

Surgite

A Brock community magazine
Vol. 11 No. 2, Winter 2019

A young man with short brown hair and black-rimmed glasses is smiling broadly while talking on a black smartphone. He is wearing a bright blue Toronto Maple Leafs jacket with the team's logo on the chest. He is leaning against a blue metal railing. The background is a blue wall with a grid pattern.

Educating the big leagues' leaders

New residence signals
new era for Brock University

A Brock milestone: 10 years
of confetti and happy dances



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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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THE BrockNews



François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities, announced the federal government's financial contribution to the 2021 Canada Summer Games in Niagara during an event held Thursday, Sept. 5.

Canada Games infrastructure at Brock moving forward

With major funding in place, organizers of the 2021 Canada Summer Games are ready to start changing the sporting landscape of Niagara.

Brock University President Gervan Fearon joined local Games officials and political figures on Sept. 5 for the announcement of \$29 million in funding through the Community, Culture and Recreation Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada infrastructure plan.

The federal commitment matches the funding announcement made by the Ontario government just three weeks earlier.

Fearon said Brock is proud to be contributing the land on which Canada Games Park will be built, along with \$3.5 million in-kind through the use of Brock's facilities during the Games, and a \$500,000 financial contribution. University faculty, staff and students will be participating and serving as contributors and volunteers in support of the event's success.

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

Being built in what are currently Parking Lots U and V (Zone 2), Canada Games Park — the most significant infrastructure project as part of the Games — will include a sport and ability centre, arenas, gymnasiums, an outdoor facility with a track, an athletic field and beach volleyball courts. ■



Brock students Matthew Deven, left, and Brendan Llew-Williams examine rock formations in northern Ontario during a fourth-year Earth Sciences course focused on advanced structural geology.

Every Brock program now has an experiential option

Brock University graduates continue to enjoy employment rates that outpace the Ontario average.

Data from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) shows that, six months after graduating, Brock grads have an employment rate of more than 90 per cent. Two years after graduating, the rate is more than 96 per cent. In both time frames, Brock's numbers are above the average for Ontario universities.

A key factor behind this career success is Brock's emphasis on giving students a taste of the workplace through experiential education.

This fall, Brock reached a new milestone by offering experiential education opportunities in 100 per cent of its academic programs — more than 1.5 million hours dedicated to experiential learning in 1,039 different course sections.

Sandy Howe, Brock's Associate Director of Experiential Education, said the ongoing development of programming prepares students to take meaningful steps in their careers, both during their studies and immediately after graduating.

"Experiential learning is huge for career outcomes, employment and personal development," said Howe. "Our programs help to clarify the path for success while offering real opportunities to set students on their way."

Some of the diverse experiential learning opportunities available to students include volunteering with rescue dogs for a Sociology course and collecting rock samples in northern Ontario for an Earth Sciences course. ■



Gord Arbeau.

New faces at Brock University

Brock University welcomed Gord Arbeau as the new Associate Vice-President, Advancement and External Relations on Dec. 2. Arbeau, who was previously the Director of Communications at McMaster University, is making gains in fundraising for scholarships and research initiatives, building capacity and enhancing Brock's role in regional development and economic growth.

alternate ways for students entering Brock to achieve a post-secondary education, as well as overseeing the work of Brock International.

Nicholas Dion, who was previously the Senior Projects Officer for the Provost at University of Toronto, began his new role as Chief of Staff to President Gervan Fearon on Nov. 4. The position was created to provide vision, leadership and support to implementing Brock's Institutional Strategic Plan, advancing Brock as a comprehensive university and supporting its academic mission and financial sustainability. ■



Camille Rutherford.



Nicholas Dion.

