

Surgite

Vol. 5, No. 2, September 2013

John Zoccoli is Mr. Brock

Travel back in time with
the class of '88

Catching up with
Chancellor Ned Goodman

In vino veritas: Brock
graduate finds her way in
Niagara's wine country

Bright lights, big dreams
for Toronto Blue Jays
assistant GM

John Zoccoli
(BAdmin '86)

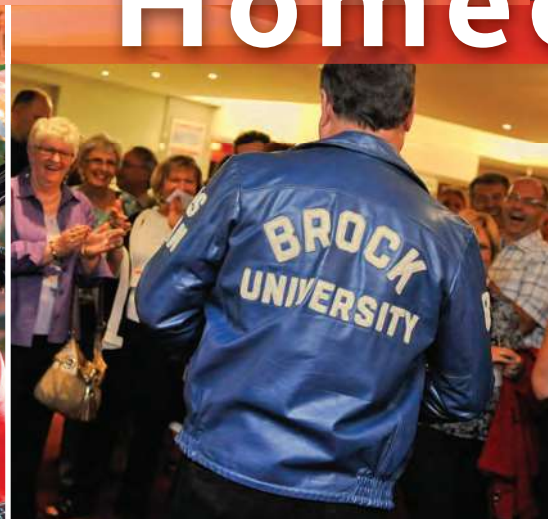
It's time. Time to remember, laugh and celebrate. Homecoming is great food and fine wine, athletics and music, stomping and romping.

Homecoming

2013

Homecoming is about honouring our past and celebrating our future with Brock students, graduates, faculty and staff. We welcome you home **Sept. 19-22, 2013.**

brocku.ca/homecoming



Thursday, Sept. 19



Tribute! To Barry Wright
Pond Inlet
6 to 9 p.m.



Homecoming Kick-off Party at Isaac's
9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Friday, Sept. 20

BUAA Golf Tournament
\$125, Beechwood Golf and Country Club
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Grape Stomp and Homecoming BBQ
Jubilee Court
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Alumni Pub Night
\$5 per person, Mansion House
8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Distinguished Alumni Luncheon
\$20 per person, Pond Inlet
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Brock Cares Day of Service
12 noon to 4 p.m.

Inniskillin Hall tour and tasting
1 to 2 p.m.

Special Collections tour
2 to 3 p.m.

Campus tour
3 to 4 p.m.

Cameo Club (class of 1988 or earlier), Cairns Complex, Scotiabank Atrium
4 to 5:30 p.m.

Reception
Pond Inlet mezzanine
5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fine Food, Fine Wine
Pond Inlet, \$75 per person, \$50 for Cameo Club members
6:30 to 9 p.m.



Alumni BBQ and Homecoming activities
Outdoor field

- Rugby (M) vs Western 1 p.m.
- Rugby (W) vs Waterloo 3 p.m.
- Soccer (M) and (W) 1 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Educate your senses: Wine seminars in the park
Montebello Park – Culinary Theatre
2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.



Homecoming Concert
Weather Station Field
6 to 9 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 22

Winery tour: Bringing the city to the vineyard
Shuttle service from Toronto, Burlington and Niagara.
\$50 per person, Twenty Valley
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Educate your senses: Wine seminars in the park, Montebello Park – Culinary Theatre
2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.

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Surgite 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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Surgite is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Brock University by Brock Alumni Relations.

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As Brock approaches a monumental anniversary next year — its 50th — I will also be celebrating my own Brock anniversary of sorts: 2014 will mark 20 years since I stepped onto campus as an undergraduate student.



Brad Clarke (BA '00)

The changes I have seen in my time at Brock have been astounding. As enrolment has grown from approximately 11,000 to more than 18,500 students, new programs and services have been instituted and expanded, and buildings have seemingly popped up all around us. The last 20 years at Brock have been, in my opinion, the best and most exciting.

I invite you to come "back to school" as we celebrate this year's Homecoming from Sept. 19 to 22. The event has a new format this year, combining several homecoming-style activities into one amazing long weekend. It will feature events for alumni, students and the Niagara community alike. There's also a concert and an increased focus on Badger athletics with several teams competing that weekend, bringing everyone together on campus.

There will be exciting new events and we'll continue the traditions of Brock Days celebrations from years past, including the Cameo Club ceremony, Fine Food, Fine Wine, and Alumni Pub Night. Visit brocku.ca/homecoming for a listing of all events.

From an inaugural graduating class of 34 students in 1967 to a current alumni count of more than 80,000, Brock has grown in leaps and bounds over the past 49 years. We hope you will join us to celebrate Brock in 2013 and that you will stay connected as we "push on" and prepare for our 50th anniversary celebrations in 2014.

Looking forward to seeing you in September!

Brad Clarke
Director, Student Life and Community Experience

Celebrating THE CLASS OF 1988

By Nancy Di Pasquale

Despite having a short 49-year history, Brock University has an indelible sense of pride and tradition.

Homecoming, formerly known as Brock Days, celebrates that pride and tradition by bringing together students, alumni, faculty and friends from Sept. 19 to 22.

Athletic events, campus tours, Fine Food, Fine Wine, and Pub Night are just some of the ways alumni can re-connect with Brock. The Cameo Club, an exclusive reception for Brock alumni who graduated 25 years ago or more, is another highlight of Homecoming. This year, the Class of 1988 celebrates its 25th anniversary and these graduates will be inducted into the Cameo Club and receive a pin cast with the silhouette of Maj. -Gen. Sir Isaac Brock.

Surgite connected with alumni and a former students' union president from that year to share their insights and memories of Badger life.



Paul Vedova (BBA '92)

President, Brock University Students' Union (BUSU), 1988
Relationship Manager, Insurance and Financial Services, Commerzbank

Q. Why did you run for the presidency?

A. The school felt as if it was bursting at the seams. Students were packed in the

corridors around the tower doing homework or meeting other students. At midday, there was never a chair in the cafeteria or table in the library that was empty. Past student presidents and councils had proposed building a student centre to relieve the congestion. I simply thought that if I accomplished that, it would be a worthwhile effort.

Q. What are your proudest achievements as president of BUSU?

A. I had many opportunities to work with students, professors, the school senate and leaders in the community,

Paul Vedova, BUSU
President in 1988

who were actively engaged with the University. I am most proud of the students that worked with me in the campaigns and committees to start the University Student Centre and, ultimately, how their efforts finished the project.

Q. Favourite memory of Brock?

A. I met my wife there. Enough said.

Q. How has your degree from Brock contributed to your success?

A. With a degree from Brock you can go anywhere. The opportunity to work closely with professors and other students made my education a better preparation for a professional career since working with others is essential to achieving success.

Q. What advice would you give university students today?

A. Try as many new things as you can. Join groups. Meet other students and try to learn as much as you can from professors and staff. It will be these things that you will remember.



