND MAKE A
REAL DIFFERENCE IN MORE
PEOPLE'S LIVES."— DEGROOTE**

dition called thalamic pain, resulting from damage to the brain's pain centre. The only specific request he made of McMaster was that it establish a centre to conduct research into his condition. The school has earmarked \$15 million to that end.

In return for the donation, McMaster University's

medical school will now bear his name. It is the first Canadian medical school to bear the name of a benefactor. McMaster's business school is already named after him.

The University will direct \$26 million of the capital fund towards the newly renamed Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning & Discovery currently under construction.

Kelton says the endowment money will focus on three areas: pain, cancer and infectious diseases.

"We will dedicate ourselves to living up to the trust that Michael has shown with this gift. We will make you proud of your commitment. We shall help people," says Kelton.

A noted entrepreneur, DeGroot purchased and grew Laidlaw Transport Ltd., a company that became the largest school bus operator and third largest waste management company in North America before it was sold in 1988.

DeGroot's business ventures have included U.S. companies such as Republic Industries, AutoNation Inc., Century Business Services, Capital Environmental Resource Inc., and the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the Canadian Football League.

How the \$105 million will be spent at McMaster

The \$105 million from Michael G. DeGroot will be divided between a \$64 million endowment fund and a \$41 million capital fund.

The endowed fund of \$64 million will be allocated as follows:

- \$35 million will be directed to the establishment of three centres, all priority initiatives of worldwide interest. Each centre will have an internationally recognized leader in an endowed professorial chair who will build an exceptional team of scientists and caregivers. They are:

- The \$15 million Centre for Research, Education and Care in Pain with a special focus on thalamic pain. Dr. Akbar Panju, a professor of medicine and the chief of medicine for Hamilton Health Sciences, has been recommended to lead the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care. As interim director he will recruit the finest researchers and clinicians seeking to revolutionize the way pain is treated and managed.

- The \$10 million Centre for Research, Education and Care in Cancer, with a particular focus on the molecular determinants of cancer.

- The \$10 million Centre for Research, Education and Care in Infectious Diseases.

- \$25 million will create the Michael G. DeGroot Faculty of Health Sciences Development fund. It will enable McMaster to attract the best health sciences researchers, physicians and teachers.

- \$4 million will be directed to two immediate priorities with the establishment of:

- An endowed chair in stroke prevention and treatment.

- The Medard DeGroot Chair in Medicine, an endowed chair named after Mr. DeGroot's father. The recommended chairholder is Dr. Akbar Panju.

The gift of \$41 million will be designated toward capital expenditures with:

- \$26 million directed to the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning & Discovery, currently under

construction. This multi-disciplinary, 300,000-square-foot building combines state-of-the-art classroom space, research laboratories, hospital units and faculty offices. When it opens in 2004, the centre will host faculty investigating new ways of learning as well as McMaster's Institute for Molecular Medicine and Health, which recently made innovative steps in the development of the SARS vaccine.

- \$5 million directed to the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Pain Research and Care that will provide appropriate facilities for a team of researchers and clinicians to revolutionize the way pain is treated and managed.

- \$10 million dedicated to the Michael G. DeGroot Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. Located on the second floor of the Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Learning & Discovery, it will be connected to patient units of Hamilton Health Sciences with an enclosed pedestrian bridge to the McMaster University Medical Centre.

Michael G. DeGroot: self-made billionaire

Philanthropist Michael G. DeGroot is a self-made man whose extraordinary achievements in the world of business were predicated on a few distinct principles.

He believes in hard work, doing the most with the least, being determined and consistent, being accountable, and above all, being decisive.

DeGroot, 70, was born in Belgium and immigrated to Canada with his parents when he was 14 years old. Due to family financial pressures, he left school in Grade 9 to work in the tobacco fields in Langton near Tillsonburg, Ontario to help his family. At age 18, he bought an old army truck and began hauling manure from dairy farms to the tobacco fields. From that first foray into the world of business, he built a small trucking firm.

In 1959, Mr. DeGroot moved to the Hamilton area. He purchased Laidlaw Transport Ltd., building it into the company that would become the largest school bus operator and third largest waste management company in North America.

