

Surgite

A Brock community magazine
Vol. 11 No. 1, Spring 2019

Amos Key, Jr. brings a new Indigenous lens

Robertsons leave \$1M
endowment for scholarships

Education alumni are feted
with national honours



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

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Gary Comerford, Chair of Brock's Board of Trustees, Karen McAllister-Kenny, Brock's Director of Recreation Services, Aidan Hibma, 2018-19 President of the Brock University Students' Union, Brock student and Zone user Paige Phillips and Brock President Gervan Fearon break ground at the Zone Fitness Centre expansion on April 24.

Expansion project at The Zone will see fitness centre triple in size

The next chapter has officially begun for Brock's Zone Fitness Centre.

On April 24, the University community came together to mark the groundbreaking of the expansion project that will see the popular campus facility triple in size.

The fitness centre will shed the title as the smallest at any Ontario university when its footprint is increased to 15,500 square feet from 4,300 square feet.

Often at capacity, the present facility opened in 2002, when the University had less than half of its current 19,000 enrolment.

"With the growth in student numbers and increased awareness of the importance of physical activity for both physical and mental health, expanding the Zone has become a crucial project for the entire Brock community," said Karen McAllister-Kenny, Brock's Director of Recreation Services.

Students voted last year to give the project, and its initial \$6.8-million price tag, the green light. It will be funded through a \$17-per-credit fee for all full- and part-time undergraduate students over a period of five years, starting in September 2020, when the expansion is completed.



Steven Trussler, right, of Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI), led a tasting during the University's Cider and Perry Production foundation course in April.

Brock expands cider course offerings

As the cider industry continues to boom, Brock University has announced the creation of new advanced-level cider courses.

The University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) is expanding its programming beyond the Cider and Perry Production foundation course, which continues to draw significant interest.

In June, CCOVI began offering an advanced certification science and practice course taught by Peter Mitchell, an internationally recognized authority in cider.

"The advanced-level courses at Brock, two of which will be offered this summer, play a key role in helping cider makers develop their technical skills and gain industry-recognized qualifications," said Steven Trussler, the Cider Institute of North America-certified instructor in CCOVI's cider program.

Brock is the only program provider in Canada to offer professional development courses at two levels of certification in cider production through CINA, while also providing analytical testing services to help cider makers deliver the best product possible.

For more information about CCOVI's cider programs, visit brocku.ca/ccovi.



Finding bliss among the blossoms

More than 30 people took part in a first-ever yoga session held among the cherry blossom trees at the base of Schmon Tower on May 6. Japan gave the trees to Brock in 2003 as a gesture of friendship between that country and Canada. When they briefly blossom each year, they're Brock's most-photographed natural element on campus.



Jill Grose, Director of Brock's Centre for Pedagogical Innovation.

Champion of education development wins national achievement award

Jill Grose's efforts to enhance education have garnered national attention.

The Director of Brock's Centre for Pedagogical Innovation (CPI), who is set to retire in summer 2019, was honoured with the Distinguished Educational Developer Career Award from the Educational Developers Caucus of the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.

The national award recognizes individuals with more than 15 years of service who have made repeated meaningful contributions at the local, provincial and national level.

Grose was one of two recipients across Canada chosen to receive the award in November. She was recognized for her decades of commitment in the field, during which she worked to develop and grow the Brock department that would become CPI.

She has been instrumental in introducing new programs across the province, and has taught graduate-level courses in pedagogy, acted as a resource to the University's Senate Teaching and Learning Committee, and devoted countless hours to developing the skills of the University's teaching assistants.

Classroom named in honour of inspirational Bill Matheson

Bill Matheson's legacy at Brock University continues to grow.

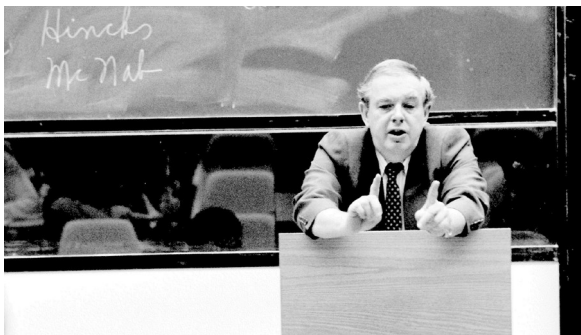
The popular professor had a classroom, previously known as Thistle 245, named in his honour on May 6.

"To me and scores of others, Bill was a mentor and a friend whose door was always open," Art Peltomaa (BA '74), Matheson's former student, said at the naming ceremony. "From the day he arrived, it was student experience first. He was an inspiration to so many people. He truly set a very high bar for future faculty members at Brock."

Matheson spent three decades at Brock. He was the University's first Dean of Social Sciences, first Vice-President, Academic and served for a time in 1983 as Acting President.

Peltomaa was so inspired by his former professor that when he made a generous donation in 2008 to help fund the construction of a new learning commons in the James A. Gibson Library, Peltomaa asked that the space bear Matheson's name, rather than his own — hence the Matheson Learning Commons.

After Matheson's retirement in 1998, the William Matheson Bursary was also created in his honour, and it was enhanced after his death in 2017 when he left the University a gift in his will.



Bill Matheson in a lecture hall, 1987: "My approach was ... to always be available and to encourage them so that they would have the best possible university experience."



Peter Tiidus, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, and Andrew Gaudes, Goodman School of Business Dean, announced the launch of Canada's first concurrent MBA MPH program in May.

Brock launches Canada's first concurrent MBA MPH degree program

Starting this fall, Brock University is launching Canada's first Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Public Health (MPH) concurrent degree program.

Offered through the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences and the Goodman School of Business, the two-year program will help develop tomorrow's health leaders, providing students with a strong foundation in both management and public health.

"The MBA MPH blends the best of business and public health education," says Goodman Dean Andrew Gaudes. "The need for public health officials to have solid business backgrounds is becoming more and more important, and Brock is looking to fill that gap with this program that is relevant to today's health administration environment."

During the first year of the program, students will be on campus taking core MBA courses. For the second year, students will take MPH courses delivered online.

"Brock's MPH and MBA graduate programs are both internationally recognized," says Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Dean Peter Tiidus. "Both programs overlap in extremely relevant and timely ways."

"Taking an interdisciplinary approach to launch Canada's first concurrent MBA and MPH degree program means we can offer a well-rounded approach to learning about public health administration."



Brock President Gervan Fearon talks with fifth-year Kinesiology student Paige Burnie, left, and third-year Business Communications student Ashlan Macdonald about the University's new planning document.

Brock's new Institutional Strategic Plan provides a 7-year map of key priorities

Brock University has a new map to guide its future.

Following a year-long consultation, Brock launched a new Institutional Strategic Plan at the end of 2018 that celebrates the University's connection to Niagara and reflects its advancing global reach and reputation.

The document sets out four priorities to guide planning and decision-making until 2025: Providing a transformational and accessible academic and student experience; increasing the University's research capacity; enhancing the life and vitality of communities across Niagara region and beyond; and fostering a culture of inclusivity, accessibility, reconciliation and decolonization.

Realizing these priorities will assist the University in better meeting student academic and career aspirations; supporting faculty and staff initiatives in teaching, learning, research and scholarly activities; advancing the University's role in regional community and economic development; and enhancing the work and learning environment at Brock.

The document grew out of extensive consultations that included meetings with people on campus and in surrounding communities, from students and academic deans, to social agencies, members of Indigenous communities, the Senate, Board, alumni and others.

Gary Comerford, Chair of the Board of Trustees, said the exercise of consulting,

drafting and finalizing the Plan was an invaluable experience for the institution.

"We are at an exciting moment in the University's history," said Comerford. "Brock spent its first half century building a strong reputation for learning and discovery. Now it looks into its future with a Strategic Plan that everyone can believe in, because so many people had a hand in creating it."

"We are forging the future together by reflecting what we heard through the consultation process."

— Brock President Gervan Fearon

Scott Henderson, Chair of Senate, also felt the consultation process created "an impressively clear sense of Brock as an institution."