Douglas Rye (BAdmin '88)

Executive Vice-President, Hamilton Tiger-Cats

Q. Why did you decide to attend Brock?

A. I wanted to be a Chartered Accountant. I looked at the various university options and determined that the co-op accounting program at Brock would be the best choice. When I attended Brock, the co-op program allowed you to get your four-year degree and two years of practical experience in five years.

Continued on page 19

Brock in 1988



Feb. 4, 1988

Brock students cast their votes in favour of the construction of a new student centre. More than 80 per cent of students who voted agreed that a \$10-per-course levy to fund the student centre would enhance the student experience. The Brock University Alumni Association contributed \$200,000 to the centre, which now bears its name.

April 15, 1988

Students were introduced to Brock's first-ever touchtone course registration system, BIRT (Brock Information and Registration by Telephone). The phone system handled 14 telephone lines simultaneously, enabling students to register for classes over the phone.



A Message from BIRT* about Touchtone Registration



July 1, 1988

Terrence H. White is appointed to succeed Alan Earp as President of Brock University. White came from the University of Alberta where he was Dean of the Faculty of Arts.

Film strip photos:
University Photograph Collection,
Brock University Archives

John Zoccoli was named
Brock Distinguished
Alumnus for 2013.
He will receive his
Distinguished Alumni
Award at Homecoming
in September

By Tiffany Mayer

Walking on campus with John Zoccoli (BAdmin '86) is a bit like being in the presence of a celebrity.

It's tough to go a few steps without someone waving hello or stopping to chat. Within moments, a crowd forms around him. There are smiles and laughs exchanged. The pleasure is as much Zoccoli's as it is those who have made a point to connect with him.

He seems to know everyone's name and has a story to tell about his connection to each person, either from his time as Brock's director of finance before joining his family's coffee shop empire, or from his perennial involvement with the University since graduating with his honours bachelor of administration degree in 1986.

Zoccoli loves Brock and this fall the University will show the feeling is mutual when it presents him with the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award at Homecoming in front of a crowd of alumni, family and friends.

The award, the most prestigious presented by the Alumni Association, is given annually to a graduate for their professional achievements, community service and prominence, and who is seen as an inspiration to Brock students.

"(I'm) so thankful. I'm humbled, I'm honoured," Zoccoli said about receiving the award. "I'm trying to find the right words. To have a longstanding relationship with the University, and now this, is so humbling. There are times I wonder if I deserve it."

A rundown of Zoccoli's involvement with Brock since graduating — particularly since joining the family business of operating nine Niagara Tim Hortons outlets — reads like a love letter to the University.

He has been a guest speaker in classes at the Goodman School of Business, given a convocation address to Faculty of Business graduates and served as honorary president for the Business Students' Association, which hosts academic competitions and conferences.

Zoccoli also co-chaired his co-op accounting class's 25th anniversary reunion committee and helped establish an



Meet Mr. Brock

Distinguished
Alumni Luncheon

Homecoming

Sept. 21, 11:30 a.m.
to 1:30 p.m.,
Tickets \$20 and
available online at
brocku.ca/homecoming

2013

endowment fund for future students. He sits on the Dean's Advisory Council, has been inducted as chapter honouree of Brock's Beta Gamma Sigma International Honours Society and regularly supports many of the charity golf tournaments the University hosts.

In 2008, he was named Brock University Faculty of Business Distinguished Graduate.

He has also been involved with several community organizations, including the Niagara Foundation for Family and Children's Services, the United Way, Niagara District Chartered Accountants Association and St. Catharines Jaycees.

"Whenever the University needs support, John is the first one to offer his help," said Don Cyr, Goodman School of Business Dean. "He has financially supported numerous Brock initiatives... but his support doesn't end with monetary gifts, which over the years have been substantial. John has been a valuable member of the Dean's Advisory Council (and he's) always the first to sign up for a committee or offer support where needed."

Ask Zoccoli, though, and he's the one who feels indebted to Brock.

A self-professed "homeboy," born and raised in Niagara, Zoccoli said there was no place he would have rather gone to



“I’m trying to find the right words. To have a longstanding relationship with the University, and now this, is so humbling. There are times I wonder if I deserve it.”

university than Brock when he finished high school with aspirations of becoming an accountant.

As a student in one of the first classes of Brock’s accounting co-op program, Zoccoli recalled the program quickly garnered a reputation that other institutes work decades to achieve. He connected with faculty immediately and knew shortly after he started attending the University that he made the right decision.

“I have nothing but wonderful things to say about it and how well it prepared me for my Chartered Accountant exams,” he said. (Zoccoli went on to score the highest mark in Niagara on the exam that earned him his Chartered Accountant designation).

It wasn’t long after graduating that Zoccoli decided to return to Brock, this time as an employee. He saw a job posting in 1988 for internal auditor and his curiosity to “see what happens

on the other side of the walls” was piqued. He got the job, rising to the rank of finance director before leaving in 2002.

“It felt so wonderful, just to help people understand even just simple budgets,” Zoccoli recalled.

During that time, he also met his wife Michelle (BA ’89, BEd ’91), who worked in a language lab.

But then the opportunity arose to be the numbers guy for the family’s business of running several Tim Hortons stores in St. Catharines. While anyone who enjoys an apple fritter as much as Zoccoli may have leapt at the opportunity faster than you can say donut, Zoccoli said trying to make a decision kept him awake at night for months.

How does one choose between joining a “national icon and brand” or staying at Brock, “a place I loved and I loved the people there?” In the end, crullers, coffee and joining his brothers, Joe and Jim, in an expanding business won out. Still, he missed life at Brock early on in his new post.

“I still describe it as the toughest decision, to leave the University. It was a great place to work with fantastic people. I missed the people, I missed the interactions. (But) in the end, being part of the family business and a Canadian icon tipped the scales for me,” he said.

Though he has no regrets, Zoccoli said there aren’t two weeks that go by that he isn’t involved with something happening on the Brock campus, be it with the Goodman School of Business or attending a performance or sporting event with his family. His wife Michelle calls him Mr. Brock.

During his 30-year relationship with Brock, Zoccoli has marvelled at the incredible growth and changes to his alma mater.

“If you look at the quality of the professors, the faculty and staff, it’s world class. The evolution of the Faculties themselves, the researchers, that kind of growth is wonderful to see beyond the buildings.”

Zoccoli said he looks forward to many more years of strong connections to Brock. Eldest son Adam just finished his first year in health sciences, and his other son, Andrew, plans to study marketing at Brock — “sadly, not accounting,” Zoccoli noted. Daughter Janyn, in Grade 10, is showing signs of following in her father’s number-crunching footsteps.

“I’m just normal old John who, 10 years from now, is still going to be singing the praises of Brock University,” Zoccoli said. “I really can’t believe it. It makes me feel warm inside that Brock thinks so highly of me.”

