

# Surgite

Vol. 4, No. 1, February 2012

## **A refugee's journey** From Sudan to St. Catharines

Alumni who learned  
to be American

An artist risks his  
life in the wild

Winemaking grads are  
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Brock through their scholarly, creative,  
humanitarian or professional  
contributions to Canada and beyond.

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## Surgite

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

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Greetings, fellow alumni, and welcome to the February 2012 issue of Surgite.

As the newly elected president of the Brock University Alumni Association, it gives me undiluted pleasure to continue advancing the micro and macro interests of the Alumni board and all alumni who have graduated over the last 47 years.

Exciting times are ahead of us. I stand ready to usher in dynamic change and evolution through our strategic plan, and also to provide unparalleled support to the University and all its stakeholders.

On March 31, the Brock University Alumni Association will recognize 35 alumni who best exemplify the Brock spirit through their scholarly, creative, humanitarian or professional contributions to Canada and beyond. It has been very exciting to see the nominations for so many of our alumni who have accomplished much in their personal and professional lives. Whether you graduated in the '60s, '70s, '80s, '90s, or the last decade, we invite you to join us in this celebration.

The year 2012 will also be an important one for two reasons — the celebration of 200 years of peace with the United States and specifically a recognition of our namesake, Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock — and the Brock University Alumni Association's 35th anniversary.

Plans are well underway for Canada's bi-centennial celebrations and the University will certainly acknowledge Isaac Brock and his importance to our national history and to our institution.

The Alumni Association's 35th anniversary will kick off on March 31 with our Alumni of Distinction Awards ceremony mentioned above. It will continue on throughout the year during Spring Convocation and alumni weekend in the fall.

Watch our website ([brocku.ca/alumni-association](http://brocku.ca/alumni-association)) for more information on upcoming events. We hope to see you out and about. All the best for 2012.



Chris Capredoni  
President, Brock University Alumni Association



Chris Capredoni

# A refugee's journey: one book at a time

John Garrang Maduk went from the Sudanese civil war to the halls of Brock

By Elisa Birnbaum

Maduk's family found themselves searching for a home after being displaced by war, a never-ending conflict that stole from them their father and making his eldest brother a "Lost Boy of Sudan," a term to describe children orphaned by the civil war. In 1993, they settled in Kakuma Refugee Camp in the northwestern region of Kenya. Appropriately defined as "nowhere" in Swahili, Kakuma became home for about 80,000 refugees fleeing war-torn neighbouring countries.

Life was anything but easy in Kakuma. It wasn't unusual, for example, to go two days without food or water. And the tight-knit village ensured a life of relative seclusion for its inhabitants.

"When you live in a village, you just know that place, nothing more," explains Garrang Maduk. Though the camp offered informal schooling, "we didn't know about the importance of going to school, about the value of education."

But Garrang Maduk was one of the fortunate ones. He credits a lot of that to a mentor named Madut, a former lost boy the same age as his brother, who regularly encouraged him to pursue his dreams and work hard.

"He was instrumental in my life," says Garrang Maduk. "He used to tell me about rebels who are not educated and how we have to change that, to change the face of Sudan." The transformative power of education was the clear, unambiguous message.

It wasn't all talk. Madut pursued his own dreams, getting an education and eventually moving to Ottawa where he works for the federal government, offering himself as a constant role model for the young boy. Sure enough, after excelling in primary school, Garrang Maduk was one of the select few awarded a scholarship by Jesuit Refugee Services to attend high school in Kenya.

"My one goal and dream when I was in high school was to come to Canada," Garrang Maduk recalls, explaining his mentor reveled in his newfound home. "He showed me it's worth working hard to get where you want to go."

High school captivated Garrang Maduk's spirit and inspired him to realize his potential. "I started to see where I can fit into society and what I can do to change the face of all this suffering," he says. The messages of

Did you ever wonder what happens when luck and hard work converge? According to John Garrang Maduk (BAcc '11), it's when dreams come true. And he would know.

Having just completed a four-year accounting degree at Brock, graduating top of his class, one may think the 28-year-old — currently living in Edmonton and working at his first job —

is just an ordinary high-achiever. But you'd be wrong.

Born in Sudan, Garrang



John Garrang Maduk (BAcc '11) is working in Edmonton as an integrated supply chain analyst. Photo: Dan Riedlhuber

his Kenyan instructors were powerful too — “You can’t win a war by the use of guns or force, only with your mind,”

“Without going to high school,” Garrang Maduk says, “I wouldn’t have realized that only when you have an education can you change the world.”

He also gained self-confidence. “I saw that if you believe in yourself and work hard, whatever you want is really possible.” It comes down to perspective, he explains. “If you think it’s going to be really hard, it will be; if you believe you can make it, it is likely you will.”

Fighting words, to be sure. It’s hard to believe Garrang Maduk would be where he is today without them. In fact, he always believed, somehow, that “tomorrow” would bring a better day. It’s a belief he wishes more young refugees adopted.

For Garrang Maduk, that better day — the light at the end of the tunnel, as he puts it — came in 2007 when he arrived in Canada to attend Brock University thanks to top grades and the World University Service of Canada refugee program. Though he left his family and friends behind, the undergrad packed his lifelong motto with him, the one borne of Madut and reinforced by the inspirational teachers he met along the way: there is value in hard work.

The adage would help him get through some of the harder times as a new student and immigrant in an unfamiliar town. His adopted family at Brock — made up of good friends — was a tremendous comfort too, he says. He reserves special credit for the peers he met while working at Brock University Students’ Union (BUSU), first with student elections and then in the retail store. That job helped him fund the schooling of siblings back home.

“I was lucky to have a family at Brock,” he says, sharing how they threw a celebratory barbecue in honour of his recent graduation. There were times when he got depressed, he admits, particularly after hearing about the death of his eldest brother two years ago. Though not one to focus on the negative, Garrang Maduk appreciated those who constantly cheered him up.

