

# Surgite

Vol. 7, No. 2, Fall 2015

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## Surgite [brocku.ca/surgite](http://brocku.ca/surgite)

*Surgite*/sur-gi-tay/Latin for "Push on"  
The inspiring last words of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock

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
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Brock University is a welcoming place, and I've been privileged to experience the warmth and excitement of the community these past months. Arriving in St. Catharines in February is not for the faint of heart. But balmy weather soon arrived to match the enthusiasm and optimism of a University clearly on the move.



Pamela Shanks

Witnessing the handing over of the keys to the downtown Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in St. Catharines underscored for me how we are embarking on a profoundly different journey for Brock. The beautifully restored historic factory with modern additions offers a greatly enhanced learning environment for our students. We're proud to be part of the downtown's revitalization, contributing the fresh, creative energy of the next generation of actors, artists and musicians to the region.

I am inspired by the generosity of donors like Marilyn Walker, the Goodman family, David Howes and the Cairns family, who are all making an indelible mark on Brock. The arrival of the statue of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock in the spring infused the community with his spirit. It seems like the General was always here, and just down the path, the modern Cairns building has set a new standard for excellence on campus.

These landmark achievements showcase what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a common purpose. Co-operation and collaboration are true to the University's roots. We've benefitted from the leadership and investment of time, talent and treasure of generations of community leaders and alumni. Looking over the impressive list of donors to the University, I'm moved by the outpouring of support. Brock alumni are making a difference in the lives of Brock students.

We are grateful for all of the support we receive. We work hard to use that support to improve and enhance the Brock experience by preserving what is important, and adding and upgrading where it will really count.

Keep a close eye on your University. The strength of Brock's reputation lies in your success, and the value of your degree is growing. Brock is continuing to thrive and develop, and with the continuing support of the strong community behind it, Brock will reach even greater heights in the years ahead.



Pamela Shanks  
Executive Director, Development and Alumni Relations

## Campus Updates



Stephen Cheung

### Scientists find that athletes don't really need all of those drinks

New research by Brock scientists has debunked the widely-held belief that dehydration saps the strength of athletes performing in hot conditions.

It is common to see distance runners or cyclists gulp water and other drinks during long races, trying to replenish fluids and avoid the loss of strength that has long been accepted as a consequence of dehydration.

But the Brock study, published in the *Scandinavian Journal of Medicine and Science in Sports*, concludes there is no such impairment.

"What we've found was really novel," says lead researcher Stephen Cheung. "Even at up to three per cent body mass dehydration, no impairment was seen in exercise in the heat."

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### Brock University-Niagara College partnership a game-changer

Niagara College and Brock University have agreed to launch a unique partnership that will allow students to earn a Bachelor's degree and an advanced diploma in game development.

Under the GAME program, students will study at both institutions concurrently, and earn both an advanced diploma in game development from Niagara College, and a Bachelor of Arts (honours) degree in game design or a Bachelor of Science (honours) degree in game programming from Brock University.

Both credentials will be earned over four years – a process that would normally take seven. The program has been in development since 2008, and will welcome its first cohort in September 2016.

### Brock awards Niagara Principal's Scholarships

They're some of the brightest young leaders in the region, and they'll be staying in Niagara for their post-secondary education.

In an effort to see more of Niagara's top students stay local to continue their education, Brock University is awarding \$137,500 in entrance scholarships this year to 55 graduating high school students with high academic results and strong community leadership.

The awards are called the Niagara Principal's Scholarship, with recipients selected by the principal of their school.

### Goodman set to expand

The Ontario government has committed \$10 million for a new home for the Goodman School of Business. Construction is expected to begin by the summer of 2016, with more than 27,000 square feet of space being added to Taro Hall. More space means more students. Goodman is expected to enroll an additional 200 students, most from outside Niagara, once work is completed in 2018.

The entire project is expected to cost \$23 million. Thanks to the province's contribution, the University won't incur any debt from the expansion. A campaign is underway to raise \$4 million needed to complete the project.





## Patient simulators provide nursing students with life-like experience

They look like department store mannequins, but the patient simulators used to educate nursing students at Brock University can be remarkably life-like.

The four new patient simulators purchased recently through a generous Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care grant allows nursing students to get the most current and relevant training.

Elizabeth Horsley, Nursing Learning Resource Centre co-ordinator and the simulation education lead, said patient simulators and other training resources allow the students to learn and practise in a safe and supportive environment.

The University's nursing graduates are in high demand. A recent survey of alumni revealed nearly 90 per cent had landed full-time jobs while the remainder were either working part-time or were continuing their education.

## Departures



*Kim Meade*

### Meade moves on to Mount Allison

Kim Meade, Brock University's Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President for Student Services, is leaving the post to become Mount Allison University's Vice-President, International and Student Affairs, with responsibilities that include strategic enrolment management, international

recruitment and programming, and services that enhance and enrich the student experience.

Meade came to Brock in 2003 from Acadia University in Wolfville, N.S., where she had been Director of Enrolment Management. Arriving just as Ontario universities were absorbing the double cohort of Grade 13 and Grade 12 graduates, Meade saw enrolment surge from 13,000 to nearly 19,000 students during her years at Brock.

## Appointments



*Christopher Lytle*

### New AODA co-ordinator brings world of experience to Brock

The University has a new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) co-ordinator.

Christopher Lytle started at Brock in March, replacing Margaret Sanderson, who left in September for a post at Sheridan College.

Lytle sees the AODA as a mechanism of the Ontario Human Rights Code and will work toward an inclusive and barrier-free environment for all faculty, staff and students. His initial goal is to ensure the University is compliant with the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation in its built environment, teaching and learning, employment standards, and information and communications systems.



# Creative factory

**From textile mill to arts school, the new Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts is ready for students**

By Kevin Cavanagh



**T**he curtain is about to go up, and Brock alumni are encouraged to make the trip back for Homecoming 2015 this September to help launch a new era in the University's history.

On Sept. 18 in downtown St. Catharines, Brock's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts will officially open with great fanfare and a promising future as Canada's newest centre of excellence for the arts.

The transition actually began back on May 15. On that date, after more than two years of construction, the keys were handed over to the University. The project officially stopped being a construction site and began life as a cutting-edge educational facility.

Come September, about 500 students will arrive to breathe creative life into the complex as it begins to bustle with activity. But this summer has been a flurry of last-minute touches, activating offices and delivering grand pianos, costumes, easels, darkroom supplies, audio mixers and theatre lights.