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Tiffany Mayer is the editor of Surgite.

University to erect
statue of Maj.-Gen.
Sir Isaac Brock

Major sculpture

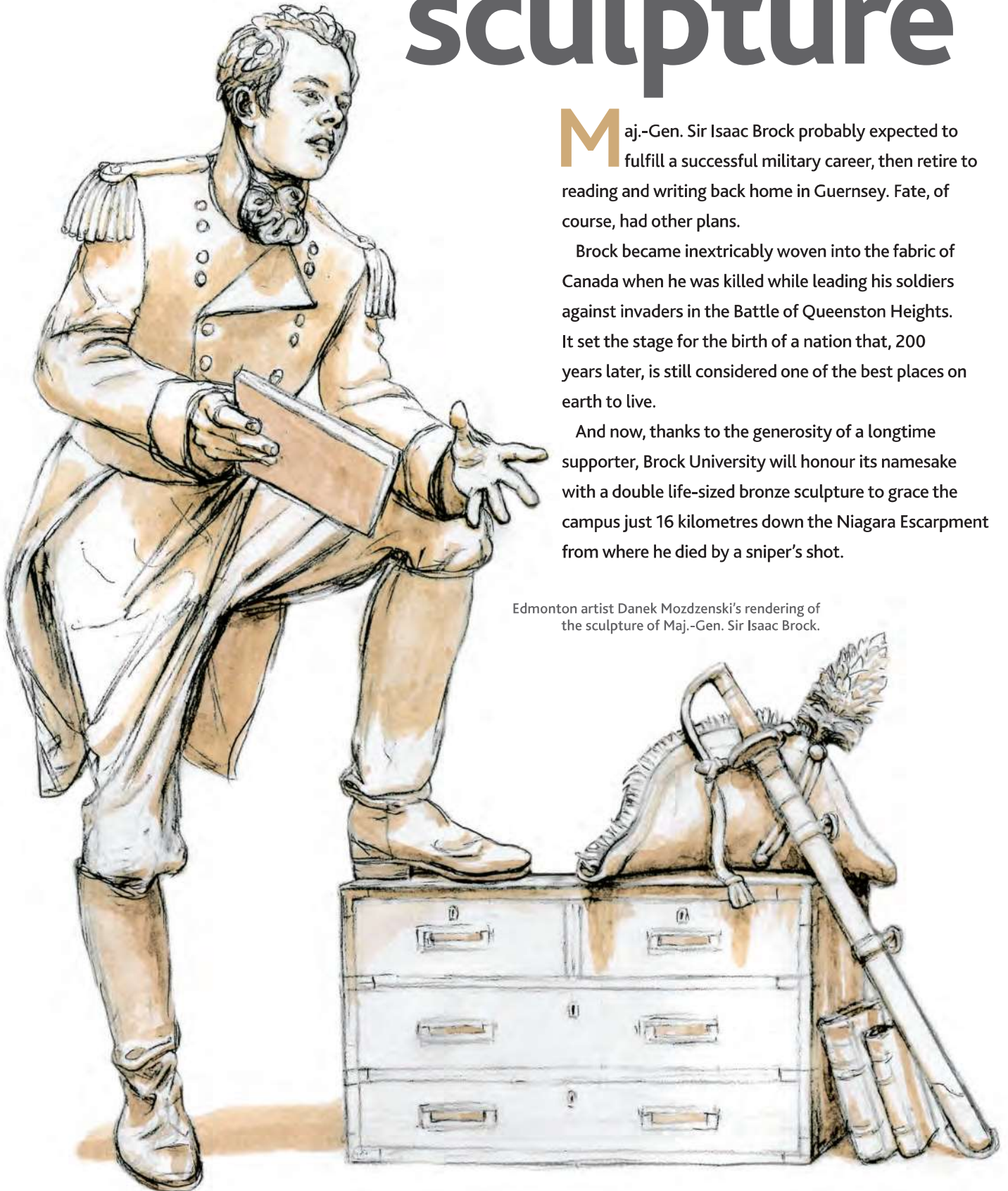
By Kevin Cavanagh

Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock probably expected to fulfill a successful military career, then retire to reading and writing back home in Guernsey. Fate, of course, had other plans.

Brock became inextricably woven into the fabric of Canada when he was killed while leading his soldiers against invaders in the Battle of Queenston Heights. It set the stage for the birth of a nation that, 200 years later, is still considered one of the best places on earth to live.

And now, thanks to the generosity of a longtime supporter, Brock University will honour its namesake with a double life-sized bronze sculpture to grace the campus just 16 kilometres down the Niagara Escarpment from where he died by a sniper's shot.

Edmonton artist Danek Mozdzenski's rendering of the sculpture of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock.



Danek Mozdzenski was selected from more than 70 responses to a nationwide request for proposals. Officials hope to unveil the finished piece in 2014 to coincide with the University's 50th anniversary celebrations.

This spring, Edmonton artist Danek Mozdzenski was selected from more than 70 responses to a nationwide request for proposals. Officials hope to unveil the finished piece in 2014 to coincide with the University's 50th anniversary celebrations.

Destined to become a signature landmark for Niagara, the portrayal of the officer in reflective conversation will stand prominently on the lawns in front of the Schmon Tower.

Mozdzenski has been busily researching his subject, visiting museums, devouring books, measuring the officer's hat,

studying the two known portraits of the man and having a replica made of Brock's military tunic. He even hopes to view the general's remains at Queenston Heights to help him accurately depict the War of 1812 hero.

"It is an honour to receive this commission and I am anxious to get to work," the soft-spoken Mozdzenski said after an announcement ceremony in June. "It is important that we reflect the spirit of Brock. He was a man of action but also a man of introspection. Out of that came his successes, some of which are still with us today. And one of them is Canada."

Honouring Isaac Brock through art is possible because local businessman David Howes is covering the \$1-million cost. Howes has had a long relationship with the University as a philanthropist, adviser and chair of its Board of Trustees.

For Howes, the sculpture will be an inspiring sense of identity for students, a treasured landmark for Niagara residents and a destination for all Canadians who cherish their country's history.

"This piece speaks to the character of

Isaac Brock, his courage and leadership," Howes said "and reflects the spirit of the students, staff and faculty of Brock University. It was my absolute pleasure to provide the necessary financial support for the University to move forward with this historic commemoration to its namesake."

University President Jack Lightstone said the sculpture will exude strength and tradition, reflecting Isaac Brock's values and inspiration in a way that builds on Niagara's rich history and geography.

"We are deeply grateful to Dave Howes for his vision and generosity, and also to others whose hard work helped a dream come to fruition," Lightstone said. "The University has always been proud to bear the name of Sir Isaac Brock. Now this exciting project will forever mark the milestone of our 50th anniversary."