It seems infectious cheer was a mutual blessing. Chris Greene, BUSU marketing manager, speaks highly of his always-smiling employee and friend.

“From the start, he was probably the most positive guy I ever worked with,” Green says. “Coming from his background, a lot of things can make you negative but he was always happy and always wanted to help out, lend a hand.”

Lending a hand comes naturally to Garrang Maduk. Having just landed a job as an integrated supply chain analyst, his focus remains on supporting his family. With South Sudan recently achieving independence, Garrang Maduk is hopeful about the future but knows it will take time to rebuild. Someday, he offers wistfully, he’d like to start an accounting business in Africa. But for now, his goals are closer to his new home. That’s where charity begins, after all. “When they are on their own feet,” he says, “I will look to myself.”

Looking back at his life instils the refugee with awe. “I don’t know how I made it through all that.” What he does know is he wants to prevent

anyone else from going through the same and hopes to pay back the community that helped him, perhaps by building the first high school in his village.

“At the end of the day, pass on whatever good you’ve got to others,” he says. “What matters most is you have done good for mankind, good to people around you.”



# Rising to the top

## Ed Hughes is the new Ontario Grape King

By Tiffany Gallagher

Ed Hughes spent nearly a decade at Brock learning all he could to grow great grapes in his Beamsville vineyard.

But this father, chef, sommelier on paper, farmer and student could himself teach just about anyone a thing or two.

His area of expertise: time management. Hughes has actively held all of the above titles at the same time. He has fed the masses as a caterer. He has matched meals with wine. He has grown grapes as a hobby farmer for some of that wine, enrolling in an after-degree program to learn how to grow them even better so he could turn farming into a career while raising two children.

Despite sounding like a virtual renaissance man, Hughes will be the first to tell you it wasn't always easy. Then he'll credit the support of his wife Caroline for enabling his Type A personality.

But he also includes the faculty at Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) in the liner notes of his success. They also helped him juggle his many hats while teaching him how to be a farmer who grows premium grapes in his 21-acre vineyard.

"There's a lot of people who had empathy for what I was going through," Hughes says. "A lot of (professors) that are not in CCOVI, they deal with so many students, they can't help you. But CCOVI, it's a smaller department so they can really help you."

Take, for example, assisting with those courses that might throw a curveball to a guy who originally graduated from university with a hospitality degree. Patient professors helped Hughes become proficient in a subject he hadn't touched in decades.

"There was a lot of chemistry and I hadn't taken chemistry since 1981 (in high school)," he said. "I was scared.... I don't think they expected me to stick it out."

And while Hughes may have been able to cook just about any of his classmates under the table, he was served some serious humble pie in math class.

"The (kids) that stay (in the program), they're really smart," Hughes recalls. "It's embarrassing when you have a math problem that you've never seen before and you have a kid half your age come over and say, 'Do this and this.' It's humbling."

But the challenges of embarking on an education in subjects that may not have been Hughes's forte only served as inspiration to not just keep at it but to thrive at it, particularly after getting an abysmal mark on his first-year chemistry final.

"It wasn't for lack of trying. I had a high mark going in and got 75 overall but I failed the exam," he recalls. "That was a big motivation. I said from now on, I'm not getting a mark lower than this."

He didn't. Hughes graduated with his certificate in grape and wine technology in 2007 — eight years after



enrolling at CCOVI and plugging away at three to four courses a year in between catering, fathering and farming.

He's certain he holds the claim to fame of taking the longest of any student to finish the program. Still, all that work, which he has put into practice in his vineyard, recently amounted to another distinction for this Riesling-loving guy, who only started growing grapes in 1995 to satisfy an a winemaking hobby.

Last fall, Hughes was anointed Grape King, a title and all its accompanying commitments passed on to him by one of his professors, Debbie Inglis, who reigned in 2010. Inglis is a scientist who doubles as CCOVI's director — someone who gave Hughes timely “stern warnings” that his academic career would require hard work.

“Ed is a wonderful choice,” Inglis said when Hughes was crowned. “His training at Brock is now helping him set up research trials to achieve vine balance and pest control, reduce costs and improve fruit quality. It's a great example of innovation by a grape grower toward the sustainability of our industry.”

These days, Hughes sells his grapes exclusively to Malivoire Wine in Beamsville. The fruits of his labour have appeared in the winery's popular Guilty Men red and white. He's hopeful some of his latest harvest will turn out to be the makings of a single vineyard vintage and his name will appear on Malivoire labels.

Hughes also earned a Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence in 2010.

Still, he has had to shed a few other long-held titles along the way in order to achieve grape-growing greatness.

“It difficult to just let (being a chef) go,” Hughes says. “But when I got into vinifera grapes, the work on the farm went through the roof. It was either quit school or quit farming to keep catering. There's a lot more eggs in the farm basket.”



Debbie Inglis, director of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, passed on the Grape King title to Ed Hughes (OVEC '07), who received a certificate in Grape and Wine Technology in 2007.

It's time to raise a glass to another CCOVI alumnus, Derek Kontkanen (MSc '05), who pressed on to win the best dessert wine trophy from the International Wine and Spirits Competition in London, England, in November.

Kontkanen makes white wine at Jackson-Triggs Okanagan Estate winery in British Columbia.

The victory marks the second year in a row that his Riesling icewine has won the award.

Kontkanen graduated with his masters in 2005. It was as a CCOVI grad student that he developed a method to improve icewine quality by controlling yeast metabolism during the fermentation process.

Winning two awards in a row was “quite a nice surprise,” says Kontkanen. “Just winning one was nice. But winning two is a lot nicer.”



Derek Kontkanen (MSc '05)

# Brock researcher to work on NASA's Mars mission

NASA is going back to Mars looking for signs of life, and Brock scientist Mariek Schmidt is helping direct the search.

NASA's Mars Science Laboratory mission, which launched from Florida in November, will carry the rover vehicle Curiosity to the red planet, where it will examine the Gale Crater area for evidence of past or present conditions that could be habitable.