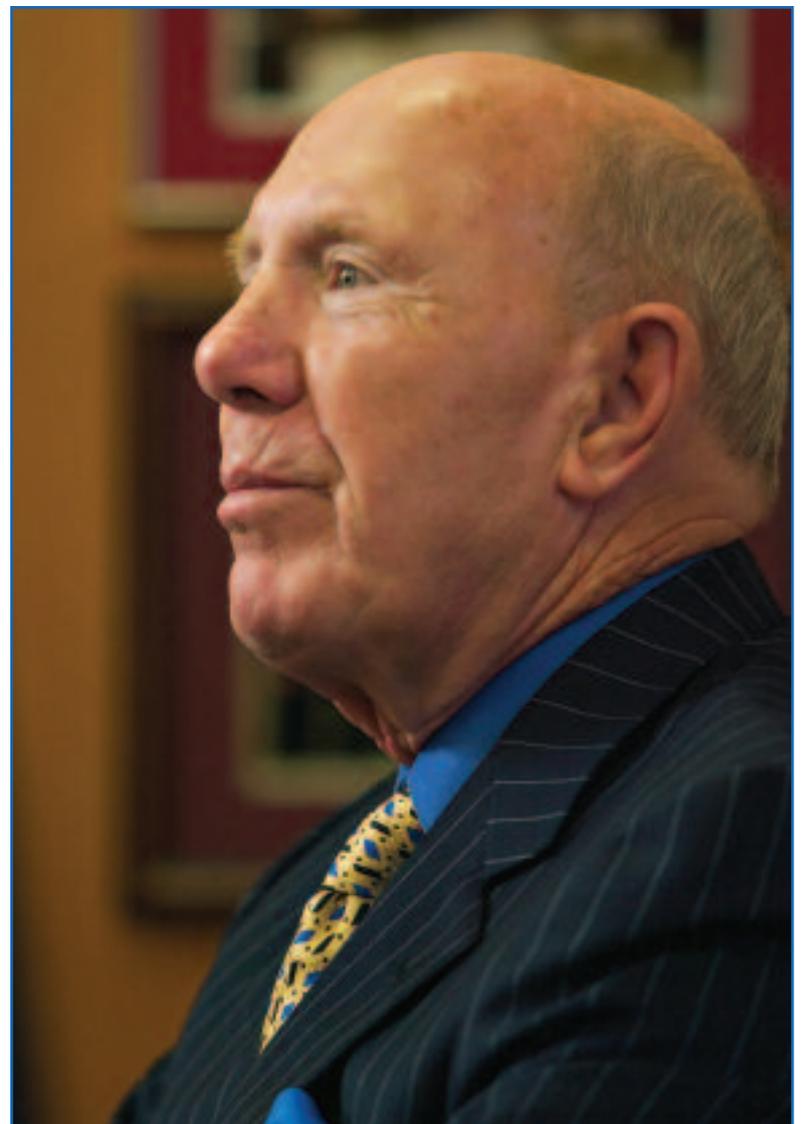
During the 1970s, DeGroot became owner the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the

Canadian Football League.

In 1988, Mr. DeGroot sold Laidlaw Inc. to Canadian Pacific and in 1990 retired to Bermuda where he still resides. His retirement did not last long, however, as he entered into several successful business ventures including U.S. companies such as Republic Industries, AutoNation Inc., Century Business Services, Capital Environmental Resource Inc.

Although he left Hamilton more than a decade ago, he remains one of the city's and University's major benefactors. Previous gifts to the University include donations to the business school, student centre and the Museum of Art. He has also donated to Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals for epilepsy research, made a commitment to fund the Collected Works of Northrop Frye Project, and gave to Hillfield Strathallan, a private school attended by his four children and several grandchildren.

In 1990 he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. DeGroot was awarded an honorary degree from McMaster University in 1992.



Ron Scheffler

continued from page 2

Sports complex

The University is moving ahead immediately with a business plan for its proposed \$30-million multi sport complex, but wants to identify a lead-gift donor -- or donors -- before approving a business plan for a \$12-million stadium. That means finding someone willing to donate close to half the cost of the stadium.

Chair and professor announcements

Three gifts to the Faculty of Health Sciences and a gift to the Faculty of Humanities will establish new chairs at the University.

A gift to the Faculty of Humanities will support the establishment of the L.R. Wilson Professor in Canadian History. The incumbent, who will possess a specialization in Canadian history, will serve as the first director of the proposed L.R. Wilson Centre for Canadian History at McMaster University. Holding a five-year term, the professor will be financed by an annual pledge payment of \$200,000 from a donor and \$50,000 from the University.

