



McMaster

Artificial Intelligence

2019–2020 Year-End Review

macai@mcmaster.ca | facebook.com/mcmasterai | linkedin.com/company/mcmasterai/ | instagram.com/macaisociety/

Educational Initiatives

NLP November

- Hosted a number of tutorials from experienced undergraduate and graduate students to present on Natural Language Processing throughout the month of November.

Introductory Tutorials and Project Drop-in

- Hosted weekly tutorials on fundamental concepts in AI and machine learning along with answering any project questions during drop-in time. These events were cumulatively attended by many hundreds of members.

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- The club worked with the Faculty of Engineering to produce the first McMaster-offered open course on AI. This undergraduate-designed curriculum is a landmark in pedagogy and is instructed by McMaster alum and Rhodes Scholar Matthew Jordan. The course is assisted by three Mac AI executives as Teaching Assistants.

Community Initiatives

Drive Foundation

- Our project manager Jay Mody spoke at the Drive Foundation's conference on the use of AI to help improve collective mental health. Also provided initial guidance on the development of driveAID, an application to help those in need.

Significant Events

McMaster World Congress

- Co-hosted the McMaster World Congress for hundreds of McMaster students to educate them on diverse aspects of AI.
- Mac AI Advisory Board Chair, Jodie Lobana, spoke at the event

MacHacks 2020

- Planned a hackathon with streams in AI, quantum computing, and biotech, partnering with leaders in each including IBM and Magarvey Laboratories.

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- 300+ applications for 100 spots.
 - Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Neural Networking

- Planned a social event to allow students, professors, industry professionals, and community members to mingle and discuss AI. Planned attendance of 300.
- Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Significant Projects

Leaders Prize for Fake News Detection

- The \$1,000,000 Leaders Prize prize to the team that makes the best Fake News Detection program is ongoing, with the 10 finalists announced. Mac AI Project Manager Jay Mody is currently in first place.
 - [Official leaderboard announcement \(JayMody in first place\)](#)
 - [McMaster Daily News Article](#)

NTIRE2020 Computer Vision Conference

- Mac AI, led by Senior Projects Manager Xiaohong Liu, submitted an entry to both tracks of the Image Demoireing challenge. This prestigious international conference will be held in Seattle. [More information can be found here.](#)

AI for COVID-19

- Several of our notable members, including Club President and Founder Andrew Leber and Mac AI co-founders Andrew Garven and Victor Blaga, are working with Magarvey Laboratories to produce antiviral compounds against 2019-nCoV using the lab's natural product discovery infrastructure.

Club Development

Advisory Board

- Formed an advisory board to provide guidance to Mac AI. Founding members include AI governance researcher Jodie Lobana, McMaster University CTO Gayleen Gray, and Professor Matthew Jordan.

IBM Partnership

- Formed a club partnership with IBM to assist in our large events and to provide a way to showcase student projects and recruit top talent in AI.

Magarvey Labs Partnership

- Created a landmark club partnership to make optimal use of McMaster's AI talent by putting the best developers at Mac AI to work at some of the most pertinent questions of our healthcare system today, including developing new antimalarials, antibiotics, and 2019-nCoV antivirals.

W Booth School of Engineering Practice and Technology Partnership

- Formed an ongoing club partnership with the W Booth School to support Mac AI's projects with computational and server infrastructure.