Camille Rutherford is the University's new Vice-Provost, Strategic Partnerships and International, for a two-year appointment. Her role includes establishing partnerships and developing new and

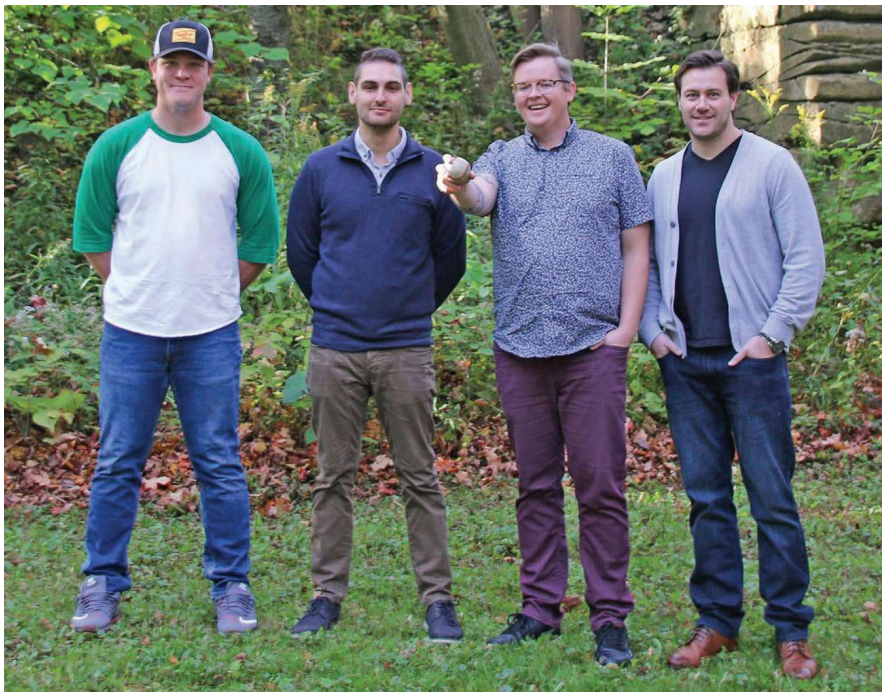
Brock launches drone certificate program

From grape vine crop assessments to forest fire monitoring, drones have become important tools across a wide range of industries.

To help introduce students and community members to the technology, Brock University's Environmental Sustainability Research Centre (ESRC) is now offering Introduction to Drones as a non-credit certificate program. The first day-long course took place Nov. 30.

"The course presents a unique opportunity to acquire detailed knowledge and hands-on experiential learning about the safe and legal use of drone technologies for real-world applications," said Marilynne Jollineau, Acting Director of the ESRC.

Drone use in environmental sustainability has surged with uses ranging from performing air quality assessments to allowing researchers to map, monitor and evaluate inhospitable or inaccessible sites without disturbing fragile ecosystems. ■



From left to right are master's student Ryan Bench, Richard Birfer (MSc '19), Adjunct Professor of Kinesiology Mike Sonne and Associate Professor of Kinesiology Michael Holmes.

Grad student throws change up for baseball injury research

A team of Brock University researchers have published a systematic review outlining the consequences of fatigue in baseball pitchers and developed a tool to evaluate pitching mechanics.

Richard Birfer (MSc '19) led the research with his co-supervisors, Associate Professor Michael Holmes and Adjunct Professor Mike Sonne in the Department of Kinesiology. The team published their findings in PeerJ, detailing fatigue in baseball pitchers as a process linked to lowered physical and mental performance, injury and changes in kinematics.

Since the systematic review's publication in July, it has attracted potential partnerships from several Major League Baseball (MLB) teams and baseball development facilities.

In addition to the systematic review, Birfer's thesis focused on the development of a pitching mechanics tool. The result was an easy-to-use, low-cost approach to assessing pitching mechanics. ■



Instructor Gillian Dale teaches a group of students the basics of flying quadcopter drones.



On Sunday, Nov. 3, Brock welcomed thousands of prospective students and their family members to campus.

Fall Preview Day attracted local and international prospective students

By Michelle Pressé

For some prospective Brock students and their families, getting a taste of the University was worth crossing an ocean for.

Fall Preview Day, which took place Nov. 3, welcomed visitors with program-specific presentations, athletic demonstrations, and tours of research labs and the campus.