The Richard Hunt - AstraZeneca Chair in Gastroenterology will be established in the Faculty of Health Sciences to address a broad range of gastroenterology and pharmacology issues, including gastrointestinal clinical research, with a specific interest in clinical pharmacology research.

A Chair in Minimally Invasive Surgery and Surgical Innovation will be part of the establishment and maintenance of a world-class centre of excellence in minimally invasive surgery. A Mortgage Intelligence/GMAC Residential Funding of Canada Chair in Thoracic Surgery will focus on the field of thoracic surgery and will help create a Centre of Excellence in Thoracic Surgery.

— CHANTALL VAN RAAY

McMaster employees celebrate 25 years of service

On Thursday, Dec. 4, more than 100 guests were invited to McMaster University's annual Quarter Century Club dinner. The dinner, hosted by president Peter George, was in recognition of the dedicated service of more than 70 McMaster employees who have achieved 25 years of service with the University.

In 1978 when these employees began their employment, McMaster was still in its formative development in many areas. In every decade since then, McMaster has grown and prospered with the hard work and dedication of people like the new members of this prestigious club.

"It is really quite inspiring to look around the room this evening and see the faces of so many people who have contributed so much to McMaster," said president Peter George. "At the end of the day, this campus' most valuable resource is its people."

For a complete list of this year's Quarter Century Club inductees visit the 2003 Quarter Century Club web page on the Working at McMaster web site.

— LORRAINE REDFORD



Anthony Celani

McMaster employee Ray Procwat sharing a moment with president Peter George.

Mac to deal with one vendor for its furnishings

In an innovative cost-cutting measure, McMaster has become the first university in Ontario to consolidate its entire furniture purchasing under one central dealer.

All furniture - such as seating, lab items, desks, but excluding classroom seating - will be purchased through Lordly Jones, a local dealer that will purchase furniture from manufacturers in Canada and deliver items to McMaster at a reduced cost.

"The University has grown significantly over the past number of years and will continue to grow," says Terry Galan, director of Purchasing Resources. One of the new buildings that will require furniture is the Centre for Learning and Discovery.

While a year ago McMaster spent between \$500,000 and \$900,000 on furniture, they currently spend approximately \$4.5 million. The increase, says Galan, is due to heightened construction and renovation on campus. "We thought this is too big of an expenditure to not have a standard contract in place," he said.

Savings on furniture will be a minimum of five per cent on seating to as high as 25 per cent on desks and systems furniture, he adds. "Because the University was spending more money on furniture, the committee sent out a request for proposal for the standardization of furniture, so that McMaster would seamlessly deal with only one supplier," he said.

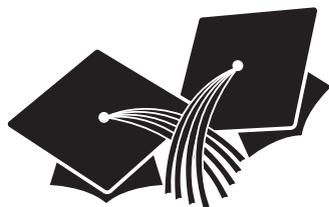
The five-year contract has an option of adding two to three additional years. "The intent is for everyone to use Lordly Jones because we have pre-qualified them and have established contract pricing," Galan says. Lordly Jones will also provide all design services and servicing of items and will warehouse most of the commonly used furniture, such as chairs and files. Deliveries of stocked items will be less than a week and service calls will be responded to within a 24- to 48-hour period. Lordly Jones represents several manufacturers, including Teknion, Global Seating, Lacasse Manufacturing, Krug Seating, Allseating and Roy and Breton.

The Furniture Standardization Committee, charged with setting up the program, hosted a display of about 25 manufacturers last June, in an effort to solicit campus community feedback about the suppliers.

For further information about the program, e-mail mcmaster@lordlyjones.com or phone 905-528-8537.

— CHANTALL VAN RAAY

How to Double Your Gift



McMaster Student Opportunity Fund
Building Brighter Futures

Take advantage of an exciting opportunity to help students in financial need.

For a limited time, the Ontario Government will match your donation for student financial aid dollar for dollar - instantly doubling the value of your gift.

McMaster University will place your gift, and the government matching dollars, in The McMaster Student Opportunity Fund. The investment income from this endowed trust will be dedicated to student bursaries. Opportunities to name a bursary are available for gifts of \$10,000 or more.

At McMaster we believe that no student should be denied access to higher education because of financial need. For more information on how you can help McMaster's students realize the dream of a higher education, contact the Development Office at: **(905) 525-9140 ext. 27602**

McMaster University

McMaster astronomer eyes the universe

Hopes to glimpse the birth of the galaxy with giant telescope

BY SHELLY EASTON

McMaster astronomer Christine Wilson wants to see what others don't. To do that, she needs high-tech tools such as a complex telescope that uses radio waves to clearly uncover cold gases and dust between stars – research that will help her learn more about the universe and our origins.