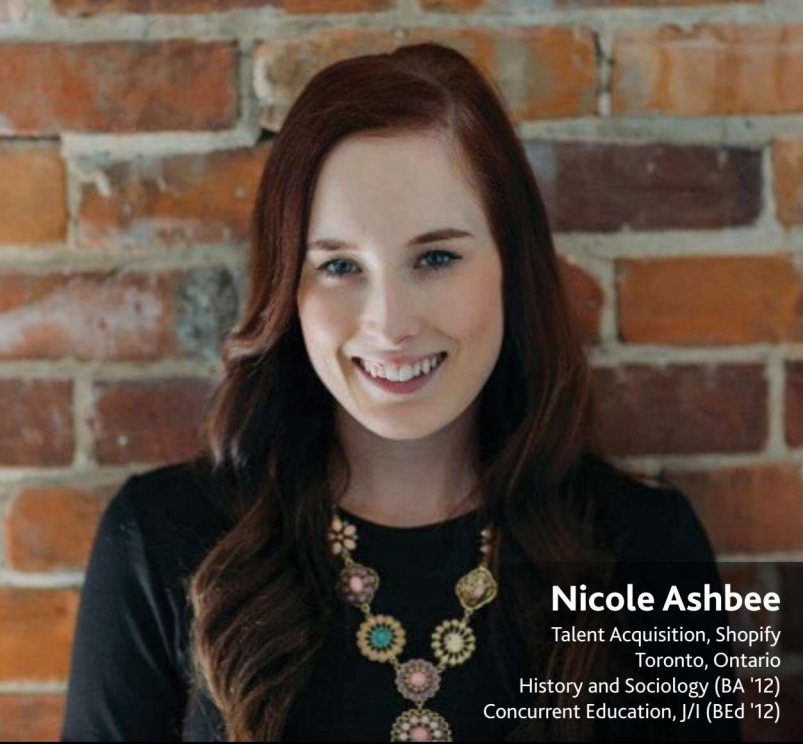
"Feedback from senators, from Board members, from faculty, staff, students and community members, was all very much in alignment," said Henderson. "It is a reminder that we have done an excellent job of carving out a unique identity in our first 50-plus years, and that positions us well for dynamic growth as we head towards Brock at 60."

President Gervan Fearon called it a Plan "we embrace with pride, for the vision it holds for the future of the University," and said the document highlights how Brock can contribute to post-secondary education in Ontario, and support the development of the talent and capacity needed for advancing regional community and economic development.

"Brock is an increasingly national and internationally recognized University for its leadership in experiential and work-integrated learning programs," he said. "We are building on these strengths to further our research profile as a comprehensive university. We are forging the future together by reflecting what we heard through the consultation process."

The President thanked former-Provost Tom Dunk for his leadership during the consultation process. He said developing the Strategic Plan involved many individuals and stakeholders across the University community, and they can all be proud about what has been achieved and the future ahead.

As part of the Strategic Plan's implementation, individual Unit Plans will now be developed in Faculties and units across campus, along with metrics and measurable outcomes to reflect Brock's commitment to accountability and to mandates that inform post-secondary education in the province.



Nicole Ashbee

Talent Acquisition, Shopify
Toronto, Ontario
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Setbacks couldn't deter this Harvard-bound grad

By Jeannie Mackintosh

Time and time again, Zoya Rajput has proven that nothing can keep her down.

Rather than admit defeat when life throws her punches, the Brock Political Science grad bounces back — and her most recent recovery landed her a coveted spot at Harvard Business School.

Following her June graduation from Brock, the Niagara Falls native will make the trek to Boston, Mass., to achieve a dream she's had since elementary school.

The road to Harvard has been rocky for Rajput.

A confluence of personal crises in close succession forced her to rethink her plans, but she held fast to her goal.

She hoped to go to Harvard straight from high school, but a concussion suffered in her final year caused her to miss a lot of class time and even prevented her from delivering her valedictory speech.

It also put the Ivy League university out of reach — temporarily.

Instead, Rajput spent a year at McMaster University before transferring to Brock. She then applied to Harvard's undergraduate government program as a transfer student.

But then came a rejection letter.

Soon after, Rajput narrowly escaped being attacked by a man who followed her after work and tried to force his way into her car. Sensing something amiss, she was able to outsmart the would-be attacker but, she acknowledges, “anything could have happened if he got in that car.”

The experience left her shaken but also helped her put the rejection from Harvard into perspective. She was determined to try again.

“I felt like I got a second chance at life. It made me want to work even harder to achieve my goals,” Rajput says.

After all she had been through, she was happy to be at Brock, where she felt supported, and to remain close to her family.

“The whole community at Brock was incredible,” she says. “It felt like coming home.”

Despite being a newcomer to campus, she was elected as one of six undergraduates on the University Senate to represent Brock's more than 19,000 students.

“I'll be honest, it was a bit of a shot in the dark,” she says. “But shots in the dark are kind of on my agenda now.”

Her perseverance in all aspects of life paid off earlier this year when an envelope



Brock Political Science grad Zoya Rajput is headed to Harvard Business School this fall.

marked Harvard arrived in the mail. Rajput was home alone when she opened the acceptance letter she had longed for years.

“I was absolutely thrilled,” she says. “I kind of just sat there taking it in and thinking about my whole life to that point, reminiscing in a sense.”

Rajput is convinced that her attitude has made all the difference in how she handles adversity.

“Some people might think that with one rejection or setback, or with someone they look up to not believing in them, that they don't have a chance. But I want them to know they can literally do anything if they set their mind to it,” she says. “The only person who has to believe in you is you.”

Raised in a single-parent home, Rajput considers her mother a “huge inspiration” for the way she approaches life.

“My mother left her family behind in Pakistan and gave up her whole life to come to a brand new country to give me the chance to do my absolute best,” she says. “Words can't express how much she has done for me. I just want to make her proud.”

Rajput hopes her story can motivate others. She challenges students who may be going through tough times to consider changing their perspective. Sometimes, she says, the time that seems so hard is actually an opportunity that you just haven't recognized yet.

“The word ‘impossible’ does not exist in my world,” she says. “I don't think there are any limits if you try hard enough.”



Harvard Business School in Boston, Mass.

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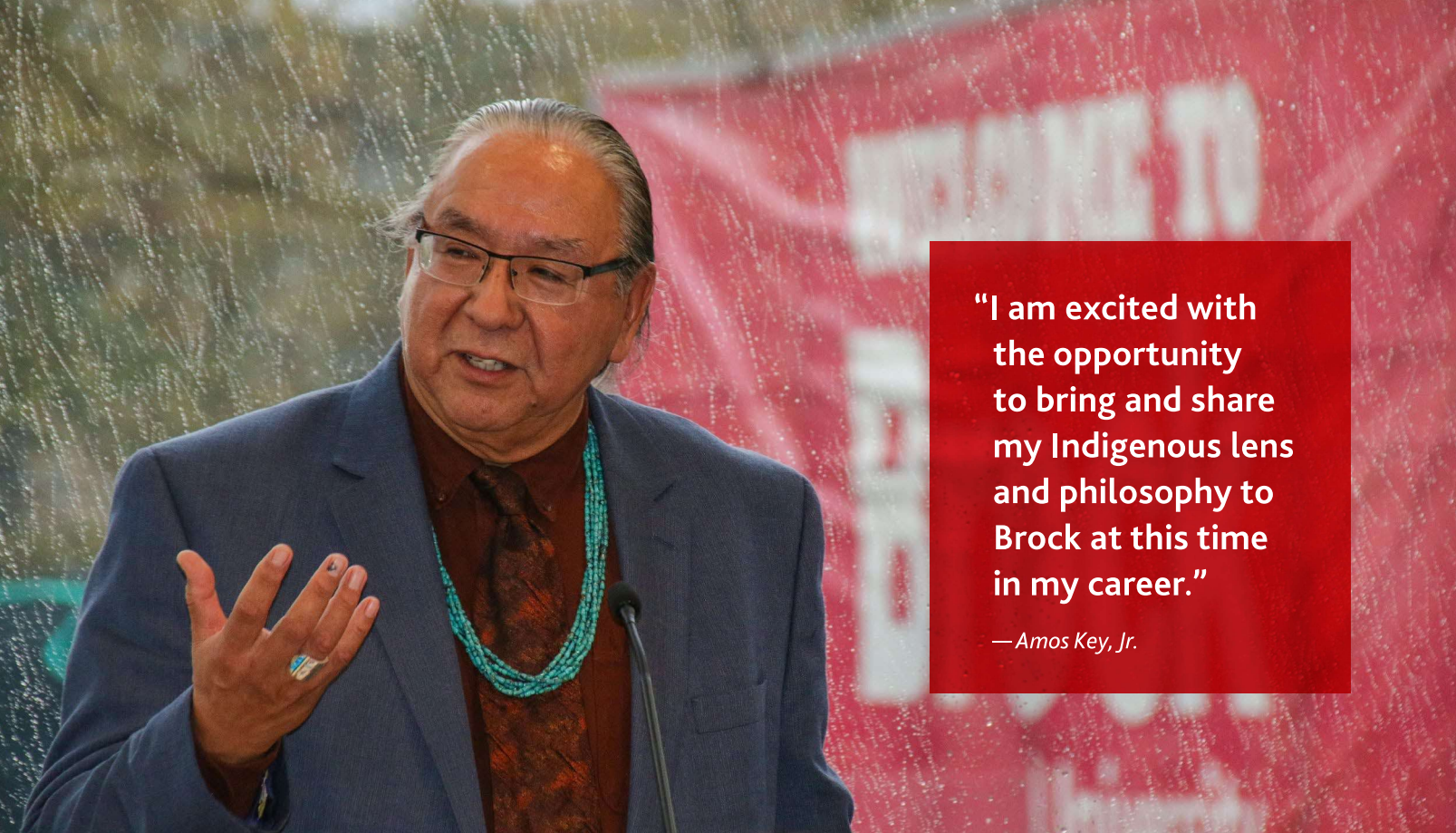
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“I am excited with the opportunity to bring and share my Indigenous lens and philosophy to Brock at this time in my career.”