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Kevin Cavanagh is Brock's director of Communications and Public Affairs.

To view video of this event, see our digital tablet edition at brocku.ca/surgite



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Send your stories and pictures to brocku.ca/classacts

Stay tuned for updates from fellow grads.

By Kevin Cavanagh

How the Goodman family caused a stir at Brock

Brock Chancellor Ned Goodman joins business students at a party celebrating his family's donation that resulted in the creation of the Goodman School of Business.

Less than a year after Brock's Faculty of Business was renamed the Goodman School of Business, there are clear indicators to support what most people already suspect: The change has been a winner for the University.

From the start, the initial announcement last autumn ignited a buzz around campus.

On Feb. 6, emotions hit a crescendo at a celebration party in Market Hall to thank the family of the University's Chancellor, Ned Goodman. The event became an outpouring of joy and gratitude from Business students, alumni and faculty who chanted, cheered and savoured the moment.

After Ned Goodman ended his remarks and left the podium, he was mobbed by beaming students, who draped the Chancellor in a scarf bearing his family's name then mugged with him for a photo session they will long remember.

This was the first time Brock renamed a Faculty to honour a special partnership — in this case a tribute after the Goodman Foundation made a transformational gift to the business school.

The name change lifted Brock's profile. Within months of the Goodman School announcement, undergraduate applications to the school shot up by 14 per cent over the previous year, a steeper rise than the nine per cent provincial average for business schools.

So, who is this man who has been the University's Chancellor since 2007? And how did his family come to have such an effect on Brock University?

Ned Goodman is a geologist who went on to get his MBA and, during a career that has spanned more than 40 years, became one of Canada's top securities analysts and portfolio managers. In the 1990s, he formed the Dundee group of financial companies, and he still shows up for work as president and CEO of Dundee Corporation at its offices in downtown Toronto. That's where Surgite caught up with him recently.



Surgite: In an era when there is no shortage of worthwhile needs, what led your family to make a transformational gift to the Brock business Faculty?

Goodman: It's a give-back to education. My career was based upon the fact that I was capable of going to universities, and the universities that I went to are already well-endowed. We decided that we would help schools that needed us more than the big schools. So we chose the School of Mines at Laurentian and the Faculty of Business at Brock. My sons agreed because they felt the same way.

S. What would your family like to see happen as a result of their gift?

G. What would make us happy would be to see some really smart business people come out of the school and go and do things that are good for the world and good for commerce and good for the economy, and show that the education they got was worthwhile.

I have four sons, they have all gone to university, they are all successful at what they're doing, and I would wish for everybody the same thing.

S. The reaction at Brock to your family's gift has been significant. Anybody who was in the room at the launch party could feel it in the air.

G. Oh, I had fun, too (he smiles). The students were absolutely delighted, they were saying 'thank you, thank you,' thanking me for lending my name to the school. It was such a good feeling, you know. Before we were just a school of business. Now we're the Goodman School of Business.

It was quite nice, it was a good feeling. It made it all worthwhile, right then and there.

S. The reaction that day was remarkable. As soon as the formalities were over, you were swarmed by students wanting to have their picture taken with you.

G. Oh, no question. And I've got the picture of it hanging on my wall (he motions to his office).

S. Were you surprised by the emotion of the moment?

G. Did I expect it? No, so I guess it was surprising. But not the way it happened. It was very, very with it — just part of the whole idea. They were all just friendly kids and they wanted to get closer.

S. What advice would you give to students considering entering business school, or to students who are graduating from business school?

G. It's a tough time coming out of business school these days because jobs are tough. Basically I just tell them to read a book about capitalism, read a book about entrepreneurship and read a book about innovation, and then put them all together — because you've got to make it on your own in the world today,



Brock Chancellor Ned Goodman speaks to a reporter during a celebration of the renaming of Brock's Faculty of Business to the Goodman School of Business.

and you've got to be thinking through how you're going to make it on your own. Don't just take any job. Take something that has growth to it, and that you can add innovation and entrepreneurship to. I think that's what the world needs more than anything else.

S. How has Brock University changed during your tenure as Chancellor?

G. Dramatically. It has become the centre of Niagara, it's a very important part of Niagara now. I think the University is demonstrating that Niagara has a lot more to it and Jack (Lightstone) is doing a good job of working with others to change Niagara.

S. What made you accept the job as Brock's Chancellor in the first place? You're a very busy man and spare time is probably not a commodity for you.

G. Because Jack asked and I couldn't say no to Jack. He's too nice a guy. He asked me politely, and I thought about it, and I said OK.

S. What do you do in your spare time? What hobbies does Ned Goodman have?

G. There are no hobbies, really, I'm working all the time. I love being with my family in my spare time because I don't have much time to do it, so I have a bunch of grandkids who I play soccer with or play basketball with or go golfing with. If there's spare time left after that, I spend a lot of it just reading.

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Kevin Cavanagh is Brock's director of Communications and Public Affairs.

To view more photos visit
facebook.com/GoodmanSchool



Grape Spectacular





tions

One of Canada's youngest winemakers finds meaning in Niagara's vineyards

By Samantha Craggs

Far back in Lydia Tomek's family, food and wine have been associated with the warmth and safety of home.

During a civil war in the Tomek family's native Croatia, her grandmother sought refuge in the crowded rows of a vineyard, pruning and tying vines to avoid the nearby conflict.

Tomek's grandfather made wine, too, and every Saturday, her mother rode a moped to the farmers market to sell it.

Growing up in Welland, Lydia Tomek (BSc '04) came to associate wine with family and celebration, and her mother's lovingly prepared meals.

So it's no wonder the Brock graduate has become the head winemaker at Hernder Estate Wines, a one-time youngest winemaker in Canada and a successful oenologist in the industry.

An early alumna of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture (CCOVI) program, Tomek likes to think of herself as a memory maker. As a gifted high school student with an affinity for science, she could have chosen any line of work and she chose winemaking.

"You put all your heart and soul into it and then have somebody take that and have it at their table when they're proposing or celebrating a christening, it's just a great way for the human spirit to celebrate with wine," she says. "To be a part of that is awesome."

Tomek was born in Welland 32 years ago to first-generation Croatian immigrants. Growing up in a European-influenced household, food and wine were always present. Her father Marijan was a butcher, her mother Mira a homemaker, who took great pains in cooking. When Tomek came home from lunch on a school day, she'd be faced with "this amazing meal" her mother had "worked all morning for," she recalls.

"We never ate out of a can. We had gardens," she says. "My father cured his own meat and made his own sausage. Everything was made with love from start to finish in the most purest, healthiest way."

Tomek had an early fascination with scent. She put wild flowers in little jars of water in an attempt to make perfume, and puzzled over the fragrant bottles of wine that accompanied the food on the table. Near the end of high school, she attended the Brock library for a research project and came across a listing in the online card catalogue for "Winemaking regions of Yugoslavia." She clicked and landed on a page that also featured an ad for Brock's new CCOVI program.