Brock University President Jack Lightstone calls the Walker School a historic landmark for the University and also for the surrounding community.

"For Brock, it provides another purpose-built facility serving the very specialized needs of the school, like the Cairns Complex has done for science and health science," he said. "For Niagara, it is a landmark in what a university and a city government can achieve in a close working partnership to bring new life and a new economic base to St. Catharines' downtown core."

The five-storey school is partly new construction and partly restored heritage buildings, including the 19th-century Canada Hair Cloth textile mill. But it's all state-of-the-art, from the new 235-seat performing arts theatre to its digital media studios, photo darkrooms, instrumental music rooms and any other number of specialized facilities needed to support the development of students within numerous genres of dramatic arts, music and visual arts.

The project was designed by world-renowned Diamond Schmitt Architects, whose dynamic entertainment complexes and public buildings have infused urban settings from Toronto and Montreal to Jerusalem and St. Petersburg, Russia.

"The adaptive re-use of this fine heritage structure is bringing to life innovations in dramatic arts education that demonstrate the value of preserving this building in the revitalization of St. Catharines," said Michael Leckman, principal, Diamond Schmitt Architects.

Brock's ambitious 93,700-square-foot, \$45.5-million project was made possible by a \$26.2-million investment from the Ontario government as well as a \$15-million transformational gift from local textile artist and philanthropist Marilyn I. Walker.

Walker, who got a tour of the completed project in mid-May, said she was extremely pleased with the final result.

"It's a challenge to your imagination to comprehend what all could be done within this building when it comes to educating students," she said.

"It's not what the physical building means so much as the opportunities it will provide ... the possibilities for using these state-of-the-art facilities for the benefit of the community."

***A grand opening celebration for the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts will happen Friday, Sept. 18 at 3 p.m.***

*Kevin Cavanagh is the Director of the University's Marketing and Communications Department.*





*Music student Grace Snippe performs during a media tour of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts last spring.*



# Crossing an ocean to help the family business

Jörg Schönfelder is one of the first graduates of Goodman's dual degree Bachelor of Business Administration

By Andrea Johnson

Jörg Schönfelder (BBA '12) didn't have to leave Germany to study in Canada. The Goodman School of Business dual degree alumnus's path to his family's German business, Gesec Hygiene + Instandhaltung GmbH + Co. Kommanditgesellschaft, could have been straightforward instead.

But easy wasn't what Schönfelder had in mind. He wanted to prove himself as a second-generation entrepreneur. So he applied and was accepted to Goodman's dual degree Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) when it started in 2008.

The program immersed him in the business culture of two countries and two languages. He completed the first part of his degree at Germany's EBS University of Business and Law before coming to Brock University for the remainder of his studies. He graduated with his Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) from Brock and a Bachelor of Science in General Management from EBS.

The move to Canada was a necessary risk because it challenged him beyond what he was used to. Being able to succeed in such circumstances, which he ultimately did, is essential for anyone pursuing a career in business, he says.

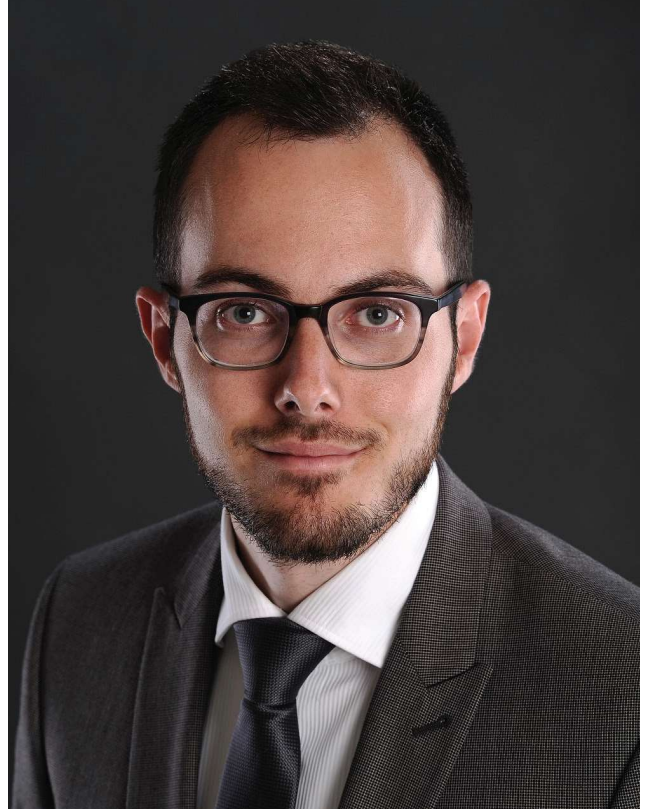
"I would be lying by telling you that I hadn't been feeling overwhelmed during the first few weeks in Canada," Schönfelder recalls. "I think that it was really an experience that contributed positively to my personal and professional development."

He advocates more students do a dual degree or an international exchange for the same reason.

"Students are basically forced to leave their personal comfort zones and that's a skill that cannot be overrated in today's business world. They also get to know new cultures and different ways of thinking."

If lesson No. 1 from Schönfelder is to leave your comfort zone, lesson No. 2 is to prepare for the unexpected.

Although Schönfelder was committed to joining the family business, he didn't expect to start so soon after he completed his degree at Goodman. He planned to put a few years on his resume as a management consultant first before returning to Gesec, but his father asked him to join the business sooner.



Jörg Schönfelder

His experience in the dual degree program saw him through the transition into management there.

"As managing partner/managing director in a medium-sized family business, it is your very responsibility to think interdisciplinary in order to establish a comprehensive strategic road map for your company. Bottom line, you are the one who is responsible for the company, your employees, and the heritage that was passed on to you.

"The dual-degree program allowed me to acquire this interdisciplinary thinking, which certainly eases the challenges that I am facing as an entrepreneur."

And with that, comes lesson No. 3: Build your own legitimacy.

This was the advice he gave to Goodman students in Prof. Teresa Menzie's Family Business class last September during his annual visit to Ontario and Brock.

Schönfelder had to work hard to show employees at Gesec that he was a leader and not just a manager.

"In order to gain legitimacy with those [you work with] you have to stick to your guns and show them that you are not a flag in the wind. I want to be able to perform every job in our company. From accounting to cleaning to technical maintenance, if your employees have the feeling that you know what you are talking about, they will accept you as their leader.