— Amos Key, Jr.

After a year-long international search, Amos Key, Jr. was unanimously recommended as the one to launch the University's new position.

Brock welcomes its inaugural Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement

By Kevin Cavanagh

Brock University has taken a major step in its institutional growth and development by announcing that Amos Key, Jr. will become the University's first-ever Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

The newly-created senior position will be dedicated to supporting Brock's Indigenous education as well as its community engagement and partnership initiatives.

Key, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Centre for Indigenous Studies, begins his position at Brock on July 1.

Following a year-long international search, Key was unanimously recommended

by the search committee, which included students, faculty and staff from across the University and Indigenous communities.

Brock President Gervan Fearon said the University established the senior position to advance and lead Brock's goal to strengthen relationships of trust with Indigenous communities and partners across all sectors and activities of the University.

“Last year, our Senate and Board of Trustees approved an Institutional Strategic Plan that set a new focus for Brock, based on four key priorities,” said Fearon. “These priorities include fostering a culture of inclusivity, accessibility, reconciliation and decolonization at Brock. We are delighted to welcome a new Vice-Provost to advance the realization of this priority.”

Key, a member of the Mohawk Nation, studied sociology (Western University), photographic arts (Ryerson University) and television and communication arts (Mohawk College). He has been the First Nations Language Director for 25 years at the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford, and has also served in a wide variety of positions with organizations in a career characterized by helping develop Indigenous initiatives in education, the arts, communications media and intergovernmental affairs.

He said he is honoured to be joining “the Brock University family.”

“After the rigour and process Brock University initiated to ensure we are a good fit, I am truly grateful,” he said. “And I am excited with the opportunity to bring and share my Indigenous lens and philosophy

to Brock at this time in my career. I hope to work with colleagues to embed and put into practice the spirit of some of the 46 articles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and many of the Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and not just those that call to academia.

“I also want to ‘shine a light’ on the unique Indigenous ideologies — or as we say, Indigeneity — of the Indigenous Civilizations of Ontario. Brock has a tremendous opportunity to dialogue and discuss these historic truths in a safe, collegial and respectable environment, and take a leadership role not only in reconciliation but in ‘reconcili-action’ to

respond to these truths,” he said.

“Brock is situated right in the centre of Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe Territories (Dish with One Spoon Covenant), which is also home to many new Indigenous Peoples, including the Metis and Inuit and their communities. These civilizations and communities are important strategic partners, giving us at Brock an amazing opportunity and coveted profile in this province and within Indigenous Academia.”

Greg Finn, the University’s Interim Provost and Vice-President Academic, chaired the advisory committee which oversaw the candidate search. He said the process itself was defined by inclusion

and collaboration.

“The position itself was recommended over two years ago with consultation from the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, the Aboriginal Education Council, the Two-Row, One Dish, One Spoon Council, the Tecumseh Centre as well as Indigenous students, staff and faculty,” said Finn.

“Obviously it was important that all relevant partners have a say in defining this important chapter of the University’s evolution. I am pleased to welcome Amos Key, Jr. as Brock’s inaugural Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement.”



Brock launches Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization Committee

Brock University is pushing forward with its mission to create a campus environment that is inclusive, fair and welcoming for all.

To help guide the University through this process, the President’s Advisory Committee for Human Rights, Equity and Decolonization (PACHRED) was formed this past fall.

Mandated by Brock University President Gervan Fearon to advise on issues facing equity-seeking communities, the committee includes a diverse membership of 36 faculty, staff and students from across the University.

Committee members are working to examine specific equity-related areas of concern, including anti-ableism, mental health, decolonization, sexual violence, racial justice, gender and sexual diversity and employment equity.



Paper statues of Indigenous military leaders John Norton, left, and John Brant overlook the Brock University campus.

Indigenous statues find a home at Brock

Two striking figures can now be seen overlooking a portion of Brock’s main campus.

On the fourth floor of the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex stands paper statues of two Indigenous military leaders — John Brant and John Norton — who played a key role in the War of 1812 alongside the University’s namesake.

The pieces of art were unveiled in December and will permanently look down over the Indigenous Healing Garden on the north side of the Cairns Complex.

For Michele-Elise Burnett, a Brock Board of Trustees member and Co-chair of the Aboriginal Education Council, it was an appropriate end to a long journey for the statues. Based off of drawings by Six Nations artist Raymond Skye and created by sculptors Allen and Patty Eckman, the paper statues were used to create the bronze likenesses of Brant and Norton installed in Queenston Heights two years ago for the Landscape of Nations Indigenous war memorial.

“I’m just so excited,” said Burnett, who was part of the Landscape of Nations inaugural committee. “I see it as us coming together as a cross-cultural community and Brock University being committed to move forward in harmony, peace and friendship.

“Every day we can look up and know that a part of our history and Brock’s history is united together and we have a brighter future for tomorrow.”

The statues were previously on display in the FirstOntario Performing Arts Centre in downtown St. Catharines, but when a new home was needed, Burnett encouraged Brock to seize the opportunity.

“Having these statues on campus that depict two Indigenous leaders and their contributions to the war allows us all to not only learn about that history, but to also have their presence in our everyday life,” said Brock President Gervan Fearon. “As we forge forward, this is an important statement about the kind of institution we’re building that’s inclusive of all peoples and in particular Indigenous communities.”



Governor General Julie Payette presents the Member insignia of the Order of Canada to Brock Chancellor Shirley Cheechoo May 8 during a ceremony at Rideau Hall. (Photo courtesy of Sgt. Johanie Maheu, Rideau Hall)



Cheechoo is presented with an eagle feather by Alexis Isaacs during a reception May 9 to recognize her Order of Canada honour.

Chancellor and prominent Brock grad are named to the Order of Canada

One of the country's highest distinctions has been bestowed upon two deserving individuals associated with Brock University.

Brock University Chancellor Shirley Cheechoo, an Indigenous academic leader and award-winning artist, and alumna Elisabeth Walker-Young (BPhEd '02), a four-time Paralympian who has been a champion for inclusion and accessibility in sport, have been awarded the Order of Canada.

The award, presented by Governor General Julie Payette, recognizes Canadians whose service shapes society, whose innovations ignite imaginations and whose compassion unites communities. Cheechoo and Walker-Young were among 103 Canadians appointed to the Order, alongside defence lawyer James Lockyer, who received an honorary degree from Brock in 2013.