When Curiosity reaches Mars this summer, Brock volcanologist Schmidt will be at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. She will be part of an international team of scientists and engineers who will guide the rover and oversee its observations and activities.

After she returns to Brock, Schmidt will spend at least three years helping investigate and analyze the information sent back from Gale Crater.

Schmidt, who has been an assistant professor of Earth Sciences at Brock in 2010, says it is important for Canada to get opportunities to increase its own body of expertise.

"Canada will eventually play a more active role in the exploration of Mars, possibly even sending our own mission some day," says Schmidt, whose role in the mission has been backed by the Canadian Space Agency. "Until now, a lot of our contribution to the space program has been in technology, but now we're providing more on the science side as well. And that's a cool thing."

Gary Libben, Vice-President Research, says NASA's selection of Schmidt speaks to the University's growing stature in the research community.

"Mariek is an example of a new generation of world-class researchers

who choose to teach and work at Brock," says Libben. "They're building on the reputation our researchers have established over the years, and taking Brock into a new era. It bodes well for our students and our surrounding community."

Rick Cheel, former Interim Dean of Mathematics and Science, calls Schmidt's appointment "a great example of literally pushing back the frontiers of science."

"Work like that will not only further fundamental discovery of the makeup and history of another planet," Cheel says. "It is an important step towards the expansion of humanity beyond the bounds of Earth. I am immensely proud that a Brock researcher is among the pathfinders for the human journey into space."

The Curiosity — NASA's most advanced mobile robotic laboratory — is examining minerals that provide a lasting record of the temperatures, pressures and chemistry that were present when the minerals were formed or altered.

Researchers will add that information to observations about geological context (such as the patterns and processes of sedimentary rock accumulation) and chart a chronology of how the area's environments have changed over time.

The information Curiosity collects about minerals and about the area's modern environment will be analyzed for clues about possible past and present energy sources for life.

Schmidt is no stranger to NASA's Mars program. She worked on the Spirit mission, which landed on Mars in 2004, while she was a post-doctoral fellow with the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution.



"Canada will eventually play a more active role in the exploration of Mars, possibly even sending our own mission some day," says Mariek Schmidt, who is involved in the expedition looking for signs of life.



# Spinal cord researcher carries Rick Hansen's legacy forward

By Samantha Craggs

For someone with a spinal cord injury, the little things matter.

The ability to roll over in bed. The ability to lift yourself from your wheelchair to your car. The difference between requiring someone to accompany you to a restroom and being able to do it independently.

It's with this knowledge that David Ditor operates his research lab, a unique facility that gets spinal cord injury patients mobile.

Ditor, an associate professor of Kinesiology, has dedicated his career to increasing the independence and quality of life of people with spinal cord injuries. His work, which has several ties to Rick Hansen, earned him a place as a medal bearer on the St. Catharines leg of the Rick Hansen 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Relay in November. He was also profiled by CTV as one of 25 Difference Makers in spinal cord research.

It was inspiring to participate in the anniversary relay, Ditor says.

"Rehab centres like mine would simply not exist if not for what Rick Hansen did 25 years ago."

Spinal cord injuries are life altering, says Ditor, whose research receives funding from the annual Rick Hansen relay. But the secondary ailments it causes — cardiovascular and respiratory disease, urinary tract infections, sores on the skin, and more — can be just as devastating. His lab aims to decrease the impact and likelihood of those secondary ailments.

Even for someone with total paralysis, just increasing the size of the muscles has health

benefits. For example, it improves the ability to store glucose and therefore reduces the risk of diabetes. It also provides better cushioning for the buttocks while sitting and helps to prevent pressure sores from developing.

About 20 people with spinal cord injuries currently use Ditor's lab at Brock. By next year, he hopes to move into a larger lab and at least double the amount of people using it. Anyone in the community with a spinal cord injury is welcome to use the exercise lab free of charge. About \$50,000 for the new lab has come from the Rick Hansen relay.

Ditor's lab is staffed by three graduate students — Hisham Sharif, David Allison (BKin '09) and Jackie Cramp (BKin '09) — and a number of undergraduate students. The students are inspired by the people who use the lab, he said.

"When people start out coming to the lab, they're very unsure about their abilities," he says. "They may be socially isolated. They aren't sure what they can do. We get to be hands on in helping them get through that stage."

Ditor's team works on the knowledge that even incremental improvement to someone's physical condition can change that person's life, he said.

"Take, for example, the ability to roll over in bed," he says. "If you don't have the strength to do that, you have to rely on someone to move you every three or four hours. Just being able to do that is a drastic improvement."

**Working with functional electrical stimulation in David Ditor's Welch Hall lab are, from left, graduate student Hisham Sharif, Pat Kowal of Burlington and Ditor.**



# Brock posts a big jump in research funding



Work continues on the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex.

New Canadian R&D data shows that Brock University's research income jumped by more than 21 per cent last year, the highest growth rate in research funding among all Ontario universities in 2010, and among the top five growth rates in the country.

In its annual report on Canada's top research universities, Research Infosource Inc. found that Brock researchers received \$15.65 million from all sources in 2010, compared to \$12.9 million a year earlier.

In terms of total research funding, Brock placed in the top three of all Canadian universities that do not have medical schools or engineering programs — capital-intensive areas that receive high levels of research funding from government and private sources.

Gary Libben, Vice-President Research at Brock, says the numbers reflect the fact that Brock is emerging on the national map as a centre of research opportunity and innovation.

"Research at Brock is a team effort," says Libben. "We are in partnership with our surrounding community, and we engage both graduate and undergraduate students."

He notes the new data comes as Brock is still a few months away from opening the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex, a \$112-million facility that will transform the University's research infrastructure.

"We know the Cairns Complex will revolutionize the role and scope of research at Brock, benefiting faculty, students and the surrounding Niagara community. But these new data suggest that Brock's researchers are already punching above their weight.

