

the PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Student Leaders Doing Great Things on Campus



David Campbell

President

president@msu.mcmaster.ca
ext. 23885

About a month ago, I sat with a group from the MSU Clubs Executive Council and sorted through some applications. We were selecting a charitable club to be the headliner for our annual "Dodge! For a Good Cause" event, a dodge ball tournament in Burrigge Gym. The club selected would receive whatever funds were collected from the tournament, in order to put these funds towards their dedicated charity.

What I saw in that meeting absolutely blew me away. We had received 19 applications, and 13 of those clubs were able to attend to present their case. Volunteers came to the meeting presenting on the charitable work they do with groups like Right to Play, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, and Pencils for Kids. Ultimately, the tournament was awarded to Humanity First, funding infrastructure development in impoverished areas.

Hearing from these clubs was just another reminder of how I am consistently in awe of the quality of student leadership we have here at McMaster. Many, many students and student groups on campus do fantastic work both on- and off-campus, often without much recognition. This includes the many charitable groups on campus. New or old, a chapter of a larger charity or an independent initiative, these groups are able to do amazing things. Here are just a few of the other recent or upcoming student fundraising efforts on campus:

- **Horizons Fashion Show: "Style at Mac"**, is a website and student-run group that offers fashion lovers recognition on campus. In their first year they successfully planned and sold out a Fashion Show, Horizons, that showcased the fashion industry of Hamilton, Ontario. All the sponsoring retailers were independent boutiques and designers in Hamilton. All proceeds are donated to Living Rock, an organization that provides support for at-risk youth in downtown Hamilton.

- **McMaster Walk for Memories:** This was a brand new event started by the McMaster Alzheimer's Society in collaboration with the Health, Aging and Society Student Association. This event was held in DBAC on January 25th, 2014. The event included a DJ, pizza, the walk and other fun-filled activities. During this event they were able to raise over \$8000 for the Alzheimer's Society.

- **Shave for a Cure and Locks for Love** - These events were held by McMaster Smiling Over Sickness. Although Shave for a Cure is an annual event in first term, the club decided to create a second event this year for term 2 called Locks for Love. With the help of West Side Hair co, SOS's volunteer and the brave shavees, McMaster Smiling Over Sickness was able to raise \$5707.40 for Camp Trillium. At Locks for Love, the club had another 19 shavees and raised \$5085.00 for Angel Hair for Kids! This club has been able to increase their fundraising total by over 50% from last year.

- **McMaster Relay for Life:** This campaign, aiming to reach \$85,000 in funds this year, culminates in the overnight "relay" this Friday night.

- **5 Days for the Homeless:** This annual fundraiser run by the DeGroot Commerce Society has student volunteers sleeping outside and living off of donations in order to raise money and awareness for youth homelessness in Hamilton.

These events only scratch the surface of the charitable events on campus, which are themselves only one example of the leadership that students show at McMaster every day.



Whyishnave Suthagar (C/O McMaster Daily News)



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President

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