Sophie Brown, who hails from Guernsey — the birthplace of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock — came to the event with her parents, Nick and Susie, who planned a family vacation to Canada with Brock at its centre.



A crisp, sunny day served as a perfect introduction to future Badgers.

“The more research I did on Brock, the more I realized how amazing it would be to live and study here,” said Brown, who has positioned the University as her No. 1 choice. “It would be quite something to go from such a small island to such a massive country. I was a bit nervous because I was hoping it would be everything I wanted it to be, and it is. Visiting campus makes me want to come here even more.”

Brown’s dream of studying at Brock is dependent on scholarship opportunities. During her weeklong visit in Canada, she visited campus twice, where she met with students, staff and faculty, including James Allard, Chair of the Department of English Language and Literature, which she hopes to study in.

“My favourite part of English I’ve studied is North American literature, so it would be fitting to learn about these books in their native country,” said Brown. “I read Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* as part of my studies and I loved it. I couldn’t stop reading it.”

During their trip to Canada, they also went on a boat tour of Niagara Falls, paid respects to Maj.-Gen Sir Isaac Brock’s monument at Queenston Heights, went to the top of the CN Tower and experienced the magic of a Toronto Maple Leafs home game, where Brock graduate Kyle Dubas (BSM ’07) is the general manager. Brown says hockey is her new favourite sport to indulge in.

“We’re keen to support our daughter if she wants to attend university internationally,” said Brown’s father. “The particularly strong connection with Guernsey being Sir Isaac Brock’s birthplace is pretty great.”

Brown’s mother added that her family felt very privileged to be able to make the trip and experience another culture.

“Everyone in Canada is really friendly,



Sophie Brown, a senior high school student from Guernsey, hopes to attend Brock next fall.

“There’s a lot of new buildings, so it seems there’s a lot happening to make it even bigger and better for future generations.”

— *Sophie Brown’s mother, Susie, speaking about Brock’s campus.*

and we’re all impressed with Brock,” she said. “There’s a lot of new buildings, so it seems there’s a lot happening to make it even bigger and better for future generations. Our visit gave us a very positive vibe. As parents, coming from so far away, we both agreed she would go with our blessing.”

Not everyone had to change time zones to make the trip.

Connor Reintjes, a Grade 12 student from Grimsby, came to Fall Preview Day to learn more about Brock’s Biophysics, Biotechnology and Computer Science programs.

“I really wanted to experience the environment and learning opportunities Brock offers,” said Reintjes. “I’ve developed in my mind the kind of courses I’m looking for. I like that Brock is nice and close to home, and there’s a good sense of community. I’ve been here before for sports and my sister’s graduation, so I’m quite familiar with the school.”

Kara Kelly, Manager of Recruitment Operations and Communication at Brock, said the University’s experiential opportunities and high rates of student satisfaction are contributing decision-making factors for prospective students and families.

“People recognize the importance of combining their studies with valuable experience,” said Kelly. “They’re eager to hear about all that Brock has to offer.”

She added that she was delighted that so many members of the Brock community pitched in to make the day a success.

“To see so many students, staff and faculty spending their weekend to welcome guests and share their passion for Brock is very heartwarming and indicative of the close community students will feel when they come to Brock.” ■

Brock formalizes partnership with Public Health

By Dan Dakin

Brock University and Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services are neighbours located across the street from each other on Sir Isaac Brock Way, but the links connecting the two run far deeper than geography.

For many years, Brock and Public Health have been working together on joint research, experiential education opportunities, career events and guest lectures. That partnership was formalized Sept. 13 when Dr. M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting

Medical Officer of Health for Niagara Region, and Gervan Fearon, President of Brock University, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The signing took place in a fourth-year Child Health class at Brock taught by Health Sciences Professor Terry Wade.

Fearon said one of Brock's strategic priorities is to support the health and vitality of local communities, and partnering with Public Health has assisted in making a meaningful difference.

"Besides providing invaluable experiential education opportunities for students, this collaboration crosses many

disciplines and identifies prospects for research in a host of areas," said Fearon.