After Cheechoo received her award at Rideau Hall in Ottawa on May 8, a reception was held in her honour the following day on Brock's main campus.

"What this means to me is that it honours so many people," Cheechoo said of the award while surrounded by supporters who packed the Goodman School of Business Atrium to celebrate the remarkable achievement. "My mentors, my family, my friends and the elders who have taught me. Everyone walked this road together. I didn't do it alone."

A member of the Cree nation, Cheechoo became the first woman and first Indigenous

Canadian to be appointed to the ceremonial leadership role of Chancellor of Brock University in 2015. She is also the founder and executive director at Weengushk Film Institute on Manitoulin Island, which helps Indigenous and at-risk youth develop career skills or return to school.

As a filmmaker, Cheechoo's work has been shaped by her First Nations background. Her award-winning 2012 film *Moose River Crossing* examines characters who, like her, are survivors of the residential school system.

Similar to her work in theatre and filmmaking, Cheechoo has helped to move Brock University through the power of stories, said Carol Jacobs, who was Brock's Elder-in-Residence for nearly a decade.

"In doing so, she has made this University a better place for the whole campus community and is most worthy of the award," Jacobs said. "Much of the progress we have seen at Brock is directly connected to her advice and influence. She has helped to clear Brock's path towards a stronger and more respectful relationship with Indigenous students, staff and local communities."

Walker-Young has also amassed an impressive list of accolades through the years.

An inspiration to athletes across the country, she spent her early days training in Brock's Eleanor Misener Aquatic Centre before making her mark internationally. The Toronto native won six medals (three gold, one silver, two bronze) at



Brock grad and Paralympian Elisabeth Walker-Young has been appointed to the Order of Canada.

four Paralympic Games, breaking several Canadian and world records during her career.

In her professional life, Walker-Young is Manager of Programs for the Canucks Autism Network and has held managerial roles with ParaSport Ontario, Curl B.C., viaSport B.C. and the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. She was chosen as Team Canada's Chef de Mission (official leader and spokesperson) for the Toronto 2015 Parapan American Games, following a stint as Assistant Chef de Mission for the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

"Elisabeth has been and always will be a complete inspiration," said Emily Allan, Associate Director, Brock Sports, who was classmates with Walker-Young during her studies at the University. "From her athletic successes to her workplace, volunteer and community involvement, Lis has always succeeded in everything she does."



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“Being able to work well with others and effectively problem-solve has been instrumental in my career. And I feel that I learned the foundations of these skills at Brock through its strong focus on teamwork.”

—Gregory Craig, President and CEO of Canadian Tire Bank

Brock alumnus Gregory Craig: “I’ve always been open to opportunities. And I found that at CTC, I had lots, as long as I was up for a challenge.”

Homecoming honour awaits alumnus who has soared in career with CTC

By Kaitlyn Daw

Along the challenging road to success, Gregory Craig (BBA '91) relied on dogged determination to help him find his footing.

Each step towards the top came with its own challenges, but with the drive to reach new heights pushing him, the Brock University graduate soon found himself at the helm of a major national organization.

Craig made the climb from Senior Financial Analyst (SFA) to President and CEO of Canadian Tire Bank, creating a rewarding career that all began at Brock University.

His inspiring journey has earned him the title of the Brock University Alumni Association (BUAA) 2019 Distinguished Alumnus. Craig will be presented with the prestigious award during the annual

Alumni Recognition Reception Saturday, Sept. 21 as part of Homecoming weekend's activities.

Craig is an accomplished finance professional with many credits to his name. He lists his greatest achievement, after his family, as overseeing the growth of Canadian Tire Bank (formerly Canadian Tire Financial Services), which accounts for roughly one-third of Canadian Tire Corporation's (CTC) entire profitability.

He has held numerous leadership positions within the company, including playing a significant role in the acquisition of the Forzani Group Ltd., a national sporting goods retailer. Craig has also helped lead key strategic projects, including the launch of Canadian Tire Bank and, most recently, the launch of Triangle Rewards and Triangle Credit Cards.

While he has accumulated an impressive list of accomplishments over the years,

success did not come easy.

When Craig graduated from Brock in 1991, he and his peers faced the challenges of a slow economic period. Right out of school, he worked for a former Brock professor at a startup company before deciding to pursue his MBA at York University.

Following the completion of his MBA, Craig worked in Toronto before another former Brock professor referred him to an SFA position with CTC. He has been with the company ever since.

“It’s been a rewarding experience to go from working as an SFA at a small company in Welland to helping grow the business through many roles. Now as President, I have the opportunity to lead a very talented group of people and set the course of our strategy,” he said.

During his 25-year career with CTC, Craig has held as many as 15 different

job titles. In these roles, he has worked in various divisions across the corporation, including a leadership position in marketing.

“Some of the best moves I have made in my career have been lateral. I never thought I would hold a marketing position,” he said. “In that role, I learned more about our business and gained different skills — all of which made me a better finance person when I came back to the department.”

His diversity of experience has given him a broad view of CTC’s business. This has helped him understand how Canadian Tire Bank can continue to add value to the corporation as a whole.

While reflecting on his career, Craig recognized how fortunate he has been to work for a company that not only “fits into his DNA” but has also afforded him with opportunities to grow.

“I’ve always been open to opportunities. And I found that at CTC, I had lots, as long as I was up for a challenge,” he said. “I’ve loved having the chance to work in our different retail banners, which together make up about 1,700 stores across Canada. These experiences have helped me learn the business inside and out and have given me a well-rounded set of skills.”

Craig also credits Brock for giving him a solid foundation to spread his wings and develop into the person, and professional, he would become. The tight-knit community allowed him to get to know his peers and professors well, and the program’s emphasis on group work helped him develop one of his biggest strengths in leadership: working with people.

“Being able to work well with others and effectively problem-solve has been

instrumental in my career, and I feel that I learned the foundations of these skills at Brock through its strong focus on teamwork,” he said.

It was while Craig was overseas that he received an unexpected phone call from his wife, Erin, who explained he had been chosen for the 2019 Distinguished Alumni award. He was humbled by the recognition.

“It was fitting that Erin told me the news. I couldn’t have achieved half of what I have accomplished without her support,” he said.

“This award recognizes Brock alumni who have excelled professionally and through service to society, and Greg hits both of those marks,” said Jayne Morrish (MA ’12), Chair of the BUAA Recognition of Excellence Committee. “Greg is one of countless Brock success stories. His career achievements are impressive, and it’s clear that he embodies what it means to be an authentically engaged leader, while also using his time to give back to his community and stay connected with the University.

“As a Brock alumna, I am proud to have been part of the committee that reviewed and confirmed his nomination for this award, and I look forward to being part of the team to present it to him in the fall.”

Craig will be at the Alumni Recognition Reception during Brock’s Homecoming weekend to accept the honour.

He will be joined by alumni celebrating their 25- and 50-year class anniversaries and several other outstanding alumni who will be recognized for their exceptional professional and social achievements.

More information on Homecoming’s lineup will be available at brocku.ca/homecoming

HOMECOMING EVENTS



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

ALUMNI RECOGNITION RECEPTION

Held in Lowenberger Dining Hall from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., this event will celebrate distinguished alumni, and recognize grads marking their 25- and 50-year class anniversaries with a pin ceremony.

BROCK NIGHT AT THE NIAGARA GRAPE AND WINE FESTIVAL

The popular 19-plus event takes place in St. Catharines’ Montebello Park from 5 to 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25 each and include a wine festival glass, complimentary glass of wine, artisan food and access to the pavilion until close of the festival on Sept. 21.

EDUCATE YOUR SENSES SEMINARS

The popular series, hosted by Brock’s Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, will return to Montebello Park, with participants exploring the world of wine with the help of local experts.

REUNIONS

One-, five- and 10-year class reunions will be held during Brock Night at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival in downtown St. Catharines.

Brock’s MedPlus program will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with a reunion event. Details to be announced.

