



— the —

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Katie Ferguson
VP (Administration)

Duncan Thompson
VP (Finance)

Matthew Dillon-Leitch
President

Alicia Ali
VP (Education)

THE NEXT GREAT STUDENT LEADER

MSU President discusses what to look for in his successor



Matthew Dillon-Leitch
President

president@msu.mcmaster.ca
ext. 23885

Every year the president tries to help describe what to look for in a candidate during the election cycle, hoping that their insight will help potential voters. With that in mind, here is my attempt:

The President of the McMaster Students Union has an incredibly challenging and rewarding job. Every day you get to think of new ways to better student lives, and actually try to do something about it. Think about it - my job (for a year) is to

fight for student interests in every way possible. To defend students from things they believe are wrong, and to promote initiatives which will help them. When looking at a candidate, almost everything is important in some respect. You must examine every element of a candidate's campaign. From their posters to their platform, from class talks, the way they speak to a one-on-one conversation. Each of these aspects are clues as to how they will perform on the job.

A platform is a representation of what a candidate believes is important, and the feasibility of their goals is indicative of what they know can be accomplished. An immense number of issues will arise throughout the year that have nothing to do with someone's platform. There will be

surprises, difficulties, and challenges that will test his or her capabilities, and you need to believe that your candidate can weather the storm. You must believe that he or she will consistently represent you in a positive and effective manner. The president is meant to serve students at their very best, and this is why we expect so much of them; they are a reflection of our values and principles.

Furthermore, the president must be able to deal with high pressure situations and must be able to remain calm and fight for what is best for students. The president must be able to bring all students together, as they are not here to represent a small portion of the community, but rather the entirety of the undergraduate population. The president must be able to listen to students every day,

at every hour, as the job never ends. You represent the heart of McMaster - students. And a president must be willing to go to hell and back for them.

I have loved every moment of this job. It has been the opportunity of a lifetime and the most rewarding experience I have ever had. I hope that whoever has the position next year is passionate about students and student issues. I hope that next year's president is someone who will listen to you no matter what the issue. I hope that the 2012-2013 MSU President is a leader who constantly looks to foster community amongst the student body. Whoever this will be, it is your decision to make. Choose wisely, examine everything and I am sure you will make the right choice.

MSU TEACHING AWARDS AND THE ROLE OF STUDENT EVALUATIONS IN THE QUALITY OF OUR EDUCATION



Alicia Ali
VP (Education)

vped@msu.mcmaster.ca
ext. 24017

It's that time of year again - teaching awards are in the air! Until February 6, you can nominate your favourite professor for an MSU Teaching Award by going to <https://msumcmaster.ca/teachingawards>.

So, why nominate your professor? The purpose of these awards is to call attention to the importance of teaching, as well as to recognize those who have demonstrated excellence in the field of education. As we fall into the routine of school, it is often easy to criticize professors for giving too much homework, making us write too many tests or papers and quite possibly forcing us to take a 60% exam. Unfortunately, in the midst of all this complaining we often forget the professors who help make our undergraduate experiences so worthwhile. It becomes our responsibility as students to not only recognize great professors, but also to inspire others to improve their skills in the classroom. Great teachers inspire lifelong learning in their students. Not many people realize it, but the students of McMaster play an integral role in the excellent standards of education at this institution. Institutional goals are furthered when we take the time to acknowledge the excellence at this institution.

Now let's take a step back for a moment and consider the art of teaching. On a surface level, it would be easy to categorize professors as passive or active,

maybe even technologically savvy or stuck in the Stone Age - but for some, teaching doesn't come naturally. The Centre for Leadership in Learning (CLL) is a resource on campus for professors to help enable their own success in teaching and learning. This venue, located on the fifth floor of Mills is a place for professors to discuss ideas for the classroom, move into more technologically-inclusive learning practices, or just research concepts of teaching and learning. The Centre runs a number of sessions designed for professors and graduate students to enhance their teaching abilities and get the most out of the knowledge and experience they bring into the classroom.

On a personal level, I can confidently say that there are a few professors who have made a real difference in the way I perceive the world around me. Oftentimes, teaching evaluations don't give us a fair opportunity to judge the way a professor might change their teaching style, which is why the concept of mid-term evaluations (currently run informally in the Faculty of Business) are becoming practiced more and more. Encourage your professors to run mid-term evaluations half way through the semester and share the information with the class. Open and frank discussions on what does and does not work - both from a faculty and student perspective - are valuable tools to ensure high quality teaching, which in turn leads to a higher quality of education for future students.

So, why nominate your professor? Our teachers are the backbone of our education system. Those who inspire a higher degree of thought and understanding. Those without whom it would be otherwise impossible to learn. The real question is - why not?

CHARITY BALL 2012 PRESENTS

CIRQUE

FRI, FEB. 3RD

DOORS AT 8:30 PM

HAMILTON CONVENTION CENTRE

Big Top DJ Room, Live music in Maison Des Miroirs
FREE PSYCHIC READINGS behind Crystal Ball Room
Multiple variety acts throughout the night
FREE Apps all night long +
Monte Carlo Casino until midnight | Silent Auction

VISIT: EVENTS.MSUMCMASTER.CA FOR MORE DETAILS!



The President's Page is sponsored by the McMaster Students Union. It is a space used to communicate with the student body about the projects, goals and agenda of the MSU Board of Directors.

www.msu.mcmaster.ca