Lydia Tomek in the vineyard at Hernder Estates Wines where she is head winemaker.

"If you're rich or poor or sick or healthy, there's always going to be three things everybody is allowed to have, and that's food, wine and music. Those are the most important things in life."



Educate
your senses:

Homecoming

Wine seminars in
the park, Sept. 21
and Sept. 22
brocku.ca/homecoming

2013

Lydia Tomek in the tank room at Hernder Estates Wines.

She attended an open house. As she learned of the program's biochemistry courses, and its opportunity for academic research and field study, "I ended up falling in love with it," she says.

She was one of the few females in her classes, and one of the few students to come into the program directly from high school. But she quickly established herself as a curious mind and a hard worker, including working two summers at the then-Vineland Research Station. It cemented her love for being in the field.

"During summers when some people might have travelled Europe and explored wine regions, I was working with the Mexican or Jamaican crews in the fields," she says. "I liked wearing boots and a tank top and hanging out."

In her second year at Brock, she met Andy Reynolds, who became one of her favourite professors. He supervised her during an undergraduate thesis in her final year. Her thesis focused on deficit irrigation, translating climatic data into viticulture strategies and assessing winter damage.

Reynolds recalls Tomek's all-encompassing thesis work, which involved waking in the middle of the night to turn irrigation valves on and off. She also did detailed calculations that Reynolds still uses to teach his students.

"The personality traits I noticed then are the same ones I notice now," he says. "She's a very enthusiastic individual and the type of person that asks lots of questions."

She did her final-year "crush placement" at Hillebrand. Tomek battled mono but worked anyway, "drinking ginseng and protein shakes to get me through," she says. After graduation,

she was hired there and became the youngest winemaker in the country.

After a year at Hillebrand, she joined the winemaking team at Jackson-Triggs. In 2006, Hernder Estates hired her as head winemaker. She has won multiple industry awards, as well as a 2012 Alumni of Distinction Award. But her proudest accomplishments have been charitable.

In 2006, doctors diagnosed Tomek's childhood friend with Hodgkin lymphoma. It inspired Tomek to create Pink, a chardonnay that has raised \$250,000 for Niagara's Walker Family Cancer Centre.

Last fall, Tomek's friend Audrey died of cancer. Tomek created Pink 2.0: Audrey's Blend, which she launched on Valentine's Day. She bottled the first case with Audrey's two daughters, playing Bruce Springsteen, Audrey's favourite musician, in the background.

She has appeared on the Women and Wine calendar to benefit wine writer Tony Aspler's charity Grapes for Humanity. In April, she "auctioned off" 90 minutes of her time to raise money for breast cancer research. She also made a pink chair for the Niagara Furniture Bank for its Chair Affair 2013 auction in which chairs are transformed into functional art.

"That's what's rewarding — being able to do that and throw wine into the mix because that's what wine is. It's a celebration of life," she said.

It wasn't until Tomek had embarked on her winemaking career that the family details emerged, such as her grandmother seeking refuge in a vineyard or her mother selling wine at a farmers market.

"I remember talking to my dad about how cool it was working in a vineyard," she says. "He said, 'It's funny that you feel that sense of peace in there.'"

Tomek has other hobbies. She plays soccer and the guitar, and organizes a small winemakers' soccer league in Niagara. Her philosophy is *in vino veritas*, Latin for "in wine, there is truth."

"If you're rich or poor or sick or healthy, there's always going to be three things everybody is allowed to have, and that's food, wine and music," she said. "Those are the most important things in life."

.....
Samantha Craggs is a freelance writer from Hamilton, Ont. She is also a reporter at CBC Hamilton.

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Knocking it out

By Cory Smith

Andrew Tinnish is nearing the end of a six-hour drive to Indiana, looking to find the next Toronto Blue Jays prospect. The 36-year-old assistant general manager for the Blue Jays and Brock University graduate is on a scouting assignment to watch a high school pitcher in advance of the June draft.

Being a Major League Baseball executive is rarely glamorous. There are long hours and the job is filled with pressure, both internally and from fans clamouring for a winning club.

Baseball, as the saying goes, is a game of failure.

"Ever since I've been here, the goal has been to put a team together to make the playoffs," Tinnish (BRLS '99, BSM '01) says. "There are ups and downs, and we're going through some downs now. But we have to stay focused and continue to work."

It's that same attitude that drove Tinnish to become the top baseball player in Brock history. He was inducted into the Brock Baseball Hall of Fame in 2001, the same year he took an entry-level job with the Jays.

"I expected to win every year," he says of his five seasons with the Badgers. "We had good players, our coaches, we recruited, (had) guys from good summer programs, U.S. schools, played summer games, practised. We expected a championship and anything less was a disappointment."

Tinnish played on the first Badgers baseball team started by Mike Poelman and Ted Gendron in 1995. After two years of steady success, Tinnish struggled in 1997.

Brock was hosting the nationals that year and was expected to contend for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship. No one told Hamilton's McMaster University, which eliminated Brock in the conference final.

Tinnish calls it a low point. "That was tough and it was kind of back to the drawing board," he says. "We had a good winter of practice and guys were ready."

Tinnish went 0-for-20 during spring games after the 2007 season and went back home to Ottawa to reinvent his swing and readjust his mental approach at the plate. "I didn't understand my swing until my fourth year (1998)," he says. "It was summer and I started to think about my swing and what I'm doing with my hands, feet, my approach. That was a turning point."

Tinnish, who played right field, first base and pitched, responded with a breakout season. He batted .500 and had seven home runs, 58 RBI, 73 hits and 40 runs.

The "stacked" Badgers dominated on their way to the first of consecutive national titles.

Those seasons cemented Tinnish's place atop Brock baseball's best, a distinction bestowed upon the Burlington resident after a vote in August 2012.

"I'm not the best player who played," he says. "Maybe stats-wise, but there are plenty of guys with more tools."

Tinnish still visits the school a few times a year to help the ball team each training camp or speak to sports management students. "A lot of the best years of my life were spent at Brock and on campus and classrooms and the baseball field," he says.

Choosing the St. Catharines school 18 years ago was a "leap of faith," he adds.

"It seemed like the right fit, and in hindsight it definitely was. Brock has been great to me and provided several opportunities, so it's my duty to give back any way I can. I always enjoy going back."

One of the people who influenced Tinnish off the diamond was Cheri Bradish. The sports management professor "was very hands-on, easy to talk to." Student and teacher now live in the same Burlington neighbourhood.

"You could bounce ideas off her and she was looking to make the program bigger and better," Tinnish says.

Realizing a pro career was an unreachable dream, Tinnish, who grew up

a Montreal Expos fan but also liked the Jays, focused his career efforts on the administrative side of the game.