The Goodman School of Business will also host a reunion event with a barbecue on the new Goodman patio from noon to 2 p.m. There will also be tours of the new Goodman building and an open house in the Goodman Atrium from 2 to 4 p.m.

Stay tuned as more details are announced at brocku.ca/homecoming



Gregory Craig, Brock University Alumni Association 2019 Distinguished Alumnus, is pictured with his children Charlotte and Fraser, and wife Erin.



**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Brock Night at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival

Saturday, Sept. 21, 5 to 7 p.m.
Harvest Lounge, Montebello Park

Tickets are \$25

Includes a wine festival glass, complimentary glass of wine, artisan food, and access to the Harvest Lounge pavilion until close of festival on Sept. 21. Must be 19+.

For more information, visit

brocku.ca/homecoming

Brock
University

Brock expands its partnerships to improve health care in Niagara

With the health of Niagara residents of all ages in mind, Brock University formalized several partnerships this year to help enhance care in the region.

In March, the University signed separate Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with Niagara Health and Pathstone Mental Health in an effort to strengthen Brock's relationship with the organizations.

"One of Brock's four strategic priorities is to support the health and vitality of Niagara communities," said Brock President Gervan Fearon. "These partnerships enable us to make more of a contribution to local communities, having a real and positive impact on the daily lives of people across Niagara."

Although Brock and Niagara Health have a long history of collaboration, the new agreement places a heightened focus on research that will help people stay healthy, improve both patient outcomes and the way health care is delivered, and create training and employment opportunities for Brock students and graduates.

The MOU provides a framework for the two organizations to further impact the health and vitality of the region in a number of important ways: improved population health, enhanced health-care delivery, stronger economic health of local communities, and increased retention of Brock graduates in Niagara through stimulating employment opportunities, among many other benefits.



Brock Child and Youth Studies master's student Carolyn Hare shows fourth-year Child and Youth Studies and Psychology student Dana Kalil equipment at Pathstone Mental Health that will allow Brock researchers to analyze electroencephalogram data.



Niagara Health Board Chair John Bragagnolo, Brock President Gervan Fearon, Brock Board Chair Gary Comerford and Niagara Health Executive Vice-President Angela Zangari sign an agreement that will see the two organizations strengthen their partnership to work toward improved health and well-being in the region, along with more student experiential learning opportunities.

The Niagara Health collaboration was followed just two weeks later by the signing of an MOU between Brock and Pathstone Mental Health. The agreement creates a direct connection between the people conducting leading-edge research on child mental health and the caregivers who work with families dealing with related issues.

The enhanced partnership aims to positively impact children suffering with mental health in Niagara and beyond. It creates the opportunity for co-developed research to advance brain health knowledge, and to crystalize an existing supportive and collaborative relationship.

Brock faculty members and students have been provided with office and lab space in Pathstone's Branscombe Mental Health Centre in St. Catharines, giving them direct access to children and families interested in participating in groundbreaking research.

Among the many research initiatives supported by the partnership are those focused on topics such as predicting the severity and complexity of mental health challenges in children and youth; anxiety disorders, ADHD, and the effectiveness of interventions; and the impact of therapeutic recreation intervention in developing positive identity for youth with mental health challenges.

Brock's Faculty of Education is also working with Pathstone to develop a training program aimed at helping teachers deal with complex mental health issues in the classroom.

While Brock's latest community collaborations have focused on health care, the University's partnerships extend across the region and touch a number of sectors.

Brock partnered with the Town of Lincoln to create the Brock-Lincoln Living Lab, which focuses on addressing specific local needs around community sustainability and well-being. The University is also working alongside the Niagara Parks Commission on multiple projects around environmental sustainability.

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Brock
University

Save the bees: Brock research examines ways to help Niagara's bee population



Brock University Biology Professor Miriam Richards (BSc '83) examines bees collected at the Glenridge Quarry Naturalization Site in St. Catharines.

By Cathy Majtenyi

In the world of bee conservation, messy is beautiful. A slightly overgrown lawn, a garden with flowers native to the area, patches of soil, and scatterings of twigs and leaves are pure paradise for these tiny creatures.

“The recipe for bees is surprisingly straightforward — provide flowers and nesting habitat, avoid pesticide use and like magic, bees appear and thrive,” Brock University Professor of Biology Miriam Richards (BSc '83) says in her policy brief “Promoting Pollinators: Niagara Bees and How to Help Them.”

Released out of Brock's Niagara Community Observatory in May, the brief looks at the decline of bee populations in Niagara, which have been hard hit as many of their habitats have been paved over or built upon.

“Every field that is converted to a new housing development results in the death of thousands of bees and myriad other small creatures,” Richards says in the brief.

The good news is that even small-scale efforts to create habitats and food sources for bees help.

Richards recommends a number of measures people can take at the household and societal level, including:

- Grow vegetables such as squash and pumpkin that produce flowers
- Plan gardens so there's always some flowers in bloom
- Leave patches of open soil, twigs and leaves in the garden so bees can nest and survive through the winter

- Integrate some low-growing flowers, such as clover, into lawns
- Plant gardens around government buildings with flowers and plants that attract bees
- Enable local governments to limit the size of mall and business parking lots to provide more ground for bees

Healthy, wild bee populations are crucial for the ecosystem. Bees are known as pollinators — animals that move from blossom to blossom collecting pollen and redistributing it. That pollen, in turn, fertilizes an ovum in the blossom, enabling the plant to produce seeds and fruits.

Richards makes an important distinction between wild bees and honey bees, which were brought to North America during the time of colonialism to make honey for the colonists.

“Honey bees are a non-native species that competes with wild bees for access to pollen and nectar resources,” says Richards. “In fact, honey bees are implicated in declines of wild bees, because they compete with wild bees for pollen and nectar resources and may also spread diseases to which wild bees are susceptible.”

There are 800 species of bees in Canada and some 20,000 globally. Niagara has 150 species.

The largest bee population in Niagara

is sweat bees, known for licking human perspiration. Other major species in Niagara include bumble bees, carpenter bees, mining bees and masked or yellow-faced bees.

Wild bee populations have been declining worldwide. In addition to habitat loss, the other major cause is poisoning from insecticides.



Sweat bees make up the largest population of bees in Niagara.

Richards' Brock Bee Lab has been monitoring bee populations at the Glenridge Quarry Naturalization Site in St. Catharines since 2003 to record the impact of such conservation efforts on bee populations. She and her team have produced a number of studies on the subject.

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Brock Computer Science students Javon Luke, left, and Tianyuang Zhang, right, worked with Child and Youth Studies PhD student Courtney Bishop to create the StepByStep Tasks app.

App by students seeks more independence for people living with intellectual disabilities

By Devon Gribble

Tackling any task can often be made easier by focusing on one step at a time.

Brock student researchers have used this logic to develop an app meant to improve quality of living for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs).

StepByStep Tasks was launched by Computer Science students Javon Luke and Tianyuan Zhang, under the guidance of Senior Lab Demonstrator and Co-ordinator Poling Bork. The app, through which Luke and Zhang have been working with staff and clients of Community Living Haldimand, is part of a study aimed at increasing the community participation and independence of people living with IDDs.

Many people with IDDs not only struggle with a wide range of limitations, including difficulties with perceptual reasoning and verbal comprehension, but are also at a higher risk for social exclusion than their non-disabled peers.

These individuals often rely on assistance from support workers to complete everyday tasks and errands. By introducing the app, the team hopes to contribute to their independence.

Just as its name suggests, StepByStep Tasks instructs users on how to complete

a task, one step at a time, using a variety of audio and visual prompts.

The amount of prompting, ranging from simple text instructions to instructional videos, can be set by the user based on their specific needs.

For example, when learning how to do laundry, a user may start off with a video accompanied by audio or text that guides them from start to finish. As they gain confidence in their abilities, they can begin fading out the amount of assistance needed.

"It brings me great pride to see students from our Faculty making a difference in the community."

— *Ejaz Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Science*

The hope is that users can eventually learn to complete the entire task with little to no prompting, Luke said.

Community Living support staff work with individuals to identify skills to focus on and compile a list of tasks they'd like to tackle.