"Never try to imitate your father, mother, or predecessor. Find your own way of leading and managing people but still follow the same shared basic values that made your business successful in the past."

*Andrea Johnson is the former marketing and communications coordinator for Brock's Goodman School of Business.*





Aniqah Zowmi is the first Brock student to win a 3M National Student Fellowship Award.

# Role Model

Aniqah Zowmi has found more than academic success at Brock. She has found empowerment

By Joan Wiley

**A**niqah Zowmi once wrote that she wants to be “the role model I never had.”

She’s well on the way to making her wish come true.

Aniqah, a second-year neurobiology student specializing in cellular molecular biology, has plans — big plans — and that includes working as a human rights lawyer focusing on the Middle East, ideally at the United Nations.

The high-flying student, 19, has already made her mark at Brock. Aniqah won a 3M National Student Fellowship Award in the spring, the first time a Brock student has garnered the prize. She was the youngest winner in the crop of 10 outstanding Canadian university students.

Aniqah, whose parents emigrated from Sri Lanka to Canada just months before she was born, received the award because of her efforts to encourage equality in education and to empower young people.

She is an acknowledged leader at Brock. Aniqah is a member of the prestigious Brock Leaders Citizenship Society, and she co-founded BrockU Talks, where Brock students talk about their passions, and the ReConnect Movement, which tries to close the gap between Brock students and Niagara’s underserved youth.

Her academic prowess was evident in her first year at Brock, when she earned an NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award to investigate the effects of antioxidants on humans.

As well, Aniqah is a national youth ambassador for Passages Canada, and was an International Baccalaureate scholar in her Scarborough high school.

All of which leads to her dream of possibly working at the United Nations. After completing her Bachelor of Science (honours) degree at Brock, she plans to switch her academic focus from science to international law.

“I needed to find a way to make a difference, other than through getting better marks, graduating from med school, ending up in a lab, and hating it after 10 years,” she says.

She found her fit at Brock. In addition to her studies — “my lab experience as an early undergrad student is the equivalent to what a fourth-year or grad student would get at other universities” — she was encouraged to pursue her growing interest in social justice issues.

As a member of a visible minority, she is no stranger to these kinds of issues. Growing up in a predominantly white neighbourhood, she had to come to terms with her Muslim, South Asian/Canadian identities. There was no representation of South Asian girls or women in the media.

She wrote on the Passages Canada website: “I am strongly driven to share my own experience to eradicate the same feelings of insecurity and worthlessness that I fought as I grew up because role models were not present in my own life.”

Aniqah credits Brock for steering her to paths that have had an impact on her career choices and as an individual.

“My experience has given me the luxury of figuring out who I am as a person. There is no more soul searching.”

*Joan Wiley is a writer and editor in the University’s Marketing and Communications Department.*





## Homecoming

Your classmates.  
Your memories.  
Your reunion.



# Calling all Badgers: Register now for Homecoming

The countdown is on for Brock University's Homecoming Weekend, Sept. 18-20, and we don't want you to miss it. Brock alumni, students and friends from throughout Niagara and Canada will return to campus to relive some of the best years of their lives.

Friday night will feature Badger spirit at its finest as students, alumni and friends fill the Seymour-Hannah arena for the annual Steel Blade Classic. The party will continue at the Mansion House in downtown St. Catharines. Alumni can enjoy good beer, eats and music while reminiscing with old classmates and friends at their former stomping grounds.

Brock University's campus will buzz with energy and glow red on Saturday. Cheer on one of the many varsity teams, indulge in a wine or scotch tasting, attend a reunion or visit Alphonse's Trough and Isaac's for a pint or two. Join us at the Alumni Recognition Reception as we raise a glass to exceptional alumni, faculty award recipients and Cameo Club inductees.

Don't miss the much-anticipated Red Dinner. Back by popular demand, the Red Dinner will be held in front of the Schmon Tower and feature food trucks, local wine and craft beer, and performer Pat Hewitt. This event sold out last year so reserve your seat early.

Dress code for the weekend is Brock attire: red and white, and memorabilia. Help us paint the town Brock red.







# REUNIONS 2015

In addition to the amazing lineup of events, there are more than 20 reunions taking place.

Check out the list and register for your reunion today:

- Class of 2010 – Five-Year Reunion
- Class of 2005 – 10-Year Reunion
- Class of 1990 – 25-Year Cameo Club Reunion
- Class of '65-'66 Faculty of Education (St. Catharines Teachers' College)
- Faculty of Education at the Red Dinner
- Goodman School of Business at the Red Dinner
- MBA 2005 – 10-Year Reunion
- Department of Political Science – 50th Anniversary
- Department of Biological Sciences
- Department of Geography – 50th + 1 Reunion, hosted by past professor Jo Meeker
- Department of Computer Science – 40th Anniversary
- Silver Badgers Reunion
- Youth University / CATI / Ropes Course Staff
- Lacrosse, Soccer and Rugby Varsity Athletics Reunion
- Cheerleaders Reunion
- Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts Reunion
- Brock Leaders Citizenship Society (BLCS) Reunion
- Brock University Students' Union Reunion
- Philosophical Society Conference

Please email [alumni@brocku.ca](mailto:alumni@brocku.ca) for more information about these reunions, or if you'd like to get involved.





# Alumni Journal

News and Events from Brock University  
Alumni Association Chapters

We love staying connected with our alumni. And our alumni love staying connected to each other. Every year, the Brock University Alumni Association holds several fundraisers and events for our alumni to reconnect with their university. The Alumni Journal is a glimpse of how Badgers old and new recently came together. To find out more about upcoming Alumni events, follow us on Twitter @BrockAlumni or Facebook.com/brockalumni or visit our website brocku.ca/alumni.



Sport Management Alumni Sports Analytics Panel, moderated by Erin Mathany (BSM '05) 2015 Panelists: David Baldini, Tim Trussell (BSc '05), Kyle Dubas (BSM '07).



Nick Chrzan (BBA '12), Erin Mathany (BSM '05) and Jordan Harding (BBA '09) enjoying a pint of Left Field beer at Toronto Pub Night.



Steven Latinovich (BSM '03, MBA '05) and Mark Arthur (BAdmin '77) at the Goodman Alumni Networking Reception.

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Alumni Association Directors enjoy the 2015 BUAA AGM. Darren Fox (BBA '00), Wendy Ingram (BA '67), Diana Tuszyński (BA '82), Alison Lahn (BA '95, BA '01, MEd '10).