As an intern with the Jays under then-general manager and Toronto native Gord Ash, Tinnish would get lunch for senior management, file reports, work on statistical projects and even threw batting practice when needed. He was able to see the contractual and player development side of the game, as well.

"I got exposed to a lot, which has helped in my career," he says. "One thing I learned real quick is I knew a lot less about baseball than I thought."

Tinnish credits current and former team executives Ash, Kevin Briand, JP Ricciardi, Tony LaCava, Dana Brown and current GM Alex Anthopoulos for giving him

Tinnish played on the first Badgers baseball team started by Mike Poelman and Ted Gendron in 1995.

opportunities. "As soon as I got in, my priority was I want to make this a career, whether it's player development, scouting, whatever," he says. "I was willing to make sacrifices to do it. I feel confident I've worked hard to get where I am, but a lot of people have helped me get where I am."

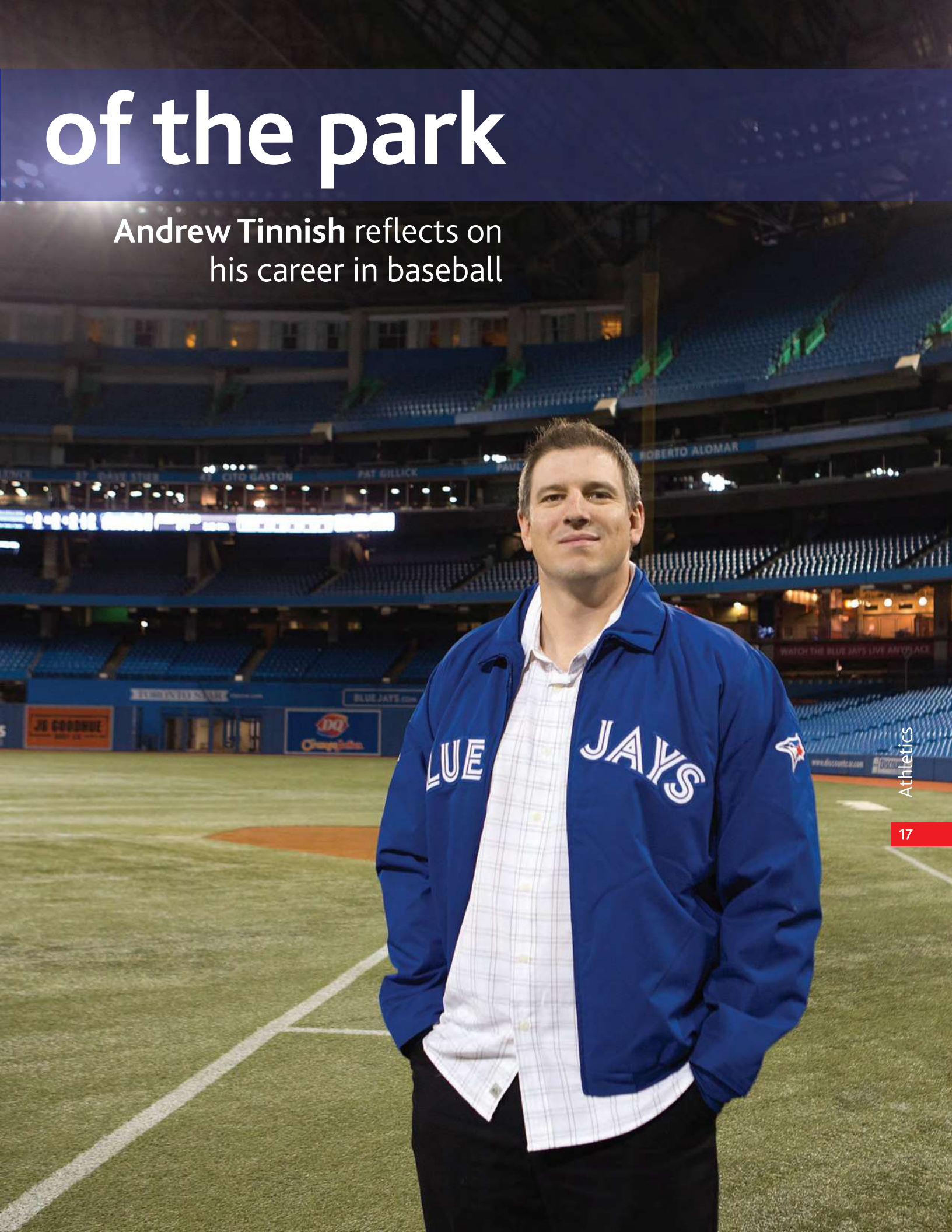
Much of Tinnish's time now is spent scouting, whether it's at the major league level, in Latin America or amateurs. He's on the road 160 to 180 days a year.

On this day, his job is to determine whether a teenager in Indiana is the next Toronto Blue Jays' prospect and a player that will one day help lead the team back to the World Series for the first time since 1993. "There's certain things you can control and certain things you can't control," he says. "I can control trying to evaluate this player for the draft."

.....
Cory Smith is an award-winning sports writer for the Niagara Falls Review and a diehard Toronto sports fan.

of the park

Andrew Tinnish reflects on his career in baseball





Tonya Verbeek

Verbeek trades competing for coaching

CANADA'S GREATEST-EVER female wrestler has hung up her singlet.

Brock alumna Tonya Verbeek (BRLS '00), an 11-time national champion, announced in May that she is retiring from wrestling. It was a decision she had hinted was coming after reaching national hero status by winning silver for Canada at the 2012 London Olympics.

Now, instead of taking to the mat where she won three Olympic medals (she won silver in Athens in 2004 and bronze in Beijing in 2008), Verbeek will help younger competitors pin their hopes on Olympic glory. She has taken a post as Wrestling Canada's talent identification coach, but will be based at Brock University, where she trained as an athlete with coach Marty Calder.

In addition to her Olympic success, Verbeek won silver at the 2011 Pan Am Games in Guadalajara to go with the bronze she scored four years earlier in Rio de Janeiro. She also has two bronze medals from World Championships in 2005 and 2009 and a silver from the 2010 Commonwealth Games.



Jennifer Walinga

Walinga rows into Sports Hall of Fame

A BROCK GRADUATE and Olympic rower has been inducted into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame.

Jennifer Walinga (BA '87), shared the honour last spring with her teammates who

won gold in the women's fours at the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona. Though Walinga, suffering a back injury at the time, made the hard decision to sit out the race that took her

teammates to the top of the Olympic podium, she was still a integral part of the team that won gold and set a world record at the 1991 World Rowing Championships in Vienna, Austria.

The crew went undefeated for an incredible 24 consecutive races.

Walinga, who is director of the School of Communication and Culture at Royal Roads University in Victoria, was also named to the Peterborough and District Sports Hall of Fame.