"It is good to be entering this year with this strong momentum."

## Gap year concept comes to Brock

Gap years are common in England and Australia, but it's not common for Canadian students to get a semester between high school and university to explore the world.

Until now.

Brock has launched the Global Transitions program, a mini gap-year program that sees students fresh out of high school spend a semester in Ghana. For 12 weeks last semester, six students did volunteered work in schools and hospitals to learn more about the world — and themselves. They got academic credit for the 12-week program.

The program was developed by Kim Meade, Brock's Associate Vice-President Student Services, along with International Services and Programs Abroad and the Centre for Intercultural Studies. Meade was travelling in Australia when she noticed that Australian students benefited from having an international learning experience between high school and university, and thought Brock students might too.

"We wanted an international opportunity to broaden their perspective and give them a significant experience outside the classroom," Meade says.

Two students developed programs and activities for children at a hospital in Ghana. Four worked in a school. Five were directly out of high school.

"Everyone who participated in it has said the experience is life changing," says Christina Bosilo (BA '03), manager of international learning programs with International Services and Programs Abroad. "Even if this is their only international experience for the rest of their lives, they will have gained a high level of intercultural competency skills. These are things you cannot learn from a textbook."



# What a ball: Soirée success raises thousands for scholarships

About 300 guests came for dinner in their formal evening attire — some in period dress — and for a fourth consecutive autumn the General Brock October Soirée was a festive success that celebrated the University's heritage and raised thousands of dollars for student support.

The colourful gala commemorates the University's namesake, Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock, who commanded British troops in the War of 1812.

The soirée is a modern celebration interwoven with themes from this historic period in Canadian history. The 2011 event was held Oct. 15 in the spacious and cleverly decorated expanse of Market Hall on the main campus.

The evening was themed with period music and dance by students from the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts dressed in 19<sup>th</sup>-century costume. The tone of the historic party was clinched by a re-enacted parade of foot soldiers and the fife and drum corps from the 41<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Foot. There was even an appearance — and some warmly welcoming remarks — from the famous general himself.

Seated at their tables, guests were treated to a multi-course gourmet feast planned and prepared under the direction of Canadian celebrity chef Michael

Smith, the evening's special guest who is also an official ambassador for Sodexo, the University's food services provider.

In its first four years, the soirée has raised more than a quarter of a million dollars to support student initiatives and strategic priorities at Brock. This year's event netted more than \$55,000 through ticket sales and the generous support of sponsors. Because it qualified for Ontario government matching funds, it had the effect of generating \$110,000 to support student scholarships, including for students of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

The University would like to emphasize its gratitude to the sponsors whose support helped make the event such a success:

- Lincoln Fabrics (lead sponsor)
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# Going south

## Four Brock grads make a life in the USA

By Kristen Manieri (BA '98)

approached her about relocating, she was all in. "I always admired people who travelled and lived abroad," Vance says. "I was ready to shake up my life."

Vance moved from Mississauga to a suburban area of Silicon Valley in 2007. Her company handled her immigration paperwork and fast-tracked her through the Green Card process. "I had no fear about moving. As soon as I arrived here I loved it."

These days, Vance works for Intel as a channel program marketing manager. She lives in San Francisco with her husband and son. "I'm excited and happy to be here in the U.S.," says the Business Administration and Political Science grad. "I'm still trying to understand the health-care system with all its co-pays, deductibles, PPOs and HMOs." And even though her company's health-care plan covers her fully, she still gasped when she saw the \$48,000 hospital bill after her son was born. "It scares me to think that if I was to ever be unemployed, I would be without insurance."

That said, it looks like Vance is a lifer. "I love the weather, the vibe, the culture, my 1921 apartment building, the history. My husband owns a restaurant on Union Street, close to the Golden Gate Bridge, and so I'm walking around and drinking in this city every weekend. San Francisco doesn't feel like a U.S. place to me. It feels like home."

### Desmond James

Only once every three years does an opportunity come about for a Canadian Forces public affairs officer to work at North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). So when the serendipitous moment presented itself to Lt. Desmond James (BA '98) in 2008, he leaped at the chance to move to Colorado Springs with his family.

"The Canadian Forces have been working with the U.S. military for years," says James, who served in Afghanistan prior to NORAD. "This was an opportunity to work with Americans every day, working together to defend each other. That appealed to me."

As a lieutenant-commander and public affairs officer, James handles NORAD's media relations, including all the media for the Track Santa program. He's on a NATO Class 2 visa, which means he lives in the U.S. but is still a Canadian, wears his Canadian uniform and is bound to Canadian law.

**Desmond James (BA '98) delivers greeting cards in Kandahar, Afghanistan made by Canadian students in 2007.**

It's only 18 km from Brock University to the U.S. border. But while the physical distance between Canada and the U.S. may be minimal, the differences in these two countries are vast. Maybe that's why our neighbours to the south have always conjured up a sense of allure, curiosity and sometimes, superiority, causing some Canadians to wonder if life just might be greener on the other side.

On their journey to find out for themselves, some Canucks, like these four Brock grads, have taken the leap.

### Sofie Vance

When Sofie Vance's (BA '93) Canadian tech employer was bought out by its U.S. counterpart in 2006, she was already itching to make a change. So when her boss



**"When I talk to people who have come from another county, it occurs to me that I'm an immigrant too. But I don't feel like one," says Sofie Vance (BA '93), in San Francisco with her husband Kai and her son Kyle.**



“When I first came down here, I loved everything about the U.S. The cheaper goods, endless variety, faster speed limits,” James says. “But after three years, I’m not as enamored.” While Canadian taxes are high, he says, he sees the benefits that go with them. “I don’t see a lot of streetlights on at night or snow-covered roads being cleared quickly here. I notice things like this.”