The project is a collaborative effort that included Associate Professor Kimberly Maich in the Faculty of Education at Memorial University of Newfoundland, PhD student Courtney Bishop and Associate Professor Tricia Vause, both in Brock's Department of Child and Youth Studies, Assistant Professor Priscilla Burnham-Riosa, in the Department of Applied Disability Studies, and stakeholders from Community Living Haldimand.

Bishop said results of the initiative so far have been promising.

"When we first started, people were needing anywhere from 60 to 100 per cent support from staff and we're now seeing that number drop to zero in many cases," she said.

The research team aims to nearly triple the number of app users, currently at 12, to a total of 35 by the end of the project's second phase in April 2020.

"It brings me great pride to see students from our Faculty making a difference in the community," said Ejaz Ahmed, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Science. "I applaud their efforts and would like to thank Poling Bork for guiding them through this endeavour."

The app's unparalleled ability to fade levels of prompting has created growing interest in the developmental services field. As a result, StepByStep Tasks is available for free in the Apple App Store.

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Jacob Smith, centre, was awarded the Marilou Iusi Memorial Service Award for his tireless dedication to Brock University athletics during the 2018-19 Brock Sports Awards Gala in March. He's flanked by last year's recipients Crispin Bottomley, left, and Sandra Bolibruck, right.

Student racks up courtside assists through support of Brock basketball teams

By Stephen Leithwood

As the crowd roars during on-court action at Brock basketball games, Jacob Smith can often be found sitting quietly on the sidelines.

Rather than expressing his excitement through typical chants and cheers, the fourth-year Media and Communication Studies student channels the energy coursing through his veins to instead write feverishly about the men's and women's teams he has pledged his dedication to.

It was Smith's tireless work ethic that put him on the map in Brock Sports. His passion endeared him to the student-athletes and coaches, who were impressed by his drive to help teams behind the scenes and to promote them publicly.

By the second half of the 2018-19 season, he was featured as the sideline reporter for gobadgers.ca, the University's source for athletic news, and had become a force to be reckoned with on social media.

In March, Smith's efforts saw him inducted into an elite group of people awarded the Marilou Iusi Memorial Service Award. Presented during Brock's annual sports gala, the award recognizes individuals who have had a lasting impact on athletics at the University.

Recipients of the award have made significant contributions to Brock Sports and have gone above and beyond the call of duty to make the department and the experience for the University's student-athletes a positive one.

Smith was an exemplary candidate for the honour.

The Mississauga native has always had an affinity for media, but dove into all aspects of writing and photography this past season.



Jacob Smith can often be found courtside taking detailed notes while covering Brock basketball games.

"Writing and sports media has become my life," he said. "I grew a love for writing and social media under Brock basketball and I wanted to pour everything I could into it because it was something I enjoyed.

"Over the past two years, it's grown from a fun hobby to something I want to pursue outside of school and I think that shows how much of an impact the promotional and basketball teams have had on my life."

Smith was also fortunate to have the insight of a seasoned media pro at home. His father, Doug Smith, has covered the Toronto Raptors for the *Toronto Star* since the NBA franchise arrived in 1995.

Mike Rao, head coach of the Brock women's basketball team, said the younger Smith was a "tremendous asset" to the team this season. He contributed to the Badgers' performance on the court, Rao said, which included an incredible turnaround to win their first playoff game since 2012.

"Jacob was at every practice and meeting this year. More importantly, he was part of our coaching staff. He constantly pushed himself to attack every day," Rao said. "He is a selfless individual and his goal was to make our team better. He is one of my most loyal assistants."

When class permitted, Smith attended every basketball practice, set up the equipment and shot clocks, and kept time and score for all drills. He often travelled with the team during road games.

"We usually brought Jacob into all coaches meetings," Rao said. "He has first-hand knowledge of what we were looking for in developing our players. His insight into player and team play was greatly appreciated."



Canada Games Park, for the 2021 Canada Summer Games hosted by Niagara, is proposed to be built on Brock University land.

Brock provides University lands for Canada Games infrastructure

By Dan Dakin

Brock University has approved contributing a parcel of land at its main campus so it can be the site of a community and athletics complex that would be the central site when the 2021 Canada Summer Games are hosted in Niagara.

In May, Brock's Board of Trustees voted to provide the land, currently part of a parking area, where Canada Games Park is to be built. The cost of building the Canada Games infrastructure projects will be shared through funding from the Niagara Region, Niagara's municipalities and higher levels of government.

In addition to the land for Canada Games Park, which Brock will provide on a long-term lease for a nominal-fee, the University will contribute \$3.5 million in-kind through the use of Brock's facilities during the Games, as well as a \$500,000 financial contribution.

"The 2021 Canada Summer Games has the potential to be a transformative moment

in Niagara's history, and Brock University is on board," said Gary Comerford, Chair of the Brock University Board of Trustees.

"This will be the largest sporting event ever held in Niagara, and the largest-ever Canada Games. As such, it will leave a lasting legacy on the region on many levels, including new and upgraded facilities."

More than 5,000 athletes will compete in 18 different sports from Aug. 6 to 22, 2021, with all of those competitions taking place across Niagara municipalities.

Canada Games Park would include a sport and ability centre, arenas, gymnasiums and an outdoor facility with a track, athletic field and beach volleyball courts.

Brock President Gervan Fearon said the investment being made by the University will benefit generations of not just students, but the entire Niagara community.

"The investment supports the Canada Games in building two legacies," said Fearon. "First, there is the physical infrastructure legacy of the Games, and second is the legacy of leveraging the facilities in support of university



Barry Wright, Associate Professor of Business, was named CEO of the 2021 Canada Games.

community engagement, academic curriculum and research activities involving the Niagara region here at Brock."

In addition to Brock's contribution to the Games through the in-kind and financial donations, it will also be involved from the academic and student engagement perspective.

The University's involvement in the Games is greatly appreciated, said Barry Wright, a Goodman School of Business associate professor who was seconded to serve as the Games' Chief Executive Officer by the Canada Games Host Society.

Wright pointed out that, in addition to the proposed Canada Games Park and a number of other sport venues at Brock, the athletes' village housing all of the Games' athletes will also be at the University.

In addition to Brock's contribution to the Games through the in-kind and financial donations, it will also be involved from the academic and student engagement perspective.

The University now has three Canada Games academic committees in the areas of research, experiential learning and community engagement.

"We're looking for ways to maximize the partnership between the Games and Brock, from identifying collaborative research projects and curricular offerings to creating volunteer community engagement opportunities," said Sport Management Associate Professor Julie Stevens, who was named Special Advisor to Fearon for the Canada Games and is the lead for Brock's academic activities around the Games.

The Research Committee, chaired by Jonathan Younker, Head, Library Systems and Technologies, is examining the ways faculty members can leverage the Games for research purposes, and, in turn, provide the organizers with data that will help them in the future.

The Committee is looking at funding options to provide researchers with some backing to take on Games-related projects. For example, one of the big arguments for regions and municipalities to take on the challenge of hosting major games is the economic impact of doing so. This makes the analyzation of economic data before, during and after the Games extremely important.

The Committee is also looking to host research showcases leading up to the Canada Games to display and discuss some of the ongoing projects.

"It's exciting for all of us on the Research Committee to be able to be involved in this project at this early stage, and to be able to support researchers with funding opportunities, digital infrastructure and a showcase for Games-related research to be shared with the public," Younker said.

The Curricular Committee, chaired by Associate Professor of Health Sciences Madelyn Law, is examining ways to tie the Canada Games into academic programming at the University. This could be through



Brock University President Gervan Fearon and Julie Stevens, Special Advisor to the President, Canada Games.

the creation of new courses, or by adding related content to existing courses.

"It's about helping instructors develop new initiatives in their courses that can connect to the Games directly or with partners involved with the Games," Stevens said. "Through new curricular opportunities, instructors can leverage the Games to help students consider more options for their career path and

and contribute to the event, while gaining important academic and work-related skills.

"We're looking at the Canada Games' needs and providing experiential education courses for our students that match what they require," she said.

In addition to the many people working for the Canada Games, it will take a small army of volunteers to run the 18 athletic competitions and serve in dozens of roles required to host a successful major games.