Rootes courts a new career

BROCK UNIVERSITY MEN'S basketball coach and former Brock all-star player Brad Rootes (BPhEd '07), has netted a new career with the Niagara Regional Police Service.

Rootes leaves behind a winning legacy that includes leading the Badgers to a national title as a player before becoming the youngest head coach in Canadian Interuniversity Sport in 2010 at the age of 26.

In three seasons as Brock's coach, he posted a 45-59 overall record (27-38 OUA). In his final season, Rootes guided the Badgers to the OUA West semifinals — the second year in a row the Badgers made the playoffs under his leadership.

As a player, Rootes was captain of Brock's 2008 CIS National Championship team. The same year, he was named an OUA first team all-star for his fifth

consecutive season, making him the first Brock player to be named a conference all-star all five seasons of their varsity career. In 2008, he was also selected as the OUA West Player of the Year and a second team all-Canadian.

After graduating, Rootes played one season professionally for Politekhnik Halychyna of the Ukrainian Super League.

"It's bittersweet because I am walking away from something I love doing," said Rootes. "On the other hand, I am extremely excited to begin my new career with the NRPS. I would like to thank all of the people at Brock University and in the Niagara community who have been so great to me and my family over the years.

"Brock has been my second home for a long time. I will always cherish it and will forever be a Badger."



Brad Rootes

Celebrating THE CLASS OF 1988

Continued from page 5

Q. Favorite memory of your time at Brock?

A. I would have to say the best times were probably the nights Pat Hewitt played at Alphonse's Trough. Sociable.

Q. What life lessons did you learn while a student at Brock?

A. I think my time at Brock helped to confirm the lessons my parents taught me. My parents always stressed that hard work would be rewarded and that you are responsible for your own actions.

My father used to always say to me, "If you are a man at night, be a man in the morning." In other words, understand your priorities and don't let your actions in your down time impact your responsibility to perform.

Q. How has your degree from Brock contributed to your success?

A. In the co-op program, we carried six courses a semester. I think this heavy course load taught me time management skills and the ability to prioritize tasks.

The co-op program was still in the early years in 1983. Our first work term started only four months after we started classes. Working in a professional environment early in my schooling helped me understand how to behave in an office environment.

My work terms as an audit student exposed me to a variety of businesses and organizations. Seeing how these entities operated helped me gain an appreciation of business and what it took to be successful.

I received a well-rounded education that introduced me to a variety of disciplines. I still recall things I learned at Brock 25 years later.

Q. How have you stayed connected to Brock?

A. I think I was more connected this year than I have been in the last 25 years. My youngest daughter Laura just completed her first year in the business program.



**Mary-Ann Harrison,
(BAdmin '88)**

Director of Operations and CFO,
Travel Industry Council of Ontario

Q. What was your favourite course at Brock University

A. History — Middle Ages. The prof was very engaged, so I never really had to read the books — and it wasn't accounting.

Q. What life lessons did you learn while a student at Brock?

A. I did learn to multi-task and looking back, life was easier during university than when you have to work in the real world and have kids!

Q. What advice would you give university students today?

A. Enjoy your time in university. Life goes by quickly — as in 25 years.

Q. What activities did you participate in while at Brock University?

A. I rowed in my first year at Brock. It was great fun.

Q. What social activities did you participate in?

A. We had a lot of fun going to the pub, which was Alphonse's Trough back at that time. It was always a good time.



**Cynthia Roberts
(BRLS '88)**

Manager of Parks and Cemetery
Services, City of Niagara Falls

Q. Why did you decide to attend Brock?

A. As a mature student, I first looked at Niagara College's recreation program. They suggested instead that I attend Brock's Recreation and Leisure Studies. I have a recreation/sports background and thought a career in that field would best suit my interests and skills.

Q. What life lessons did you learn while at Brock?

A. Breathe. Take one day at a time. Being a perfectionist can be very stressful.

Q. Have you stayed connected to Brock in some way?

A. I was on the alumni board for a few years. I also enjoy going to basketball games to cheer on the Badgers. My twin grandchildren (age 6) now attend summer sports camps and have a great time learning all the sports.

Q. Three words that best describe your time at Brock.

A. Enlightening, empowerment, hope.

Q. What advice would you give university students today?

A. Having a degree opens a lot of doors, even if it is not in your chosen profession. Get lots of experience in the area you want to work, even if it is volunteering. Make connections with people you think may assist you in your career.

.....
Nancy Di Pasquale (BA '92) is the marketing communications officer for Alumni Relations at Brock University.

Brock celebrates

Walker School construction

By Kevin Cavanagh

On a sunny spring afternoon, nearly 100 Brock supporters, arts patrons and University officials gathered at the downtown St. Catharines construction site that will be the new home of Brock's Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

It was time to celebrate an iconic renaissance project that has been stoking imaginations for several years and was now moving full steam ahead.

Amid scaffolding and construction equipment, workers paused for about 30 minutes while guests got a close-up look at the progress and saluted the efforts of designers, engineers and

"Now we look around us and see that it has gone beyond talking and planning. This project is *happening*."

project leaders who have helped get the major initiative through more than two years of planning.

Though the site had already been a hive of activity for several months, a lineup of VIPs, including Marilyn Walker,

University President Jack Lightstone and Brock Board Chair Joe Robertson, happily donned hard hats and wielded shovels to mark the day with a symbolic groundbreaking ceremony.

"We have all been hearing and reading about plans to give the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts a new home in the heart of St. Catharines," Robertson told the crowd. "Now we look around us and see that it has gone beyond talking and planning. This project is *happening*."

Lightstone said the new Walker School "is a tribute to community partnership. This is much more than a building. It is a statement about what can happen when many hands work together to build a better future."

With a budget of \$39.6 million, the Brock project will transform the former Canada Hair Cloth textile mill into a

modern, innovative teaching facility whose 500 students, faculty and staff will help revitalize the city centre when they relocate from Brock's main campus in 2015.

"(Students) will have the opportunity to collide creatively with their counterparts in music, drama, and visual arts, like sparks off a flint," said Douglas Kneale, Dean of Humanities. "And in turn, the entire community of St. Catharines and Niagara will catch fire and experience in new and unprecedented ways the transcendence, the ache, the wow that only the arts can give us."

Situated between a new performing arts centre and a new hockey arena/spectator facility, both being built by the City of St. Catharines, the new Walker School is one of several major projects that will dramatically change the face of the city core.

Kneale noted the combined downtown project will contribute an estimated \$17 million per year to the local economy.

"Our potential is enormous," he said.

The Brock project received \$26.2 million from the Ontario government, and is also being supported by numerous generous partners from across the community. It moved into full construction mode in January after Brock entered into an agreement with Bird Construction Group. Much of the project involves renovating existing buildings, parts of which are from the area's industrial heritage and date to the 19th century.