Toronto Brock Alumni Chapter hosted Toronto Pub night at Left Field Brewery this spring, owned and operated by Mandy Murphy (BA '05) and Mark Murphy (BAcc '06).





Niagara alumni enjoy the tartan launch.  
 Diana Tuszyński (BA '82) and Vincent Meehan (BA '83).

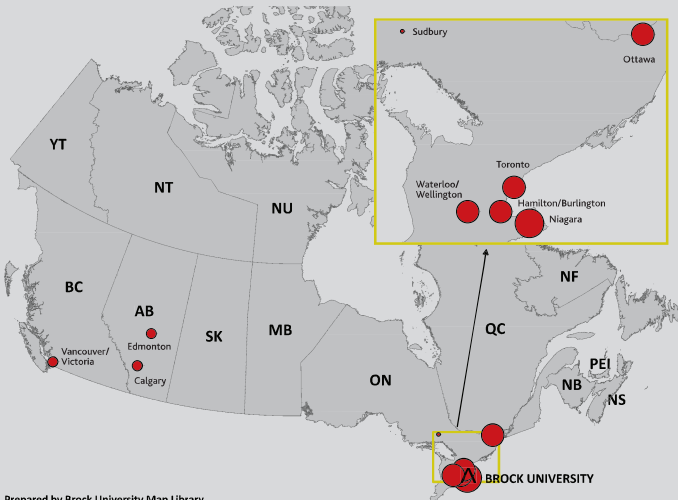
Join a BUAA chapter near you. Divided by geographical location, our countrywide chapters host events, social gatherings and information sessions. Each chapter annually holds several events that are hosted by alumni volunteers.

Chapters are located in:

- Niagara
- Toronto
- Calgary
- Hamilton/Burlington
- Ottawa
- Edmonton

We have alumni representatives in:

- Vancouver/ Victoria
- Waterloo/Wellington



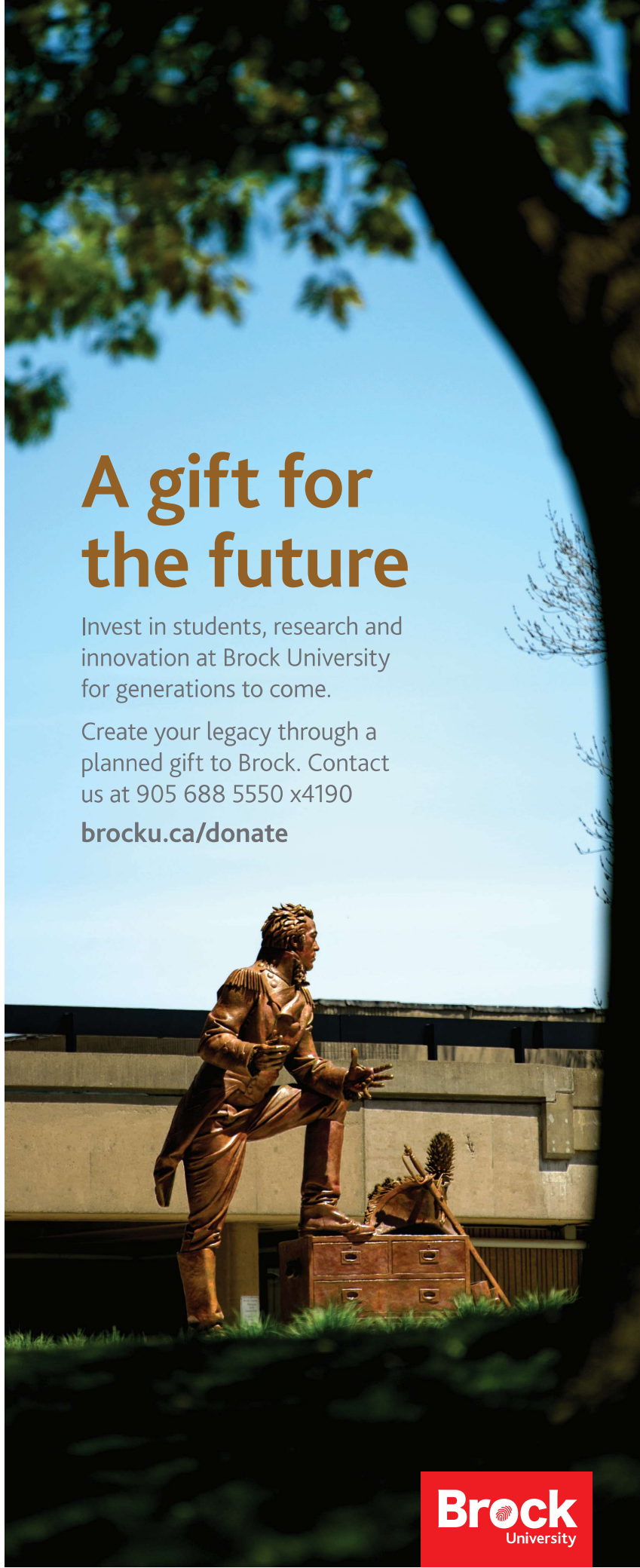
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## Hey Batter, Swing Batter

Brock's baseball team has added a heavy hitter to the roster. Ryan Shaver of the Ontario Royals has committed to attend Brock's business co-op program in the fall and will join the University's Ontario University Athletics-winning ball team, to the delight of coach Jeff Lounsbury.

"I feel that Ryan's bat and baseball IQ is well beyond his freshman age," Lounsbury said. "He seems to understand his swing and has quick hands and barrels up a lot of baseballs." Shaver said he chose Brock over U.S. schools because of what it offered academically and athletically.

"The main aspect of Brock that really caught my attention was the business co-op program," he said. "Brock has a very successful reputation in this program and I knew that it would be a good program for me. Also, I knew that the Brock baseball team was very competitive and would really help me to improve my skill. So it was a combination of an excellent education and continuing in a competitive baseball atmosphere that helped me to make my decision."

## Pan Am Badgers

Brock University was well-represented at this year's Pan Am Games in Toronto.