Hirji said Brock and Public Health share a common goal.

"Deepening our partnership with Brock University allows a synergy of our on-the-ground insight into people's health with Brock's research prowess, thereby ensuring our community has the best scientific evidence," said Hirji.

The University's involvement in public health education goes back more than a decade, when Brock launched the first Bachelor of Public Health program in Canada. ■



Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre Executive Director Emily Kovacs, left, and Brock University President Gervan Fearon, right, signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations Tuesday, Aug. 13. Looking on are Adriana Clifford, Niagara Folk Arts Board President, left, and Leela MadhavaRau, Director of Brock's Office of Human Rights and Equity.



Brock University and Niagara Region Public Health and Emergency Services signed a Memorandum of Understanding Friday, Sept. 13. Pictured from left are Brock Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Dean Peter Tiidus, Brock President Gervan Fearon, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Niagara Region Dr. M. Mustafa Hirji and Associate Medical Officer of Health Dr. Andrea Feller.

Brock University, Niagara Folk Arts partner to help newcomers

By Dan Dakin

Niagara Folk Arts Executive Director Emily Kovacs' story of immigrating to Canada is a familiar one to Brock University President Gervan Fearon.

Kovacs arrived from Romania in 1988, struggling during her first two years before discovering the services offered by what was then known as the Folk Arts Council of St. Catharines. With the organization's support, she enrolled at Brock, graduating with a degree in Psychology in 1998.

Two decades later, Kovacs joined Fearon, who was born in the United Kingdom to Jamaican parents and moved to Canada at a young age, in signing a formal agreement Aug. 13 to improve the well-being of newcomers to Canada in the Niagara region.

The Memorandum of Understanding signed at the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre's Robertson Hall in St. Catharines strengthens a partnership based on a mutual goal of helping those new to Canada through research, outreach and support services.

Fearon said supporting newcomers helps build strong and inclusive communities that benefit all Canadians.

"Brock has a role to play in helping to develop the knowledge and skill sets that will enable individuals to become contributors to and champions of their new home," he said. "We are pleased to be partnered with Niagara Folk Arts to help the community embrace new members and welcome new friends and neighbours." ■

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Educating the big leagues' leaders

By Michelle Pressé

On a clear day, if you look out from Brock University's Schmon Tower across Lake Ontario, you can easily see the skyscrapers of Toronto.

The Greater Toronto Area is home to many Brock Sport Management (SPMA) graduates, who share a unique and resilient bond.

Some are now in the most sought-after positions in the Canadian sports industry. They all started out in the trenches as interns, and they possess a rare trait that helped them secure the coveted positions they're in today: calculated patience.

This past June, Jon Goodwillie (BSM '03) was at the forefront of national history when the Toronto Raptors won the NBA championship, the first time a Canadian team won professional basketball's biggest prize. In September, he was named an assistant coach of the Raptors.


He says Brock allowed him to combine his passion for basketball with the business side of sports.

"I had an interest in the strategy of the game and thought maybe I'd get into coaching," says Goodwillie. "I ended up getting a great opportunity with my internship... Everything kind of grew from there."

He says the level of commitment required by everyone in an organization to have a successful season is something relatable for all sport teams.

"There's so much that goes on behind the scenes to getting the players ready for performing their best," says Goodwillie. "In a regular season game, in a playoff game, in an NBA Finals game — that's the culmination of so much work that's gone in day in and day out."

A short distance from the Raptors' home, Corey Wray (BSM '07) describes the "invaluable" lessons he learned through SPMA in his journey in becoming assistant general manager of Major League Soccer's Toronto FC.



Toronto Maple Leafs
General Manager
Kyle Dubas (BSM '07)
take questions during a
2018 Speakers Forum for
Brock SPMA students.

"I don't know that there's a book that teaches you how to deal with the Toronto hockey media or rabid soccer fans, but you have a head start coming out of the program," says Wray.