He’s dismayed by some attitudes toward the U.S. health-care system. “As a Canadian, it’s hard for me to understand why there are people who don’t think they should be paying more taxes so that everyone has health care. When I hear stories of the bills people receive after being in a hospital in an emergency situation, and they are already struggling to get by, I just feel completely at a loss for words.”

His NORAD post ends in a few months. He says he looks forward to moving back to Canada. “I’ve had enough experience to appreciate the differences and to really relish what we have in Canada.”

## Justin Monaghan

Moving to the U.S. wasn’t an easy decision for Justin Monaghan (BBA ’98) and his wife Andrea. But after nearly a decade of working for General Motors, the Niagara Falls native knew career advancement meant moving to the company’s U.S. headquarters in Detroit. But like a lot of people asked him at the time, who would want to live in Detroit?

As it turns out, the Monaghans do. “This area has certainly fallen on hard times,” says Monaghan, who welcomed a baby boy last year. “But when people come to visit they are always surprised at how nice it actually is here.” The family lives in Troy, about 30 minutes from Detroit.

Monaghan has been struck by how friendly his new neighbours are. “When my son was born, 14 of my neighbors brought gifts. I was shocked.” Another positive: the football. “I was always a football fan back in Canada, but now I’m into college football,” says Monaghan, who loves taking Canadian friends to games at University of Michigan stadium.

He has no immediate plans to move back to Canada. He misses things like coloured money and President’s Choice products, but appreciates the lower cost of living and quicker access to health care. And he’s really not all that far from home after all. “I can see Windsor, Ont. from my office window.”

## Beth McCauley

Beth McCauley (BA ’03) was well acquainted with Denver, Colo. when she moved there after graduating from Brock. Having spent her senior year of high school there after her father took a job transfer, the business communications major had already fallen for the area’s sprawling mountain vistas and progressive vibe. “I had the opportunity to work in either Canada or the U.S. I chose Denver because thought there would be a lot of opportunity for me there.’

So far, it’s been a good bet. Beth has moved up the ranks in her career in human resources, most recently as an HR manager at a real estate investment firm. “Denver is a great city tucked in the middle of the country,” she said.

The move has required adjustments. “When I first moved down here, there was a bit of culture shock. Denver is not a very multicultural city, especially in the suburbs,” says McCauley, who was raised in Brampton, Ont. “The lack of diversity was difficult to acclimate to.”

While she has laid down roots in Denver, she can see herself living in Canada again some day. “It will always be home for me. I feel a strong sense of ease when I step back onto Canadian soil. I miss the general sense of politeness and commonality.”

*Kristen Manieri is a freelance writer living in Orlando, Fla.*



**Justin Monaghan (BBA '98) lives in Michigan with his wife and his son Adam.**

**Beth McCauley (BA '03) says she misses Smarties and Tim Hortons coffee since moving to the U.S.**





"I'm Bored"

Ed Spera (BA '93) and his wife Lisa sat breathless on a snowy mountain in India, eyes trained on the mountainside, waiting to see the elusive snow leopard.

The animal is endangered. Only a few thousand remain in the

world. Prior to Spera's arrival, a National Geographic crew had hung around two months waiting for a glimpse of one.

Spera had been there one day.

Suddenly, a herd of mountain goats scattered. Spera's tracker shouted, "Leopard! Leopard!" Spera could barely breathe as he trained his scope on the leopard, overcome by the weight of the moment.

"It was surreal," Spera recalls. "It was like I was watching some sort of TV program." He regained his composure and took photos that would later be used to craft "Top of the World," a painting of the majestic animal atop a rock formation it bounded from in a few effortless strides.

This is an average workday for Spera, a Niagara-on-the-Lake artist who travels the world capturing wildlife images. He then uses those images as references

for paintings that are in demand by collectors and casual art fans alike.

He has trekked through Asia capturing images of Bengal tigers. He has been nearly trampled to death by an African buffalo. He has been chased up a tree by a rhinoceros. But for Spera, who has two galleries in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it's all in a day's work.

The St. Catharines native's artistic career started when he attended Brock to study psychology and

philosophy. He also played on the men's basketball team. Coach Ken Murray (BPhEd '76) was among the first to notice his talent, peeking over his shoulder as Spera drew caricatures of his teammates as they traveled on road trips.

Word of the student's self-taught artistry spread, and he was commissioned to do one mural after another at Brock. He painted large murals in Isaac's and the Walker Complex. He did a mural in the men's basketball change rooms "that is still there as far as I know." He also did a mural at O'Toole's, where he worked as a doorman, when his future wife Lisa Elliott approached her boss and said, "Look what Ed is doing."

She had seen him doodle on a napkin.

Spera and his wife were married in university. After graduation, she became a full-time bridal consultant, which allowed Spera to focus on his artwork. His career has become so successful that she now works with him, travelling breathtaking mountain ranges, rolling plains and darkened jungles to capture the essence of his subjects. In addition to the Edward Spera and Pandaya Galleries in Niagara-on-the-Lake, he published a book in December, *Edward Spera: An Artist's Journey*.

The Speras have an endless collection of stories from their travels, including a few brushes with death. The average rhino, for example, weighs more than

a thousand pounds, and Spera got dangerously close to one in Nepal.

They were inching carefully around a clearing near the animal when the ranger accompanying them said simply, "Up a tree." The ranger went first — "I guess customer service was not a priority," Spera says — and the artist made sure his wife went second. The rhino charged for Spera and skidded at the last minute. If it hadn't, rhino and artist would have collided "and that would have been the end."

Another experience was in the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania. Spera crawled out of his tent to see two large African buffalo, which to put it into context, "is the only animal other than a lion that can kill a lion," he says. Spera had just reached back into his tent to grab his camera when one of the buffalo raised its

**Into  
the  
wild**

Artist Ed Spera travels  
the world painting its  
threatened species

By Samantha Craggs

"Top of the World" – portrait of a Snow Leopard



head and ran straight for him.