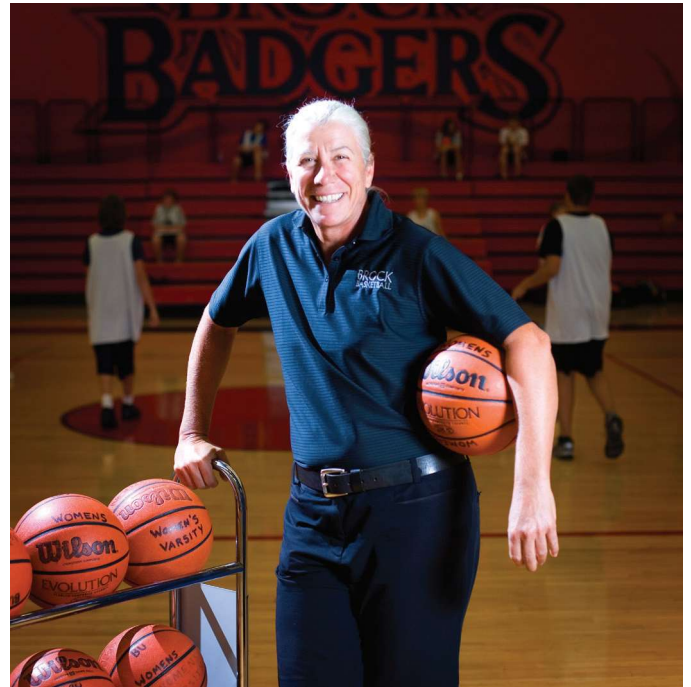
Alumni Michelle Fazzari (BEd '10, BEd '13), Alex Brown-Therault (BSc '10), and student Jevon Balfour took to the mat in wrestling, while Tonya Verbeek (BRLS '00, BEd '03, MEd '06) and Marty Calder (BEd '92) provided guidance as coaches.

Rowers Tim Schrijver (BKin '15) and Eric Woelfl (BA '12) also participated.

Two-time Canadian wheelchair tennis champ Joel Demby (BSM '07) hit the court in the Para Pan Am Games. He was joined at the games by Elisabeth Walker-Young (BEd '02) who served as Chef de Mission for the Canadian team.

Kinesiology Prof. Joe Kenny (MEd '85) provided relief to our athletes as an athletic therapist.

Check the alumni website for results.



## Accolades for Critelli

Brock University Assistant Athletic Director Chris Critelli was presented with the John McManus Award at the Ontario University Athletics awards dinner this spring.

The John McManus Award is given to a retired OUA coach who exemplifies the highest ideals and qualities of sportsmanship and service while engaged in coaching in university sport.

Critelli, former Brock Badgers women's basketball head coach, has played a large part in the development and overall growth of women's basketball in Canada, both as a player and a coach.

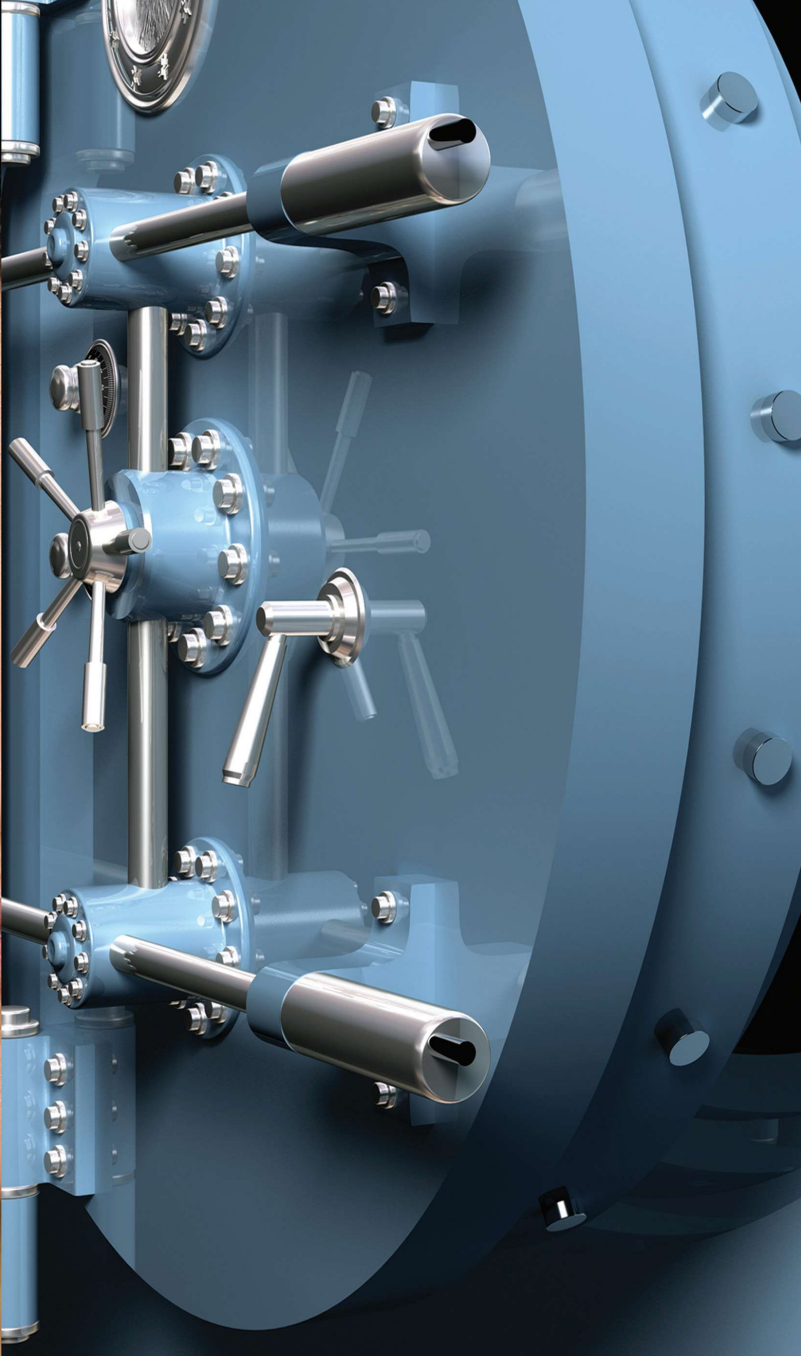
She led the Badgers to the playoffs in 22 of her 25 seasons and retired in April 2009 as the all-time winningest coach in Brock women's basketball history with 393 career victories.

In 2005-06, Critelli established a Brock single-season OUA record with 19 conference wins before capturing first place in the OUA West Division that year.