The McMaster astrophysicist's ability to conduct research on how stars, planets and galaxies formed received a boost Nov. 26 with the announcement of a \$7.9 million investment from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) in the Atacama Large Millimetre Array (ALMA) in Chile.

Wilson is the Canadian project scientist for the international ALMA project, considered the most important development in radio astronomy in this decade. ALMA will be the highest altitude, full-time ground observatory in the world and one of the most powerful telescopes in global astronomy.

"This is the new frontier for radio astronomy and this investment in ALMA is very important for the Canadian astronomy community," said Wilson. "Not only will it help with infrastructure costs, such as buildings and access roads on the site in Chile, but it will also allow us to help develop the software for translating the raw data from ALMA into the images that scientists analyze."

ALMA will be a single instrument made up of an array of 64 radio antennas, each 12 metres in diameter, and linked together by fibre optic cable. They will work together as one telescope to study millimetre and submillimetre radio waves from space. The antennas can be repositioned so that the telescope can function as a giant zoom lens that will process signals and produce sharp images.

The data flow from the array will be substantial so Canadian scientists will be developing specialized software code to allow astronomers from around the world to acquire and process the images provided by ALMA.

The antennas must be kept cool and dry so the 'lab' for this research is Chile's Atacama Desert, a flat area located 5,000 metres above sea level on the edge of the Andes that hasn't had rain in years.

ALMA is a bilateral partnership between North America and Europe involving 15 countries. The project is led in North America by the National Radio Astronomy Observatory and in Europe by the European Southern Observatory. Canada's involvement in ALMA is funded by the National Research Council of Canada and this new CFI grant that will be administered by the University of Calgary.

Scientists from North America, Europe and Chile broke ground on the site of the array earlier this year. Wilson visited a New Mexico

site recently that has developed two prototype antennas for the array. The first scientific observations are expected to occur in 2007 and the project is scheduled to be complete by 2012. When complete, the array will have a footprint of about 14 kilometres.

Wilson has been working to get Canadian astronomers access to a telescope like ALMA since returning to Canada in 1992 after completing graduate work and a postdoctoral fellowship in the U.S.

She said one of the exciting aspects of the project is that undergraduate students studying astronomy today will have the opportunity to use data gathered by ALMA for their studies.

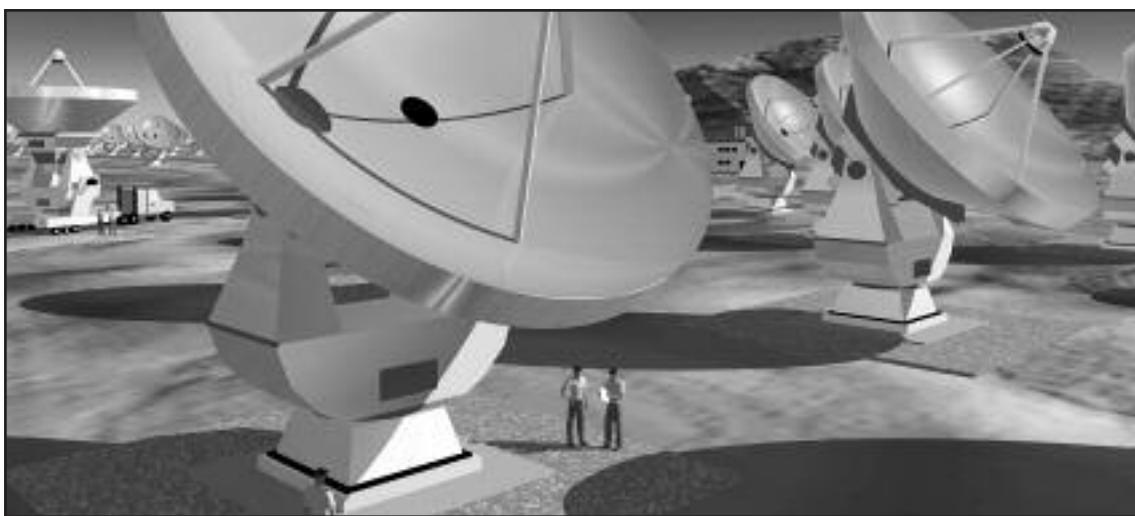
"Right now, there isn't anything like this available for students or researchers," said Wilson. "ALMA will open up a new world of possibilities to study our origins. It may also inspire students to pursue graduate work in physics and astronomy because they can have access to this state-of-the-art telescope for their research."