Brock's contribution to that volunteer force will be largely organized by the Community Engagement Committee, headed up by Kristen Smith, Manager, Community Outreach Programs for Brock's Student Life and Community Experience.

Community engagement is one of the four pillars in Brock's new Institutional Strategic Plan, and the Canada Games presents a perfect opportunity to show how serious the University is about being a collaborative partner for the Niagara region.

The Committee is looking at ways to create a University-wide volunteer program that would include its students, as well as Brock employees, who could be called on when event organizers need extra hands. In exchange, the volunteers would get access to benefits such as career education and professional skills development.

"We are always looking for innovative ways to connect students to the broader community and Canada Games provides a wonderful opportunity to bring Brock students, staff, alumni and community members together to support a large-scale event in Niagara," said Smith. "The work of our committee will enhance how we engage students and community partners in the future."

"The 2021 Canada Summer Games has the potential to be a transformative moment in Niagara's history."

— Gary Comerford, Chair of the Brock Board of Trustees

see the Games as a way to develop their professional skills."

While Brock's highly respected Sport Management program is a natural fit, the Curricular Committee has representation from all Faculties getting on board. Humanities instructors, for example, may engage in French language support services in their courses. The Faculty of Math and Science and the Goodman School of Business could also tie in through courses, such as operations and marketing of events.

Law said the Committee is also looking to offer students various experiential education opportunities that will help develop their understanding of the Games

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Niagara artist Alexander Rasmussen, brothers Clark and Taylor Robertson, Vice-President, Administration Brian Hutchings, Brock President Gervan Fearon and Board of Trustees Chair Gary Comerford at a ceremony unveiling artwork honouring the Robertson family.

Robertsons leave a million-dollar gift to help Brock sustain new scholarships

By Dan Dakin

In life, Joe and Anita Robertson were known as a philanthropic couple generous with their time and finances.

At Brock University, where both were heavily involved, that giving legacy will live on through the donation of a cherished piece of art and the creation of a \$1-million endowment fund in their memory.

Joe Robertson spent a decade on the University's Board of Trustees and served as Chair from 2012-14. Anita was an active volunteer with the University and in the Niagara community. Their daughter, Laura, had just been hired to work in Brock's athletics and recreation department. Tragically, all three were killed in an airplane crash on their way to a family vacation in July 2018.

"The Robertson family have been significant contributors to the Niagara community and many initiatives, including here at Brock University," said President Gervan Fearon. "We were devastated by the loss, but we will always be deeply grateful for their involvement in the growth and success of Brock over many years."

The Robertsons' sons, Taylor and Clark, were on hand as a permanent memorial to the family was unveiled at Brock's Market Hall on April 29.

The artwork was donated to the two brothers, in memory of their parents

and sister, by Niagara artist Alexander Rasmussen, who painted the massive eight-foot-tall by 24-foot-wide piece in 2015.

Rasmussen said Joe and Anita had seen the painting as it was in progress and had been looking for an appropriate home for it. Clark and Taylor were pleased to learn that Brock planned to accept the painting and display it prominently.

But it's not just the artwork that will serve as a legacy to the Robertson family's commitment to the University.



Former Brock University Board of Trustees Chair Joe Robertson is pictured with his wife Anita and their daughter Laura, right.

Joe and Anita left a combined \$1 million to Brock, which the University will enhance by \$600,000, establishing an endowment to create and fund the Joe Robertson Awards for students in the Goodman School of Business, and the Anita Robertson Awards for Nursing students. Through these two awards, funding will be provided each year

to eight graduate and 12 undergraduate students.

"While my parents are physically no longer here, they aren't truly gone," Clark said to about 100 people gathered at the ceremony in his family's honour. "Their dreams and values, their hopes and joy, they live within my brother and I. They live within anyone they've ever touched and they will be there for the students who go on to earn these scholarships and bursaries — students, who much like my parents, began short on cash but full of optimism and dreams of a better tomorrow."

Fearon said the family's philanthropy will "support the success of many future generations of Brock students, and the art they have donated will be proudly on display at Brock to be an ongoing reminder of their support of the arts and commitment to student and community experience at the University."

Brock Board of Trustees Chair Gary Comerford said the Robertson family's legacy of generosity and volunteerism is "an inspirational example for us all."

"Joe and Anita were actively supportive community members on so many levels," said Comerford. "They gave so much of themselves to this University and to the Niagara region. It's a foundation they passed on to their children, and a lesson in community involvement for all of us to follow."

Best in class: Innovative teaching methods take alumnus to national award

By Alison Innes

Confident his students have the ability to make history, Paul Paterson (BA '90, BEd '05) spends his days trying to inspire and empower them to do just that.

The Brock graduate earned national praise earlier this year for his innovative methods working with Grade 10 students at Westmount Secondary School in Hamilton. Paterson was presented with the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching by Julie Payette, Canada's 29th Governor General, in a ceremony at Rideau Hall on Jan. 28.

It was Canada's 150th celebrations in 2017 that sparked his award-winning approach to teaching history. Feeling a bit of malaise for the approach to the milestone year, Paterson decided to work with his students to tackle the issue head-on.

"My problem was we were celebrating things we did 150 years ago, but not thinking a lot about what we're doing now or what our next big thing is on the horizon," Paterson said.

He challenged his students to think about what Canada might look like 50 years down the road and what actions they could take to bring that vision to fruition.

Students chose to explore several areas of interest, including the environment and Indigenous and minority issues.

They identified challenges and opportunities, wrote up timelines and policy proposals, and developed action plans for their proposed solutions.

The final step had students send their proposals to and request feedback from people who could potentially help their visions come true, including politicians, lobbyists and bureaucrats.

"Students routinely got answers back from all sorts of leaders in the political realm, including provincial premiers and cabinet ministers," Paterson said. "The kids got excited because somebody listened and took time to respond."

In the process, students learned the power of persuasive writing and realized that their ideas have merit.

Paterson said his classroom techniques were influenced by his time at Brock, where he first studied History and Political Science, and then participated in the University's former Enterprise Education program.

"The Brock seminar experience was really good for developing quick thinking," he said. "Critical thinking skills are key to success — the ability to think on your feet, understand complex issues and debate them."



Paul Paterson (BA '90, BEd '05) received the Governor General's Award for Excellence in Teaching from Julie Payette, Canada's 29th Governor General, in a January ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa.

"Students routinely got answers back from all sorts of leaders in the political realm, including provincial premiers and cabinet ministers. The kids got excited because somebody listened and took time to respond."

— *Teacher Paul Paterson on his award-winning Canada 150 project*

With those lessons in his pocket, Paterson brought an entrepreneurial mindset into his classroom, teaching his students about trying new things, developing a clear focus and plan, and having the courage and conviction to bring ideas to life.

For Paterson, studying history is about being able to dismantle and then reassemble complex issues, a skill that is necessary in every field.

"In the last decade, there's been a real emphasis in education and society on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) as the most important sectors to explore," he said. "What we do in history, social sciences and humanities in general is every bit as important. You have to be just as smart, just in a different way.

"We should not ever marginalize any avenue of study," he added. "It's only through integrative approaches that we can solve problems."



Blaine MacDougall, centre, at the Canada's Outstanding Principals award ceremony with Debra D. Kerby, President and CEO of The Learning Partnership, and Steve Kuwahara, Market Vice-President at CIBC. (Photo courtesy of The Learning Partnership)



Jay Wolkoff, centre, at the Canada's Outstanding Principals award ceremony with Debra D. Kerby, President and CEO of The Learning Partnership, and Steven Wolff, Chair of The Learning Partnership's Board and Chief Executive Officer at CIBC Mellon. (Photo courtesy of The Learning Partnership)

Education grads stand out with Canada's most outstanding principals

By Tarryn Landman

Jay Wolkoff (BEd '98) and Blaine MacDougall (MEd '89) are making a difference in the lives of young learners — and the country is taking notice.

The Brock University Faculty of Education graduates were among 30 educators named Canada's Outstanding Principals, the largest program recognizing principals in Canada's publicly funded schools.