As a player, she was a three-time All-Canadian and one-time Academic All-American. She's the only individual to ever win both an NCAA and CIAU title, winning two CIAU titles at Laurentian (1976-78) and two NCAA titles with Old Dominion (1978-80). Critelli also played on and coached the Canadian national team, making appearances at two Olympic games.

Since retiring from coaching, Critelli has been the assistant athletic director at Brock University and is a vital member of OUA committees.





**Dolly Kamdar**

BBA ('07), MBA ('11)

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The MBA experience at the Goodman School of Business takes you beyond the classroom. From our acclaimed co-op programs, to our community-focused service-learning opportunities, experience the Goodman difference.

Just ask MBA alumna Dolly Kamdar. Her Goodman MBA led to a career as a senior financial specialist with one of Canada's largest financial institutions.

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**For both sides of the brain.**

Brock University | Niagara | Canada





Dan McGrath (second from left) at Canada's Walk of Fame Inductee Awards evening with Rachel McAdams (centre), Melanie Hurley, CEO of Canada's Walk of Fame, and RCMP officer Terry Russel (BA '85).

# Reel Success

## Dan McGrath oversees one of the largest entertainment companies in Canada and he's this year's Distinguished Alumni Award winner

By Tiffany Mayer

**D**an McGrath has seen a lot of stars added to Canada's Walk of Fame. The one that stands out for the Brock alumnus didn't rise to stardom on the silver screen, however. He has no hit songs to his name, either. In fact, he technically didn't even fit the criteria of an inductee when the Walk of Fame's board of directors, then chaired by McGrath (BAcc '85), chose to include him in the ultimate homage to Canuck celebrities.

It's Terry Fox. And it's a replica of the Canadian hero's star that McGrath prominently displays in his Toronto office as a nod to — and reminder of what it takes to be — a trailblazer.

"I just don't think there's anybody who has embodied the Canadian spirit like Terry Fox, and how his family has kept that spirit alive... it's amazing," says McGrath, who is also the chief operating officer of Cineplex Entertainment.

Fox's tenacity and always striving to be his best are qualities that McGrath, who is the 2015 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, brings to his work and everyday life. They're also part of a message that the man who oversees the operations of one of Canada's largest entertainment companies regularly offers his own children, and to classes of fresh-faced Brock students eager to make their presence felt in the world.

"My message is that there will always be someone smarter than you but you can always be the hardest worker and that hard work and perseverance will always lead to success."

Anyone who has their doubts need only to look at McGrath's own career to have them allayed.

A number-crunching cinephile who counts *Apocalypse Now* as his favourite movie, McGrath landed a job as an auditor with Peat Marwick, now the P in KPMG, after graduation.

Not overly fussy about being an auditor, McGrath became a chartered accountant (CA) and moved on in 1987. He landed a job as assistant controller for Cineplex Odeon Films, a small distribution branch of the entertainment giant. That was the start of his stratospheric climb at Cineplex, where he worked in various roles, including controller for the company's U.S. theatre group.

McGrath had a blockbuster year in 1994 when his twin



children, Matt and Kira were born, and two weeks later, he took over as vice-president of operations for all of Cineplex's theatres.

He survived company sales and mergers before deciding to leave Cineplex in 2000. He joined what was then Galaxy Cinemas Inc., which created big city-style theatres in small and mid-sized Canadian communities. Galaxy ran five theatres and had 12 head office employees at the time. "It was actually the most fun I've ever had in my career," McGrath recalls.

Three years later, Galaxy merged with the Canadian assets of Cineplex Odeon Corp. and McGrath was back in the fray of his former employer. He has since been with the company through its initial public offering, and more acquisitions and mergers, until both McGrath and Cineplex rose to the top — McGrath as COO and Cineplex as a leader in Canadian entertainment with more than 160 theatres and 1,650 screens throughout Canada.

As for choosing which Canadian celebs get immortalized on a stretch of Toronto sidewalk (there are more than 100 of them on a growing waiting list for a star), that volunteer gig came about in conversation with Walk of Fame CEO Peter Soumalias while their sons played hockey together at the local rink. While it gave McGrath an amazing opportunity, it also instilled in him a tremendous sense of pride.

"We as Canadians tend to be humble and don't celebrate our success the way other cultures do. It's really amazing to celebrate our successes on the world stage."

Whatever he does, McGrath clearly embodies the traits he admires so much in Terry Fox, but Brock University also figures prominently in the credits. It may not have, had his original career path gone as planned.

McGrath started university at Western, where he studied computer science and learned quickly his future was in business not bytes. He transferred to Brock the following year and hit his stride.

"It's the best thing that ever happened to me. The level of education I received at Brock was just phenomenal from an accounting standpoint."

McGrath realized just how much of an advantage studying at Brock was when he was preparing for his Uniform Final Evaluation to become a CA. He hit the books with accountants-to-be, including his future wife, Kerry, who had studied elsewhere but knew far less. "I knew things about taxation they'd never heard of before," McGrath remembers. "I remember saying 'I learned that in fourth year.'"

Such are the benefits of attending a small school for someone on their way to a big career, not to mention the sense of community and belonging McGrath felt while at Brock.

At Homecoming, he'll be reminded of just how important he continues to be to the Brock community when he is presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award, which won't look out of place in the company of that replica of Terry Fox's star.

"It's a real honour," McGrath says of the award. "The three years I spent at Brock had a huge impact on me. It was a great place to learn."

*Tiffany Mayer is a writer/web editor in the University's Marketing and Communications Department.*





Ground was broken on a new artificial turf field last spring. From left: Director of Recreation Services Karen McAllister-Kenny, Women's soccer player Alex Crawford, Board of Trustees Chair John Suk, former BUSU Vice-President, Student Services Paul Dermody, Brock President Jack Lightstone, BUSU President Kyle Rose, former BUSU president Cooper Millard, Senate Chair Scott Henderson, and Vice-President Finance and Administration Brian Hutchings.

# Perfect Pitch

## New turf field will host Badgers intramurals, soccer, rugby and lacrosse

By Tiffany Mayer

The grass will soon be greener on Brock's lacrosse field. It will also be less mucky after a rain shower and will always be the perfect length. But such are the bragging rights of an artificial turf field, which is being installed at the University in time for face-offs and kick-offs this fall.

The field will host intramurals, soccer, lacrosse and rugby matches. Its addition to the University campus brings Brock into the big leagues. There are 20 Ontario universities in the OUA and only four — including Brock — have gone without artificial turf, which extends the playing season.

