Fostering innovation

A McMaster alumnus and successful entrepreneur hopes to foster another generation of innovation with a $1-million gift to support the creation of a new research chair in engineering entrepreneurship and innovation.

The gift from Woodstock businessman Walter G. Booth will be used to establish the Walter G. Booth Chair in Engineering Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Faculty of Engineering. Booth is Chairman and CEO of the Timberland Group, a group of three companies that specialize in winching and hoisting products that are sold around the world. Booth graduated from McMaster with a bachelor of engineering in mechanical engineering in 1962 and obtained his master's in engineering in 1965.

TRAINING THE BRAIN

McMaster University vision scientists have discovered that the ability to recognize someone from different points of view –- when they look down at a tray of food or turn their head to the side as a friend arrives – is dependent upon seeing things during the first few weeks of life. Their study's findings were published in the November issue of the journal Developmental Science.

Dean makes capital move

Alan Harrison, dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, has been appointed vice-president academic and provost at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Focusing on improving the student experience and developing Carleton's research profile attracted Harrison to the position. "Putting students first is something that is personally close to my heart and something I have consistently tried to do at McMaster in my time as dean," Harrison says. "It is something that I will continue to focus on at Carleton."

Harrison will assume his new position at Carleton on July 1, 2003.

MINI MED

The community will have the chance to explore the scientific basis of topical medical issues in a new program being offered at McMaster. Beginning in March, faculty members will give seven public seminars similar to those given to medical students, using the world-renowned McMaster approach of problem-based learning.

The concept of a mini-medical school for the public was developed in the U.S. and recent programs at McGill and University of Toronto have been sold-out events. At McMaster, the mini-medical school is being organized by a group of five third-year medical students.

Popular Choice

The number of McMaster students listing McMaster as their first choice is up more than 50 per cent, according to figures released by the Ontario Universities, Application Centre. As of Jan. 15, 2003, 6,748 students listed McMaster as their first choice compared to 4,482 last year. Students who have listed McMaster as their second or third choice also increased more than 50 per cent from last year at this time. About one-third of all Ontario high school students or 35,000 applicants who want to go to university in the province next year applied to McMaster.

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.

SCIENCE COMES TO THE CITY

BY DANELLE D'ALVISE

Whether they're using giant telescopes to explore the farthest reaches of the universe or miniature cameras and surgical robots to assist in delicate surgeries, McMaster University researchers are involved in exciting science.

McMaster University, in partnership with The Hamilton Spectator, is sponsoring the Science in the City Lecture Series, an opportunity for the community to come out and hear what some of our fine minds are doing in engineering, science and health sciences.

This exciting new series is the result of collaborations between psychology professor Allison Sekuler and Nick Markettos, senior advisor to the Office of the Vice-President, Research & International Affairs.

Before coming to McMaster, both Sekuler and Markettos had experience with science outreach activities: Sekuler as past president and board member of the Royal Canadian Institute, an organization that enhances the public awareness of science by offering weekly public lectures, and Markettos, in his previous job as manager for the Ontario government's science and technology awareness and innovation initiatives.

"We looked at a public lecture series as an opportunity for the university to reach out to the community and offer people a chance to hear McMaster scientists talk about what they do. We wanted something interesting and free of charge, that offered an opportunity for questions and discussion – a fun and informative evening out," says Markettos.

The Hamilton Spectator was approached with the idea and Judi Partridge, manager of community relations and corporate donations, was immediately receptive to a partnership. Partridge offered the use of The Spectator auditorium as well as free advertising for the series.

All lectures will be held monthly on Tuesday evenings at The Hamilton Spectator Auditorium, 44 Frid Street, Hamilton. Doors open at 6:30 pm; lectures are from 7-9 pm.

For reservations, call 905-525-9140, ext. 24934 and leave your name and phone number or e-mail sciencecity@mcmaster.ca.

Lecture Overviews:

■ **February 11: Competition, inequity and homicide**
What do social policies, income inequality and unsuccessful young men have to do with murder? Join Martin Daly, professor of psychology, to hear about the factors that can be used to predict the homicide rate.

■ **March 4: The Role of the Engineer in Healthcare**
Discover how today's engineers are involved in creating "off-the-shelf" blood vessels and corneas in the new and exciting field of biomaterials and tissue engineering. Heather Sheardown, assistant professor, chemical engineering, will discuss the process, rationale and need for these tissues, as well as recent developments from her laboratory.

■ **April 8: Telementoring and Telerobotic Surgery**
Time Magazine describes Mehran Anvari as "sculpting the next frontier of medicine." Anvari, professor of surgery and the director of the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery, will discuss telementoring and telerobotic surgery, technologies that link experienced surgeons with surgeons in remote regions to offer advice, guidance and actual surgical assistance. His lecture will explore how these technologies have the potential to change the face of health care in Canada.

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