Spera fell back and one of the animal's front hooves landed inches from his chest before it ran into the grass. He learned later that a camper the week before had died in a similar situation.

The scariest experience was diving with great white sharks off the coast of Africa, when the sharks "nipped at the cage and tossed us like a toy.

"We thought the wires connecting us to the boat were going to break," Spera says. "We couldn't talk, but we looked each other in the eyes and that said it all. We really thought that was it."

Dangers aside, Spera can't imagine another line of work. He considers it a privilege to capture and relay images of wildlife. There is also a message – "Extinction is Forever" shows an alert tigress heading into increasingly disappearing habitat. "Gentle Touch" shows a quiet moment between an elephant mother and her young.

"I have deep respect for the creatures of the world," he says. "Their intelligence is phenomenal."

His work has even ended up on another wall at Brock. David Howes, former chair of the Board of Trustees and long-time Brock supporter, donated Spera's "If a Tree Falls in the Forest" for the newly renovated David S. Howes Theatre on campus. The renovations also include new windows, LCD-TV monitors, display cases, a major lobby overhaul and a new ceiling.

The painting, which is acrylic on masonite, depicts a grey wolf Spera saw on an abandoned logging road in British Columbia. It features timber felled by human hands to illustrate the relationship between humans and wildlife, and shoots of new growth that represent education and the growth of Brock.

Spera may be an artist and not a psychologist, but if it wasn't for the encouragement and experiences he had at Brock, he wouldn't have the life he does now, he says. Brock is where he found some of his earliest supporters, and exposed his art to the world.

"Brock allowed me to explore my potential and different interests," he says. "It opened my eyes to a world of opportunity."



Edward Spera (BA '93), left, joined David Howes, centre, and President Jack Lightstone at the unveiling of his piece "If a Tree Falls in the Forest" in the David S. Howes Theatre.

# From the ground up

Steven Bolduc is one of many Aboriginal business owners flourishing across Canada

By Joan Wiley

Steven Bolduc is a successful Aboriginal entrepreneur who paid close attention to his mother's words of advice.

Bolduc (BBA '03) owns and operates Aboriginal Printing Corporation, the largest certified Aboriginal printer in Canada. With two sites in downtown Toronto and a third slated for Ottawa, he embodies the 2006 national census that indicated more than 37,000 Aboriginal people were self-employed, up from 27,000 in 2001. The growth is five times that of self-employed Canadians overall.

He was taught by his mother, a residential school survivor, "to work hard, to respect others, plan well, and pursue my ambitions," he says.

Bolduc learned the maternal lessons well. In 2010, he won the Toronto Aboriginal Business Man of the Year Award and Aboriginal Business of the Year Award from the Canadian Aboriginal Minority Supplier Council of Canada. His business has been featured in magazines and newspapers and on television.

After years of planning and research, he chose Print Three Franchising Corporation to launch his business. He felt it was committed to his initiative and also had the resources, expertise, and national network of more than 50 locations.

"Their commitment has allowed APC to provide our clients with national distribution, cutting-edge technology and a service level that exceeds all other print suppliers in the industry," says Bolduc.

He knew that the best opportunity for him to succeed would be to locate his business off the reserve where he grew up — Fort William First Nation near Thunder Bay — with a central location and national distribution potential.

Bolduc's business is debt-free and flourishing despite the economic downslide that has defeated large and small businesses alike. He's spent almost \$1 million on new technology and upgrades, which has allowed him to work from home periodically and correspond with clients in remote locations.

Aboriginal Printing's environmental-friendly printing options include sheetfed and webpress printing, full in-house bindery, customized screening and colour matching, wide-format colour printing, mail preparation and inkjetting.

Its business services include warehousing, kitting, mailing, and fulfilment, creative advertising, booklet making, mounting and laminating.





His clientele is diverse. Aboriginal Printing has worked with, among others, Fortune 500 businesses (such as Telus and Rogers), government agencies (municipal, provincial and federal, including being the largest print provider for the G8 and G20 summits), educational institutions (York University, George Brown College) and small enterprise, according to its website.

His clients seek out Aboriginal Printing, he says, for one-on-one service and national coverage, and because they want to support an Aboriginal-owned company.

Bolduc, a married father of two young children, challenges preconceived notions about his community by virtue of his own business success.

“Aboriginals have and continue to make very positive contributions to our society,” says Bolduc. “Some people may cling to stereotypes and we, and our entire community, are here to show them they are not true.”

Bolduc attributes his business acumen in part to the education he received at Brock University.

He already had one degree when he came to Brock, which he chose in part because he’d heard great things about the business program.

“The courses were inspiring and gave me the basics to prepare myself for the job ahead,” he says. “From the time I was a boy, I knew I wanted to be an entrepreneur, and Brock gave me the tools to succeed.”

Associate professor Brian Metcalfe, Department of Marketing, International Business and Strategy, says “it’s wonderful to see that Steven has successfully carried forward his enthusiasm for and interest in entrepreneurship into the real world.”

Bolduc was attracted to the “romance” of owning his own business. “I’m the captain of my own ship,” he says. “I have freedom, but it’s also a lot of hard work. I think about the business 24 hours a day, thinking about how I can empower my clients and maintain a profit line. At the same time, it’s important for me to find balance in my personal life with my wife and children.”

He’s become prouder of his heritage and culture, especially with the birth of his children. Including the word “Aboriginal” in the name of the company was very deliberate, knowing he could both gain and lose business.

“Very often I see Aboriginal Printing as an agent of change and education,” he says.

Giving back to his community is a high priority for Bolduc. To members of Aboriginal organizations, he provides mentorship and apprenticeships, free consultation, marketing advice, and discount pricing. At the same time, he maintains a balance by recognizing the diverse nature of his other clients.

To learn more about Aboriginal Printing Corporation, visit [aboriginalprinting.com](http://aboriginalprinting.com)

“Very often I see Aboriginal Printing as an agent of change and education,” says Steven Bolduc (BBA ’03).