Brock has also been one of two universities without a lighted field but that will also change once the faux grass is installed later this summer along with six light standards.

If wet weather didn't make matches or practices a wash, or delay the start of a season, that lack of lighting limited what could be done on the field's previous incarnation, noted Karen McAllister-Kenny, director of Recreation Services. Not anymore.

"It extends the amount of use," she said. "We've planned for nearly 400 lit hours for students to use each year." Divide the field into two playing surfaces for intramurals, and that number of playing hours doubles, she added.

"You can get much more use out of it than you do a grass field."

While Brock's elite athletes will be able to run, kick and pass without fear of stumbling in a rut or being slowed by muddy patches, the field will be used extensively for intramurals.

Roughly one-third of the 6,500 students who participate in the recreational games play field sports. And chances are,

they've all experienced forfeits or defaulted games thanks to unco-operative weather. Or they may have watched the sun set on their winning streak thanks to waning daylight. McAllister-Kenny sees potential for program growth with the extension of playing time.

Think ultimate Frisbee or touch football played at a time of year when a grass field will have long since called it a season.

"We know that the new field will provide more opportunity for students to take part in healthy activity through varsity sports, intramural programs, and free time recreation."

Students will use the field exclusively during the school year but it will be made available for community use during the spring and summer.

The field will cost \$1.5 million, money that Badgers voted overwhelmingly in favour of spending when it was a question on the ballot during student elections last spring. Money was also donated to the project from an anonymous alumnus.

The field, which will be named Alumni Field, installed by The Davan Group, who constructed the artificial playing surfaces at the University of Guelph, Carleton University, and for a Hamilton school board.

The field will officially open on Saturday, Sept. 19 during Homecoming celebrations.

*Tiffany Mayer is a writer and web editor in the University's Marketing and Communications Department.*





Emma Garner (BSc'04)

# Local Brock alumna wins wine awards

**Emma Garner (BSc '04) is on the right path**

After studying at The Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) at Brock University and visiting wineries in Australia, New Zealand, France, Germany and British Columbia, Garner firmly planted her roots in Niagara, starting at Trius Winery. In 2010, she was named winemaker at Thirty Bench Wine Makers in Beamsville, where she is fermenting an enviable career in addition to stellar wines. Garner was named 2015 Ontario Winemaker of the Year.

"I thought I would travel to other wineries in the world for work but everything has unfolded for me in the [Niagara] region so I stayed here," Garner says. "Having my family close by is very important to me and the region allows for that to happen."

Garner chose to study Oenology and Viticulture at Brock University and knew that the connections she made here would follow her throughout her career.

CCOVI was established in 1996 and operates in partnership with the Wine Council of Ontario and the Grape Growers of Ontario. In addition to its research programs, CCOVI offers academic programs through the Department of Biological Sciences.

Garner fondly remembers meeting new people and working through challenges with her classmates at Brock, then reconnecting with them within the wine industry where they faced different issues, but have maintained that collaborative spirit.

"I knew that [while studying at Brock] I would make contacts within the industry, and as a result, just a few years after graduating I landed a dream job as a winemaker at a small winery making ultra-premium wine."

When asked if she had any advice for new graduates, Garner offered this: "Always respect the people around you. The world is small and you never know when your path may cross with others again."



# Wine and cheese seminar series

Save the date and join Emma Garner along with fellow Brock alumni winemakers at the Niagara Wine Festival in September.

Participants get to meet the winemakers, explore the world of wine and cheese, and experience the pleasures and fun that come with educating your senses.

All sessions will feature two wines and a cheese pairing. Some sessions will feature alumni of the Oenology and Viticulture program at Brock University.

Location: T. Roy Adams Bandshell, Montebello Park, St. Catharines

Saturday, Sept. 19 and  
Saturday, Sept. 26  
(2, 3, and 4 p.m.)

Admission: two tokens or \$6 plus HST  
Online: [niagarawinefestival.com](http://niagarawinefestival.com)



Comic book artist Leonard Kirk (BA '89) with one of his sketches

# Sketches of a comic book artist

## The tenacious rise of Visual Arts alumnus Leonard Kirk

20

By Grant LaFleche

It was one moment, perhaps more than any other, when Leonard Kirk knew he'd made it.

It was nothing special. Lunch about a decade ago at a Cora's restaurant. Kirk (BA '89) was at Fan Expo in Toronto, a comic book convention where he could meet fans, promote his upcoming books and earn some extra money selling sketches.

When the comic book artist got to the restaurant, the friend he was meeting was already sitting with someone. The introduction was short and direct.

"Leonard Kirk, I'd like you to meet Alex Ross."

The fanboy that lives in Kirk's heart did cartwheels.

Ross is a titan in the world of comic books. A painter deeply influenced by the work of Norman Rockwell, his lifelike depictions of superheroes made him a superstar among fans.

And Kirk is as much a fan as he is an artist.

"He shook my hand and said 'You're Leonard Kirk? The artist on the Bloodhound books? Your stuff is great,'" recalls the 48-year-old Kirk. "My mind was completely blown. Completely. It's still blown."

One of the industry's most notable creators being a fan wasn't something Kirk could have imagined as a Brock University art student in late 1980s. Back then, he just hoped someone might give him a shot.

Unlike most of his classmates, Kirk had little interest in pursuing commercial art. He knew creating art for advertisements and marketing could be lucrative. But his passion was rooted in the four-colour morality stories of superheroes.

From about the age of 12, Kirk wanted to be a comic book artist. But that didn't mean his experience at Brock didn't inform his drawings.

"Particularly the practice I got drawing real world objects was helpful," he says.

More important than the technical schooling he received was a class trip to New York City.

For many of his classmates, the trips were a welcome vacation from school work. For Kirk, it was a pilgrimage to his own personal Mecca.

"You can imagine, it was my first time in New York and how exciting is that? It's an amazing city," he said. "But it was also where the offices of DC Comics were located."

DC Comics. The publisher of Superman and Wonder Woman.

"So I marched down to the DC Comics offices and went right in with samples of my work. I didn't have an appointment. I just walked in, told a receptionist who I was and why I was there," he



says. "But it wasn't just that I hadn't made an appointment. It was lunch time and almost no one was there."

As fate would have it, there was an editor still in the building who took the time to sit down with Kirk.

"He looked my work, told me what he liked and gave me pointers on things I needed to work on," Kirk says. "It was a great experience for me, although I was disappointed at the time that I hadn't been discovered and given a job as soon as I walked through the door."

