

YEAR PLAN

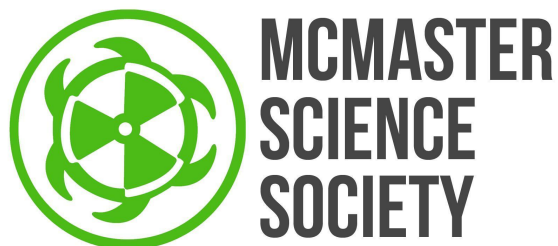
Volunteer and Research Coordinator

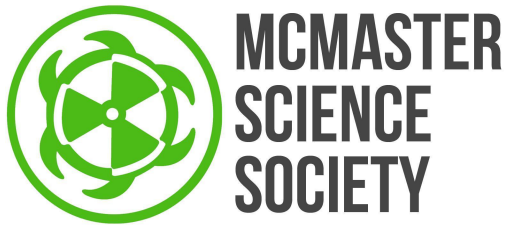
Jonathan Goberdhan

McMaster Science Society

2023-2024

(submitted August 21st, 2023)





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2023-2024 Year Plan

Letter from the Volunteer and Research Coordinator

Hello McMaster Science, my name is Jonathan Goberdhan, and I will be your Volunteer and Research Coordinator (VRC) for the 2023-2024 academic year! As your VRC, I am responsible for linking you, the student body, to the many research and volunteer opportunities we have available at McMaster University and in the surrounding community. My goal is to make experiential learning accessible and visible to the faculty of science's student body. As I always say, experience is the best teacher!

I hope to build upon the previous VRC's work, as well as implement new ideas and fine-tune the events I have planned. Symbiosis is a guarantee, as it is a great chance to network and make meaningful connections with those involved in science. I will also host a research spotlight each month, through the use of Instagram, where the work of a researcher at the university will be highlighted to promote research and groundbreaking topics in science.

Four skill-building workshops will be held throughout the year, which will entail resume writing, learning how to pursue experiential learning, post-graduate options, and summer job search. Finally, a research opportunities tab will be provided on the McMaster Science Society website for those interested in pursuing them.

I look forward to working with my fellow executives on the McMaster Science Society, as well as meeting new people through my time as the VRC. I will be more than happy to listen to and answer your questions, concerns, and feedback. Best of luck this year!

Jonathan Goberdhan
Volunteer and Research Coordinator
researchandvolunteering@macsci.ca

TIMELINE

Month	Objective/Project/Event/Goals
June	<p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transition into role 2. Attend executive training 3. Read up on previous RVCs work
July	<p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work on Year Plan
August	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Undergraduate Research: A Guide <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize and Submit Year Plan 2. Finalize catering budget and Symbiosis timeline 3. Reach out to community partners to participate in Symbiosis 4. Reach out to the SCCE regarding Career Skills workshop series 5. Finalize draft of undergraduate research guide/opportunities tab
September	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #1 2. Symbiosis Promotion - Instagram promotion and google form links 3. Promote Career Skills workshop series <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reach out to departmental societies, clubs, grad students, thesis students, some professors and research project students to gauge participation in Symbiosis - use google form 2. Release research spotlight Google form 3. Finalize Symbiosis volunteers list 4. Book Alumni Hall for October 5. Release RSVP Google form for workshop #1

October	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SYMBIOSIS 2. Research Spotlight #2 3. Career Skills Workshop #1 <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize Symbiosis Matrix and guest speakers 2. Book venue for workshop #1 3. Finalize presenters for workshop #1 and slide decks 4. Release RSVP Google form for workshop #2 5. Release Feedback Form for Symbiosis 6. Release Feedback Form for workshop #1
November	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #3 2. Career Skills Workshop #2 <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Book venue for workshop #2 2. Finalize presenters and slide decks for workshop #2 3. Release feedback form for workshop #2
December	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #4 <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress Report for mid-year review
January	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #5 <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Finalize Career Skills workshop #3 speakers and slide decks 2. Book venue for workshop #3 3. Release RSVP Google form for workshop #3
February	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #6 2. Career Skills Workshop #3 <p>Things to complete:</p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose a lab to conduct Year in Research Initiative interview 2. Finalize Career Skills workshop #4 speakers and slide decks 3. Book venue for workshop #4 4. Release feedback form for workshop #3 5. Release RSVP Google form for workshop #4
March	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #7 2. Career Skills Workshop #4 <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conduct Interview on chosen laboratory for Year in Research Initiative 2. Release feedback form for workshop #4
April	<p>Events/Projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research Spotlight #8 2. A Year in Research Initiative → [Lab Names], highlight important research at McMaster and their goals <p>Things to complete:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transition Report for VRC 2024-2025 2. Train Incoming VRC 2024-2025 or keep in contact for transition period

OBJECTIVES:

Make Research Opportunities as Accessible as Possible	
Description/ Current State	Undergraduate research at McMaster University presents itself in many different forms, many of which are overlooked by students pursuing experiential learning. Oftentimes, research and even volunteer opportunities may arise in the most unexpected of places.
Goal	<p>I hope to make research and volunteering as visible and accessible as possible to all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A research opportunities tab will be posted on the McMaster Science Society's website. It will be updated occasionally.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Monthly research spotlights will be posted which feature a variety of researchers and their work at McMaster, with the aim of encouraging students to pursue similar experiences.- A year in research initiative will be held at the end of the year to broadcast a ground-breaking laboratory and its research, and how their work will improve the lives of others.- All of the aforementioned activities will be promoted via the MSS's Communications team, with the help of our graphic designers. <p>As a student who is passionate about research before knowing what it was, I hope to share my passion with other students alike. My goal is to help foster a research community at McMaster, and it is my sharpened communication skills which will be vital to achieving this goal. Lots of planning in advance, scheduling, and organizing my work will make life much easier when coordinating opportunities. I may sometimes forget to ask for help when needed, but I will remind myself of the amazing people I'm surrounded by in the MSS, who are more than willing to lend a helping hand when times get tough.</p>
Long Term Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Create a strong network between students, researchers, grad students, faculty, and staff, which will benefit all who pursue careers in science.- Spread the word about experiential opportunities to incoming students who interact with upper-year students, and keep the flow of information intact.- Give students the confidence and skills to pursue their careers through the Research 1A03 workshop and Symbiosis. Key skills such as resume writing, setting up a LinkedIn, and learning how to write a cover letter are all vital steps in presenting oneself as a valuable candidate for experiential opportunities.
Partners	Giuliano Serafino VP External vpexternal@macsci.ca Lauren Roxburgh Academic Advocacy Coordinator



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Daisy Pham
VP Communications
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Samantha Couch
Program Manager, Co-operative Education
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Science Faculty

Student Researchers

McMaster Staff

Course Coordinators in Faculty of Science

Strengthen Community Relationships	
Description/ Current State	McMaster University has many community partners and corporations who work to sponsor and support the university's ventures. Some of these community partners work with the MSS, and it is the job of the External portfolio to reach out to and connect these partners with the Faculty of Science.
Goal	<p>The main goal is to gather as many community partners as possible who are involved in research and volunteering and share their opportunities with the faculty of science's students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reach out to those in charge of public relations in various institutions e.g. St Michael's Research, The Research Institute at St Joseph's, SickKids, McMaster Biology Greenhouse, The Hamilton Aviary (Friends of the Aviary). - Promote the work of such institutions and opportunities they may present to students. - This gathers more community partners who may want to work with the university to achieve certain goals <p>A strong network of individuals will be ideal for me to achieve this goal. My openness towards new experiences will aid in the formation of new relationships and maintaining existing ones. I may get distracted by other responsibilities during the year but I will work towards keeping my goals in mind as I progress through the semesters.</p>
Long Term Implications	This will foster a support network that the MSS can be a part of to achieve its goals, gain more sponsors, host more events, and contribute to student politics in a more impactful way. This will also prepare the next group of executives in the MSS when it is time for them to host events and engage in student affairs.
Partners	<p>Susan Dudley Professor Department of Biology McMaster University sdudley@mcmaster.ca</p> <p>Jennifer White Executive Director</p>

	<p>The Hamilton Aviary (Friends of the Aviary) info@hamiltonaviary.ca</p> <p>Nelson Paiva Program Coordinator Communications & Public Affairs Department SickKids nelson.paiva@sickkids.ca</p> <p>Mike Beattie Research Communications Manager The Research Institute of St Joe's Hamilton beattiem@stjoes.ca</p> <p>Environment Hamilton contactus@environmenthamilton.org</p>
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EVENTS & PROJECTS

Symbiosis	
DATE	Late October
PURPOSE	Symbiosis is a networking event hosted by the MSS with the goal of connecting students to other students, researchers, and professionals in a variety of fields of research. This allows students to be exposed to the research initiatives at McMaster while also developing a strong social network which will help them get involved in research on campus.
PROCEDURE	Student researchers and others participating will have the chance to set up booths and present their work to the conference's attendees (usually 1st and 2nd year students). Researchers will demonstrate excellence in science and the impacts their work will have on future research and the community as a whole. Additionally, there will be a competition for best presentation, with criteria such as appearance, readability, and delivery of content. The winner is

	decided upon by a poll, answered by the attendees. The winner gains a prize (likely a gift card or otherwise).
DIFFICULTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Catering costs - Recruiting student researchers - Promoting to students and getting them engaged/motivated to attend
PARTNERS	Quantum Leap Coordinator, SickKids, SCCE, professor/s, Careers Coordinator, Graduate and Thesis students
PROJECTED OUTREACH	220
BUDGET	\$900

Career Skills: A Workshop Series	
DATE	October-November, February-March
PURPOSE	Teach students the skills they will need to succeed in undergraduate education through four workshops: 2 each semester. Workshops will take a chronological, smooth order where the consecutive workshop builds from the previous one.
PROCEDURE	<p>Work with the SCCE and OUR to host 2 workshops in the Fall and 2 in the Winter, with the following format for their content:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resume building and cover letter writing, setting up a LinkedIn, networking, and job search (October) 2. Looking for research positions, research practicum courses, theses, independent research projects, work/study positions, summer internships (November) 3. Post-graduate options - unconventional jobs in science, graduate schools, professional schools, medical school, MCAT, GRE, LSAT, etc... gaining experience as a pre-med or pre-law (February) 4. Summer job search, volunteering during the summer, choosing courses for next year, lab courses, preparing a grad school application (March)



MCMASTER SCIENCE SOCIETY

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DIFFICULTIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Student outreach and engagement- Incentive to attend- Finding staff to host/speak at events
PARTNERS	SCCE, School of Graduate Studies, course coordinators, OUR
PROJECTED OUTREACH	50 attendees/workshop
BUDGET	\$100