

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR WATSON

- As of February 2017, McMaster students, faculty and staff now have a free subscription to Watson™ Analytics Academic Edition.
- Best known for powering the computer that beat *Jeopardy!* champions, the technology allows users to better understand their own data.

I CAN HEAR THE BELLS

- Every Monday at 2 o'clock, the McMaster campus is treated to a live carillon concert, played on real bells located in the McMaster Divinity College's tower. The bells welcome all to the weekly chapel service.

WHAT'S THAT SMELL?

- In January 2017, the smell of a rotting corpse emerged from the McMaster Biology Greenhouse.
- A *titan arum*, commonly known as a corpse flower, was in bloom. The flower's scent is similar to rotting flesh, meant to attract insects like carrion beetles and flesh flies.
- The world's tallest at about four feet in height, *the plant continues to grow...*

THE BRAINS OF THE OPERATION

- One-fifth of Einstein's brain is floating in a jar of alcohol in a McMaster science lab.
- McMaster neuroscientist Sandra Witelson has been studying the great man's grey matter for more than 20 years.
- After all, as Einstein said: "It's not that I'm so smart. It's just that I stay with problems longer."

COMEDY BEGINS HERE

- Martin Short, Eugene Levy and Dave Thomas all graduated from McMaster University in the 1970s.
- Short was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2016 Canadian Screen Awards. His friend Eugene Levy presented the award. In their speeches, both mentioned McMaster as the place where it all started.

SORRY WE'RE SO POLITE, EH?

- PhD Candidates Daniel Schmidtke and Bryor Sneffjella compiled more than three million geo-tagged tweets in 2015.
- Disproportionately Canadian words included: "great," "amazing," "beautiful," and "favourite."
- The most common American words in the tweets? Sorry, most of those can't be printed.

A STROLL THROUGH CAMPUS...

- The **McMaster Museum of Art** houses five galleries and more than 6,000 works of art from ancient times to the present. Along with works by Matisse, Monet, Pissarro, Van Gogh and many others, the museum's vast holdings include lithographs, drawings, etchings, sculptures, coins, maps, and even photos of Hollywood stars of yore: <https://museum.mcmaster.ca>
- **McMaster's four libraries** have combined collections that total more than 1.9 million print and electronic books, 86,000 print and electronic journal titles, and 14,000 linear feet of archival resources. The library's archives are home to rare maps, medieval manuscripts, and collections from icons such as Anthony Burgess, Leonary Cohen, Farley Mowat, and Bruce Cockburn. The oldest map in the collection is a 1486 reproduction of a map by Ptolemy which depicts the British Isles as they were known in the time of the Roman Empire.
- The Library is also home to the **Bertrand Russell Archives**, an unparalleled collection of books, papers and memorabilia from the archives of the Nobel Peace Prize winner. There's even a Christmas card to Russell from John and Yoko.
- The **W.J. McCallion Planetarium** was the first of its kind in Ontario to offer public shows. Its original dome was a war-surplus parachute suspended from the ceiling. Now located in the Burke Science Building, it offers family-friendly public shows, with seats for 35 and two wheelchair spaces: www.physics.mcmaster.ca/planetarium
- Opened in 1959, the **McMaster Nuclear Reactor** was the first university-based research reactor in the British Commonwealth. Today, it is one of the world's largest suppliers of the medical radioisotope iodine-125, used in the treatment of prostate cancer.