The Brock art students would make the trip again the following year. Kirk went back to DC with new samples. This time he made an appointment, but the result was the same.

He wasn't snatched up by DC as a wunderkind, but the critiques were key to building his career, even if it did bring an unwanted degree of attention from his professor.

"He singled me out in front of everyone and said, 'While you guys have been shopping and sightseeing, Leonard has been looking for work. You should be more like him,'" Kirk says. "I was just thinking 'Oh god, please stop.'"

Kirk's artistic style is heavily influenced by 1970s Batman artist Neal Adams, who dispensed with the cartoony look that had dominated comics for decades and replaced it with an iconography drawn from the real world.

The world shaped by Kirk's pencils is an instantly recognizable one, from the buildings and cars in cities, to people on the street and the clothes they wear. The world in his pages seems tangible. Real, down to the brick work. It just happens to be a world where people can fly.

"Absolutely I am influenced by Adams, by Jim Steranko, by Jack Kirby," Kirk says of the legendary artists. "I love the idea of the fantastic just bursting into the normal world we live in."

It's a style that has made the American-born, St. Catharines artist popular among readers and sought after by publishers. At least today. But in 1989 when he graduated from Brock, finding work wasn't that easy.

"This was in the days before email, so I was snail-mailing out samples to publishers," Kirk says. "On one day, I licked 80 stamps. I drank a two-litre bottle of pop to wash the taste out of my mouth. I still hate stamps."

The year after he graduated from Brock, he was hired by the now-defunct Malibu Comics to do their adaptation of science fiction TV show *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*. That led to a gig at Marvel Comics, the publisher of *The Avengers*, working on a lesser-known character called *Ultra Girl*, and then eventually to DC Comics itself, drawing *Supergirl* and the superhero crime comic *Bloodhound*, currently published by Dark Horse Comics.

Kirk's work has often appeared in lesser-known titles, but one of his most recent assignments was definitely A-list: last year's relaunch of Marvel's *Fantastic Four* comic.

"The thing that just blows me away some days is that I am being paid to draw comic books," Kirk says. "How insane is that really? It's fantastic."

*Grant LaFleche is a freelance writer living in St. Catharines, Ont.*



Leonard Kirk shows off his talents for his fans.



# The last word

Andrew Julie (MBA '05)



The past few years have been quite a journey, and I never thought I would end up right back where I started.

I couldn't be happier that I have, though.

I grew up in Niagara on Sawmill Golf Course, my family's business, and worked for my parents throughout my childhood. When I had the opportunity to attend university in the U.S. on a rowing scholarship, I thought I left golf and Niagara behind to focus on a career in finance. But now I'm the proud owner of Brock Golf Course, raising my own children in a house on the course.

The bust of the tech bubble forced me to return home for a few years after finishing my undergraduate degree, but it also gave me the opportunity to be part of the first Brock

University MBA class. When I graduated from Brock, I moved to Toronto with my wife and leveraged my MBA to start my finance career at RBC.

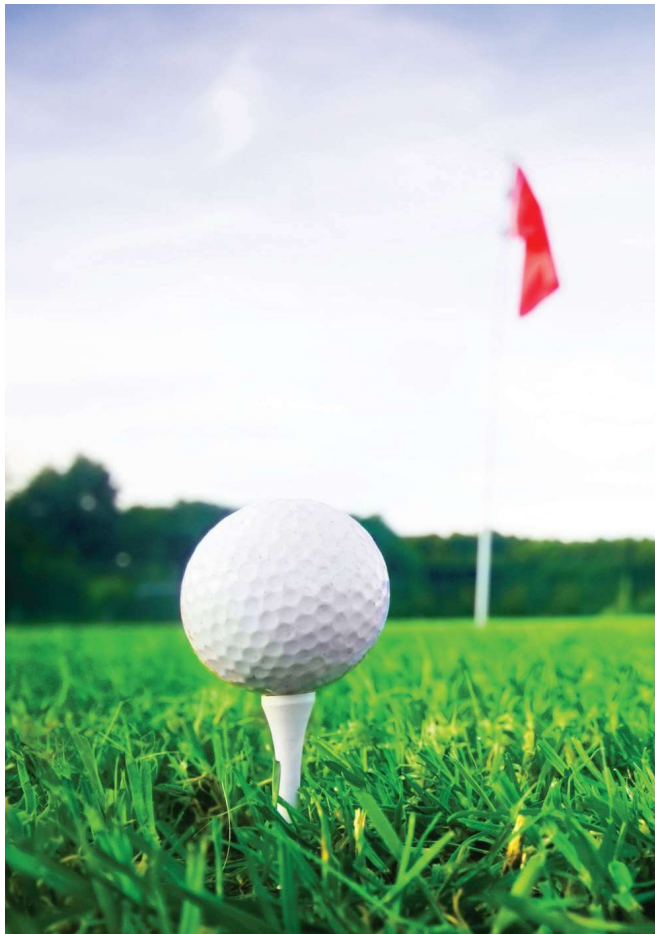
I spent nine years working in commercial financial services in a variety of roles in sales, risk management and in the national office. Everything was going well and I'd even been assigned an executive mentor to help me manage my career. Despite all my success at the bank, life had changed and so had my priorities. My wife and I had been blessed with two daughters, Stacey and Clara, and work with a long commute into and out of the city on the GO Train didn't leave much time for family.

Last fall when we found out The Greens at Brock on Merrittville Highway was for sale, we immediately thought we'd found our way out of the rat race. The price reflected years of neglect of the golf course and clubhouse but the one bright spot was a relatively new house on the property. Jen and I were convinced with some hard work we could fix up the course and turn it back into a great business. Living where I work was also a huge draw after years of commuting in Toronto.

Things all worked out and this spring we moved into the house on the golf course. We renamed the business Brock Golf Course to signal the change in ownership and got to work. In the past few months we've done numerous repairs to the clubhouse and course, and reopened the restaurant after being closed for more than a decade.

Having the opportunity to run a business with my wife is turning into a wonderful experience, and the rewards of watching it improve seem well worth the effort. I'm most excited to play a more active part in my children's lives and hope they will build the same fantastic memories I have of growing up on a golf course. While only time will tell how successful Brock Golf Course will become, we're enjoying the journey this business is leading us on and glad we took the risk to follow our dream.

*Andrew Julie (MBA '05) is the owner of Brock Golf Course in Thorold, Ont.*





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