# Personifying balance

Kyle Dubas used classroom and volunteer work to become the OHL's youngest general manager

By John Matisz (BA '10)

In the "real world," good grades alone do not necessarily guarantee job interviews. Employers also look for people who take initiative outside the classroom. Kyle Dubas (BSM '07) is a prime example of an individual who foresaw that notion, and ran with it.

His university career was hectic, filled with school duties, work obligations, volunteering and a social life. It has all paid off, however, as each breakthrough in his pre- and post-Brock career has served as the next stepping stone towards an ultimate goal.

"My dream then is still the same as it was before Brock," Dubas says. "It's to be a National Hockey

League (NHL) general manager."

At just 25 years old, the Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., native is the general manager of his hometown's Ontario Hockey League franchise, the Greyhounds. He is one of the youngest executives in the league's history and has drawn comparisons to Major League Baseball's Theo Epstein.

Dubas became the youngest agent ever certified by the National Hockey League Players' Association (NHLPA) when he joined Uptown Sports Management following graduation. The opportunity came about in large part due to his time spent as an amateur scout for the Greyhounds during his university years.



Instead of sitting back while completing his degree, Dubas began to mould his path towards his goal.

"Kyle was someone who very obviously had the sport management background, and while he was at Brock he kept getting more and more experience," says Craig Hyatt, assistant professor in Brock's Department of Sport Management. "This was someone who was constantly out there, making contacts, building a network."

Dubas' journey to be an NHL general manager did not start at Brock, as he has been involved with the Greyhounds organization since the 1998-99 season. He started from the bottom of the hockey operations food chain, taking care of equipment as a stick boy.

This initial hands-on experience was balanced by an invaluable mentor, his grandfather Walter, who was Sault Ste. Marie's head coach from 1960-67.

"Looking back, hanging out with him all the time was a big course on how to handle everything. It was like gospel to me, and still is," Dubas says of Walter's profound influence.

But with his grandfather hours away from St. Catharines, Dubas took it upon himself to be engaged in the sport management community outside of the classroom. His go-getter attitude complemented excellent study habits and time management skills, Hyatt says.

"He was a very, very well-rounded student. He seemed to have a good balance of all aspects of his life."

Since being hired as the Greyhounds' general manager in April 2011, Dubas has used specific lessons from a number of his Sport Management courses, such as event management and sport law.

Brock Sport Management graduates make up 60 per cent of the Greyhounds' full-time business operations staff.

His sister Megan (BSM '09) is the team's director of game day operations and community relations. Another Brock alumnus, Nick Still (BSM '06), is the director of sales and marketing.

The high volume of Brock grads, Dubas says, is a testament to the high quality of the program and a willingness on each employee's part to separate themselves from the pack.

"I think people who go into the Sport Management program think they're going to get their degree and there's going to be jobs waiting at the end. Even before you get into SPMA, you need to have your foot in the door, networking and doing whatever you can."



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Troy Mellen is the latest in a long line of family members to go to Brock. Photo: Bob Tymczyszyn

It takes St. Catharines resident Linda Holder Schappert (BA '75; BEd '76) a couple of minutes to give a complete list of all of her family members who have attended Brock.

There's her dad, Heinz Holder (BA '69), among the first alumni who completed his courses on a part-time basis. There's her husband, Kent Schappert (BA '78), and her son, Erik Reed (BSM '10), and her brother, Glenn Holder (BA '81), and four more, right down to her nephew, Troy Mellen, a current student in Physical Education who is on track to graduate in 2015.

In total, Schappert is related to nine people who do or have attended Brock. It's been pivotal in shaping the careers of her family, many of whom are teachers.

"We've always been very proud of our degrees."

Heinz Holder started it all. As a German immigrant who came to Canada in 1951, he dreamed of teaching school. After working in construction and business, he went to teacher's college in Hamilton and began part-time studies at Brock at age 37, earning a BA in Geography. It was a tough schedule for a father, husband and full-time worker.

"He was never home at night during that time," Schappert recalls. "He was always taking courses."

Schappert entered Brock through the Grade 12

program. At that time, everyone was required to do a full year of Grade 13, but Brock allowed students to enter through a unique six-week program of university-level courses.

Schappert was young when she started, finishing when she was 20. Like many members of her family, she also became a teacher.