The award-winners were celebrated during a Feb. 26 ceremony in Toronto, hosted by The Learning Partnership, a non-profit organization that delivers experiential programs to nurture entrepreneurial thinking, and social and emotional learning in students. Winners are nominated by colleagues, educators and community members and become members of the National Academy of Principals.

Wolkoff and MacDougall were each taken aback by the recognition and praise for their efforts in their respective schools.

"It was very humbling," MacDougall, principal of Cardinal Newman Catholic Elementary School Niagara Falls, said of receiving the honour. "I look at colleagues

in my school board and I know many of them are also doing great things."

Throughout his 20-year career as a principal, MacDougall has championed the use of data to improve student outcomes. He has led the creation of individual student data profiles, which include information that helps teachers understand the particular learning needs of each student, and built partnerships with local high schools to help students and families better understand future pathways.

With seven years as principal and more than 20 years in the education field under his belt, Wolkoff has focused on improving academic results and building a sense of pride in school.

As principal of E.J. Sand Public School in Thornhill, he promotes professional development for staff to deepen the understanding of teachers working with English Language Learners and other students who need additional supports. He encourages and welcomes parents and the community to become partners in their child's learning, and has helped to create a dedicated makerspace in the school's library, one of many initiatives to nurture collaborative problem-solving and the development of global competencies.

Wolkoff pursued a teaching career to make a difference in the lives of students and to help them reach their full potential. He was drawn to Brock's programming for its focus on special education.

He most appreciated the balance of theory and practice the University's program offered, with an emphasis on techniques teacher candidates could use in the classroom.

"It wasn't about preparing us for the practicum, it was about preparing us for a career in this field of teaching," he said.

MacDougall also cherished his time at Brock, where he felt he found his fit while pursuing a Master of Education.

His sisters, both teachers who also attended the University, encouraged him to pursue a career in education.

"I wanted to make a difference in the lives of our youth and challenge them to help us create a better world," he explained.

MacDougall believes school clubs and teams are opportunities for children to become leaders at a young age, allowing them to work on being good communicators, problem-solvers and creative thinkers.

"It's a safe place where they can make mistakes and fail. And failure is OK, as long as we recognize and learn from it."

Trailblazer of campus accessibility is giving back to her University



Linda Crabtree and her husband G. Ronald Book have established a bursary at Brock University for students with disabilities. (Photo courtesy of Natalie Stickle)

By Kim Post

Linda Crabtree's relationship with Brock University began later in life than most.

It was at the age of 41 that she took her first Psychology class at the school, sparking an invaluable connection that has only grown stronger through the years.

Having lived most of her life in St. Catharines, Crabtree (BA '87) watched as the University grew from a single building at the bottom of the Niagara Escarpment to a bustling campus above the pristine greenspace.

However, it wasn't until she began her Brock studies that the strong bond she now knows with the University would begin to blossom.

Diagnosed with Charcot Marie Tooth Disease (CMT), a group of genetic conditions that damage the peripheral nerves, Crabtree is mobility impaired and had a unique experience navigating campus as it stood in the 1980s.

Rather than accept standards as they were, she initiated the first committee at Brock created to address accessibility. Following graduation in 1987, she continued her efforts as a champion for people with disabilities in society.

Crabtree's time at the University gave her the confidence to create CMT International, a charitable organization for people living with CMT. Her CMT newsletter went out to people around the world.

Her determination to help better the lives of others did not go unnoticed at Brock.

In 1994, she received an honorary degree from the University and was named one of the Brock University Alumni Association's 30 From the Past 30 — an honour presented to alumni who exemplified Brock's core values in celebration of the association's 30th anniversary.

Crabtree's work has also been acknowledged with more than 20 national and provincial awards. She is a Member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, and received the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility.

Each honour helped to affirm her life philosophy of pursuing a path that you love, all while helping others.

Now, in semi-retirement, as Crabtree and her husband G. Ronald Book are planning their estate, Brock has remained near and dear to her heart.

Hoping to continue giving back to the University community, Crabtree intends to donate her medals, awards and records to Brock's Archives and Special Collections. The donation will include more than 50 years of journals, newspaper columns, newsletters, project files and photographs.

To provide explanation of the pieces, and to help students utilize them as a resource when studying entrepreneurial women, Crabtree wrote her autobiography entitled *CMT and Me: An intimate 75-year journey of love, loss and refusal to surrender to a disabling disease*.

Crabtree and Book have also designated a bequest to Brock University to establish the Dr. Linda D. Crabtree Guts and Glory Bursary to commemorate her connection to the institution and to ensure students with disabilities have support in their education in the years to come.

This gift to Brock in their wills is one of many ways Crabtree's legacy will live on and continue to inspire the next generation of Badgers.

To make a gift to Brock University, please contact Development and Alumni Relations at 905-688-5550 x4190 or visit brocku.ca/donate.

For more information about leaving an estate gift or to request a will kit, please contact Tracy Geoffroy at 905-688-5550 x4519 or tgeoffroy@brocku.ca

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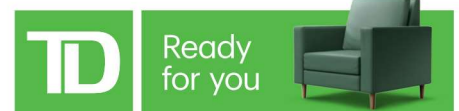
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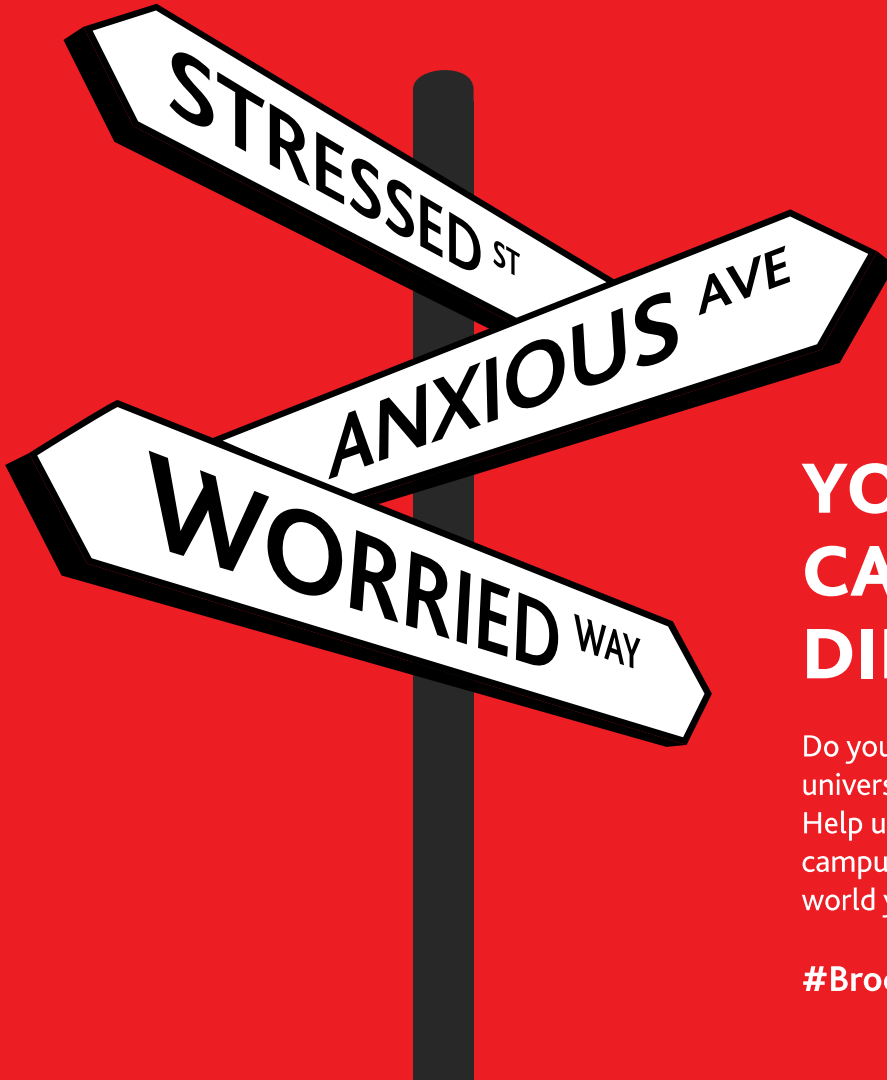
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