Mamdouh Shoukri, vice-president research & international affairs, said McMaster's researchers continue to be recognized at an international level because they are world leaders in their fields.

"Christine's involvement as the Canadian project scientist for the ALMA project speaks volumes to the quality of her work and her reputation in the international community," he said, noting that McMaster is involved in two



Christine Wilson



Artist's impression of ALMA. Up to 64 12-m antennas will be placed on the Chajnantor site, amongst the Andean mountains in Chile.

European Southern observatory

of the nine CFI large-scale international projects.

CFI's International Access Fund, which included the grant for ALMA, provides Canadian scientists access to facilities in other countries and major international collaborative programs.

In October, professor Bruce Gaulin, also from the

Department of Physics & Astronomy, was awarded \$15 million from the CFI International Access Fund to build and locate a neutron beamline instrument at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. The instrument will be one of 24 state-of-the-art research instruments housed at the \$1.4 billion Spallation Neutron Source, scheduled to open in Oak Ridge, Tenn. in 2006.

The great house hunt

Information sessions help students start their search

BY JULIA THOMSON

Although many first year students have not yet completed their first term at McMaster, they're already planning for next year. As they think about writing exams and going home for the holidays, many students are thinking of a home of another kind—a home to live in next year at McMaster.

Many of the 3,389 first-year students who this year called one of the on-campus residence home are now looking for housing off-campus. And it's not a simple search.

For Lindsay Fidler, a first-year resident of Moulton Hall, location, cost, and housemates are some of the key concerns. She admits that she doesn't understand a lot about leases, and she's not sure where to begin her search for a house.

For students like Fidler, the Off-Campus Resource Centre (OCRC) will help find with their hunt.

Jennifer Kleven, manager of the OCRC, feels that more and more students are becoming better educated about housing, but finding off-campus

by location.

Another valuable source of information provided by the OCRC is the Off-Campus Living Fair being held Thursday, Jan. 15, 2004. This event will feature different groups from across campus, local businesses, and representatives from the City, police, and bylaw.

Displays and representatives will be on hand in the atrium of the student centre from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The goal of this event is to be fun and raise awareness of off-campus issues among all students.

"The most important thing I want students to take away from these sessions is that the Off-Campus Resource Centre is here for them," says Kleven. "We have student's best interests in mind."

The OCRC in partnership with the McMaster Alumni Association is presenting its 1st Annual Off-Campus Living Fair on Thursday, January 15th 2004. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the MUSC Marketplace students will be able to find out about local businesses and services that can assist them when living off-campus.



Chantall Van Raay

accommodation is still a new experience for most people.

"These sessions have been ongoing for a number of years," she explains. "Each year, the attendance increases dramatically." Students who attend one of the two free sessions will each receive a copy of OCRC's Living Off-Campus Student Success Guide. This booklet discusses the Tenant Protection Act, City bylaws, and many other important issues.

As well, students will have the opportunity to ask questions and receive advice from a lawyer from the Dundurn legal aid clinic.

While she is still in the initial stages of her housing search, Fidler hopes to attend one of the OCRC sessions to receive information about where to start.

Along with offering advice and resources, the OCRC provides students with an extensive listing of rental properties in Hamilton. "Some landlords list independently," explains Kleven. "But if they list with us, you know that landlord wants a student."

OCRC's listings are also divided into zones, so that students can search

Top 5 facts for off-campus living:

1. Know your rights and responsibilities as a tenant. Review the Tenant Protection Act. Read your lease and the terms contained within it.
2. A lease is a legal contract. Once you've signed one, you are committed to the terms of that contract.
3. Be considerate of your neighbours. You will be living in a community similar to the one your family lives in. Try not to cause too much noise; don't leave garbage lying around, etc. This is your home for the next 8-12 months; treat it like it's your own.
4. Discuss lifestyle issues with potential housemates before you make any major decisions about who you want to live with and where you want to live. Discuss things such as your cleanliness habits, sleeping habits, noise tolerance levels, etc.
5. Remember that the OCRC is here to help - throughout the whole year. We're not just about housing listings. We also offer lots of information about the city; we've got maps and store locators; if you have troubles with your landlord, consult with us first. If we can't answer your question, we'll refer you on to a legal clinic who can - free of charge!