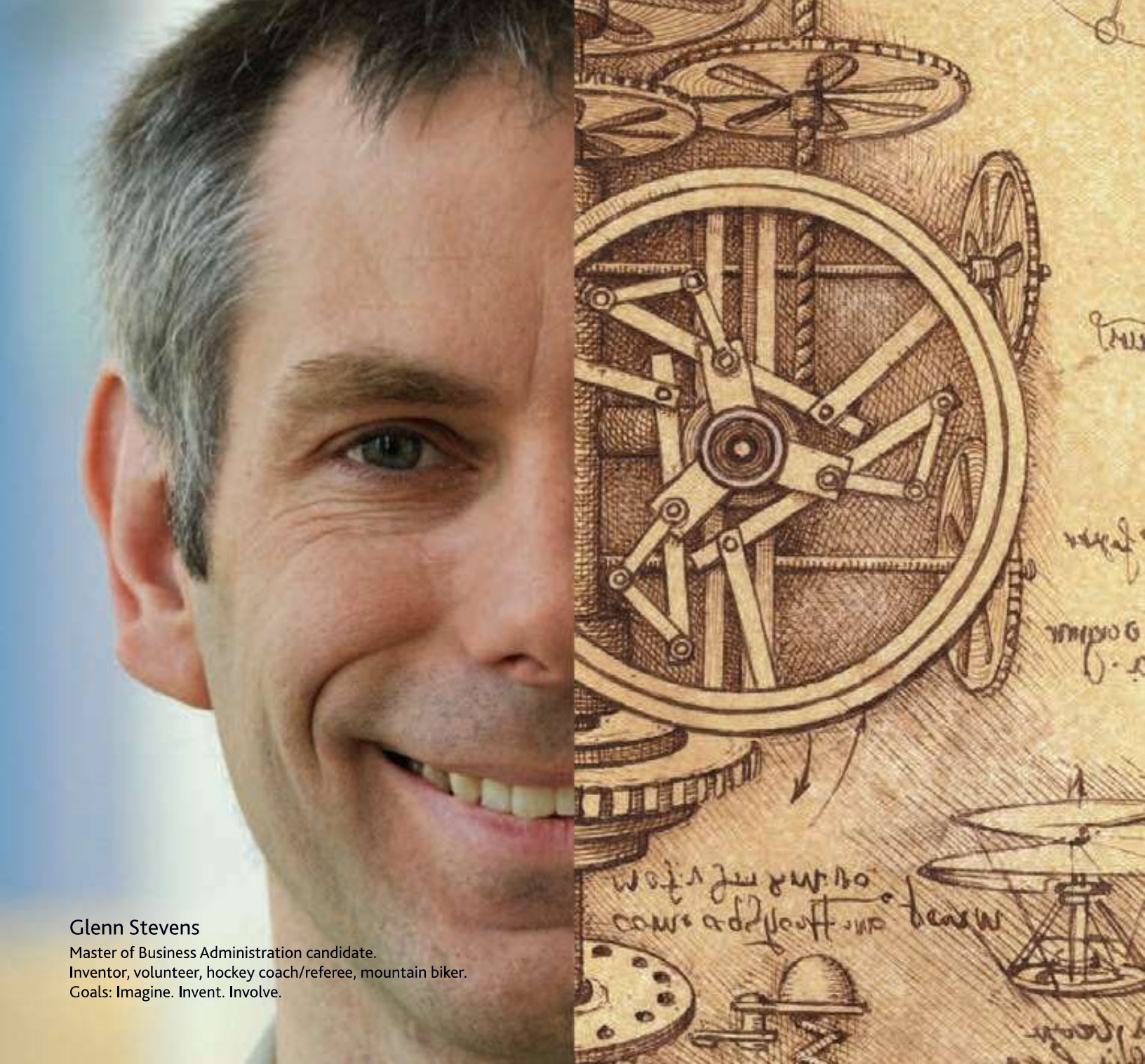
Schappert's first husband, the late Ron Reed (BA '75; BEd '76), also attended Brock and later became a local vice-principal. Her cousin, Norman Kraft (BA '90), studied urban studies at Brock and now manages Niagara Recycling. Cousin Nancy Wiens Vickers (BPhEd '92) is a teacher in Orillia.

Mellen, 18, is aware of his long Brock lineage. By attending Brock, he is close to home and saves money on rent. University is "different from high school," he says, but the athlete who plays intramural football, basketball, hockey and volleyball says he likes it just fine.

His ultimate goal? To be a primary teacher.

Schappert was one of the 20 submissions, totalling 99 family members, in the recent Brock Family Contest. The contest is designed to celebrate siblings, spouses, grandparents and other family members with a special bond with Brock. The winner will be announced shortly.

## Family ties run deep at Brock



Glenn Stevens

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# The last word

Dave Cotterell (BA '75; BEd '76) was one of the early staff and supporters of CFBU, Brock's campus radio station. Involved from 1970 to 1976, Cotterell went on to teach high school music, math and geography, mostly in Toronto. He recalls the radio station's meagre beginnings broadcasting from a small storeroom.



Dave Cotterell, shown in 1971, was a familiar voice on Brock's campus radio.

The thriving, on-the-air, community radio station that is now called CFBU and Brock Radio had very humble beginnings in the school year 1969-1970 under the reverse name, Radio Brock.

Radio Brock's first incarnation began in a small storeroom at the foot of the stairs midway along the north face of the Thistle Complex. A couple of Dual turntables, a microphone and a primitive Radio Shack mixer were connected

by wire to an amplifier in a closet in the Schmon Tower cafeteria. The music came through speakers in the ceiling.

The following year I arrived at Brock and was immediately fascinated enough by what I heard to join the station. The studios had moved to two small closets in DeCew residence and now 'broadcast' to both the tower and residence cafeterias. My show, like all of the other DJs, was two or three hours long depending on my class schedule and was entirely self-programmed. The tastes of the various hosts varied from pure country through light and heavy rock to classical and jazz.

By 1973, we had moved again to larger studios in DeCew and were pursuing an FM broadcast licence. Business interests in St. Catharines blocked our repeated attempts to get on the air with a five-watt FM transmitter. We had to settle for a "carrier current" transmitter on 640 AM in DeCew along with the closed circuit cafeteria services.

Radio Brock had grown to a staff of over 30 students by this time with an executive consisting of manager, news director, program director, advertising director and technical director, as well as the DJ staff. We received a budget from the Brock University

Students' Union that reached into five figures by the time of my graduation.

In 1975, Radio Brock was forced to move again. The music library had grown dramatically and there was a need for two studios, one for "on-air" and one for production. We were given Scollay House, a two-storey, four-bedroom house (since torn down) at the extreme northeast edge of the DeCew campus. It is difficult to put a finger on the benefits I gained from my six years on Radio Brock. Public speaking and microphone technique (I still never "pop my P's") certainly didn't hurt my teaching career. Mostly I remember the people — Dave "The Duck" Clark (BA '73; BEd '77), Grant MacDonald, Marty Heit (BA '74), Kathy "Chicago" Wasong, Brian Resch (BA '74), Jim Crichton (BA '79), Bruce Williams and so many more. A hearty "where are you now?" to those folks.

After I left Brock in 1976, Radio Brock carried on into the 1980s. At some point the entity became Brock Radio and went on the air at 103.7 FM. It will be for another historian to document those years.

Dave Cotterell (BA '75; BEd '76) dons a Brock shirt to perform with his band The Benchwarmers, which plays 1960s rock.



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