While the retrofitting will largely take place indoors, the landmark's exterior will be refreshed with new windows and restored brickwork. There will also be new construction when a dramatic arts theatre rises from the downtown landscape in the coming months.

.....
Kevin Cavanagh is Brock's director of Communications and Public Affairs.

To view video of this event, see our digital tablet edition at brocku.ca/surgite



From left: Douglas Kneale, Dean, Faculty of Humanities; John Suk (BSc '73), vice-chair, Brock Board of Trustees; Jack Lightstone, Brock University President and Vice-Chancellor; Jim Bradley, MPP, St. Catharines; Marilyn I. Walker; Mark Elliott; councillor, City of St. Catharines; Joe Robertson, chair, Brock Board of Trustees; Derek Knight, director, Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts help celebrate the start of the school's construction.

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Upcoming Brock Alumni Network events

September 2013



Thursday, Sept. 19 to Sunday, Sept. 22

Brock Homecoming

Come back to campus for a jam-packed weekend of celebrations. **Pub nights, interactive tours, concerts** and plenty of food and wine. This weekend is not to be missed!



Calgary Brock Alumni Network

Social. Can't make it to Homecoming? Homecoming will come to Calgary.

Edmonton Brock Alumni Network

Social. Relive the glory days and celebrate homecoming from 3,500 kilometres away.



Sunday, Sept. 22, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Brock Alumni Networks Wine Tour

Part of Homecoming. \$50 per person, includes shuttle bus (from Toronto, Burlington and Niagara), three winery stops and lunch.

Register for all these events at brocku.ca/homecoming

It's easy to stay connected with peers through Alumni Networks. Events are constantly being added to the schedule. Be sure to check brocku.ca/alumni to stay informed.

October 2013



Mid-October, 6 to 8 p.m.

Ottawa Brock Alumni Network

Cooking Class. LCBO Rideau Street, \$30.



Sunday, Oct. 13, 1 to 3 p.m.

Niagara Brock Alumni Network

Battle of 1812 Commemorative Service. Queenston Heights.



Thursday, Oct. 17, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Burlington Brock Alumni Network

Brocktoberfest. Better Bitters Brewery, \$20.

Thursday, Oct. 24, 7 to 9 p.m.

Toronto Brock Alumni Network

Scotch Tasting.

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Waterloo-Wellington Brock Alumni Network

Career Development Workshop. Bingemans, Kitchener, \$15.

November 2013



Early November

Niagara Brock Alumni Network

Chocolate FX tour and Ravine Vineyard wine tasting. Niagara-on-the-Lake, \$30.



Mid-November, evening

Toronto Brock Alumni Network

Vinyasa and Vino. Downtown Toronto, \$15.

Mid-November, evening

Brock Alumni Legal Professionals

Reception. Niagara Region.

January 2014



Late January, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Toronto Brock Alumni Network

Alumni panel discussion and networking.

Late January

Niagara Brock Alumni Network

Rock climbing. Peaks Indoor Rock Climbing, \$15.



Happy Holidays!

December 2013

February 2014



Mid-February, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Toronto Brock Alumni Network

Movie Night. Downtown Toronto.

Mid-February, 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Waterloo-Wellington Brock Alumni Network

Wine Tasting. Entertaining Elements, Kitchener, \$20.

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Brock Alumni Network events are sponsored, in part, by our affinity partners MBNA, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and Industrial Alliance.

The last word

Rox Chwaluk (BA '09, BEd '10, MEd '13) recalls how a class at Brock inspired her to empower others through arts education



Photos from left: Rox Chwaluk mugs with participants in the Turn Around Projects of the Arts program in Jamaica. Centre and right photos: Participants in the Turn Around Projects of the Arts in Jamaica do a variety of programs.

In 2007, 17 Brock students travelled to Port Antonio, Jamaica, to offer free integrated arts programs to Jamaican youth.

Students were inspired by the class *Alternative Forms of Theatre*, taught by renowned dub poet and professor Michael St. George, who was born and raised in Jamaica. The class focused on Jamaican dub poetry, a form of performance and spoken word poetry, but instead of performing in Niagara, the students headed to Jamaica that summer.

While there, they offered interdisciplinary workshops in drama, music, dance, visual art and creative writing, adding photography and culinary arts in subsequent programs.

Afterward, the students made a five-year commitment to return to Jamaica — and the Turn Around Projects of the Arts (TAP) was born. The non-profit was founded by a group of Brock professors and students, including me and TAP executive director Tiffany Stull.

Our mission was simple: connecting communities through the arts. Art was the medium of choice because it's a vessel for communication and education. But there would be no "us" and "them." Teaching and learning through the arts would go both ways. We were all participants, ensuring true reciprocity and no hierarchy.

After five years, we hoped to have Jamaican participants running the program. We always stressed our vision of participants as a "triple threat" — artist, educator and leader — and eventually activist. We achieved this, in part, with our Facilitator in Training program (FIT Team). We currently have seven FIT Team graduates who have joined the crew to lead workshops.

This summer will be our sixth year in Jamaica. Though we haven't accomplished all we wanted to after five years because we need more resources, I'm proud to say we're on our way. TAP has grown to nine programs in four countries — Jamaica, Japan, Canada and India — offering arts programming to about 600 participants, ages five to 70.

We piloted our Education Fund in 2009, which consists of a scholarship program and mentorship fund. The fund supports participants who can't afford college or university tuition and so far, has enabled two girls from Jamaica to attend the Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts in New Kingston, Jamaica. They will graduate from a four-year honours Bachelor of Arts program in October.

The mentorship program allows participants to gain job experience through the program, while enabling their participation in daily arts workshops. TAP's first mentorship program participant, Shemaine Hamilton, worked as an administrative assistant with the program, went on to become the program co-ordinator in 2011 and is now TAP's first paid employee.

In 2011, we were able to fund one of our Canadian participants, who excelled in creative writing, to attend our program in Jamaica as a FIT Team member.

Some people ask me, "Why do you do all of these things?" I used to answer the question with the clichés, "Be the change you wish to see" or "It's just what I have to do."

I realized eventually that was a cop out. Being born as a white Canadian, I grew up with privileges and advantages based solely on those two things. A year into the program, it dawned on me that helping was not good enough. Charity, though positive and well-intended, is only a temporary solution to a larger problem of inequality and inequity. So for me, international volunteering programs are not about giving back or donating money. It's about being equal and living in a socially just world.

TAP wants to see a world of empowered participants — empowerment that comes through the arts, education and activism.

Rox Chwaluk (BA '09, BEd '10, MEd '13) is co-founder of Turn Around Projects of the Arts. The Toronto native plans to stay in Niagara as she searches for work with organizations dedicated to making the world a socially just place for all. For more information about TAP, including volunteer opportunities, visit turnaroundproject.ca or email admin@turnaroundproject.ca.

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