When Toronto FC chooses interns and students to join their team, they look for top talent. Wray says it's no coincidence that many come from Brock.

"Coming from the SPMA program, it leaves me and others who are hiring interns with confidence," he says. "There seems to be a built-in hunger to work here and a humility to do whatever it takes to be successful."

Wray was in the same class as Kyle Dubas (BSM '07), who is now general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs.

"I remember when [Dubas] was hired as the assistant GM," says Wray. "It was pretty exciting. There are things we're all doing that we can learn from each other."

When Dubas became the Leafs' assistant general manager in 2014, he brought the iconic Canadian franchise into the modern era of professional sports, drilling deep into data and analytics when making key personnel decisions. In 2018, he became the Leafs' general manager.

"Brock, the University in general and the Sport Management program in particular, is where I learned how to learn, and I was always challenging myself to learn more," Dubas told a group of SPMA graduates in 2015. "That was massive in terms of how it shaped me and my career. Without that lesson, I don't know where I'd be or what I'd become."

Erin Mathany (BSM '05), Vice-President, Marketing and Partnerships for the Canada Games Council, was in her third year at Brock when Vancouver won the bid to host the 2010 Olympic Games, a feat that

"The SPMA Alumni Day that the Department hosts every year is a testament to the strength of our alumni network and their willingness to support the next generation of sport leaders."

- Erin Mathany (BSM '05)

inspired the Olympic fan to pursue a career in multi-sport games.

"Sometimes as students, we underestimate the role the program or the professors can play in our journey," she says. "Many SPMA profs are closely connected to alumni and can help build a bridge from university to industry."

Mathany, who also sits on the Brock University Alumni Board, has a passion for remaining engaged with the University and contributing to the wider student community.

"The SPMA Alumni Day that the Department hosts every year is a testament to the strength of our alumni network and their willingness to support the next generation of sport leaders," she says.

Mathany notes the strong SPMA alumni network also includes female graduates who are industry leaders, including Holly Gentemann (BSM '03), Director of Events, Alomar Sports Inc., who spent 15 years with the Toronto Blue Jays, and Krystle Krasnaj (BSM '06), Senior Manager, Integrated Marketing, NHL.

For Andrew Tinnish (BRLS '99, BSM '01), love of baseball is what led the now assistant general manager of the Toronto Blue Jays to Brock. Winning two national championships on Brock's baseball team ('98/'99 and '99/'00) were highlights from his time as a Badger.

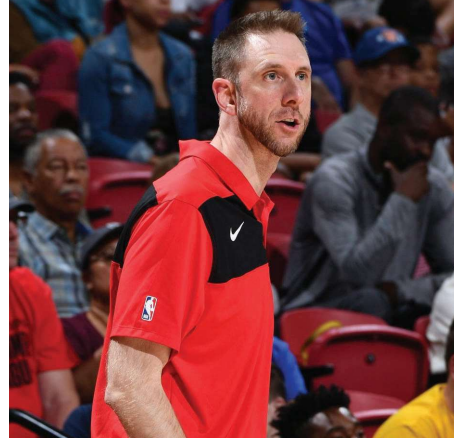
"The hard work put into those championships, as well as in the classroom, are what has helped me get to this point in my career," says Tinnish. "It's helped me develop some resilience and work ethic."

The profoundness of having a cohort of Brock SPMA graduates at the top of the Canadian sports industry isn't lost on Tinnish.

"I take a lot of pride in seeing SPMA graduates doing as well as they have," he says. "Obviously Kyle especially, getting that top position with a major sports organization is so hard. Kyle has not only reached that, but already had success and I believe strongly is going to have a lot more."

He says he hopes to see more Brock graduates join the ranks of leadership in the Canadian sports industry. In order to make it happen, he encourages SPMA students and recent graduates to exhaust every resource and opportunity.

"I'm a proud SPMA graduate," says Tinnish. "It's obviously rewarding to have the position that I have, but it took a lot of time, effort and work — blood, sweat and tears — to get to this point. These jobs are hard to find and hard to get. None of this happens overnight." ■



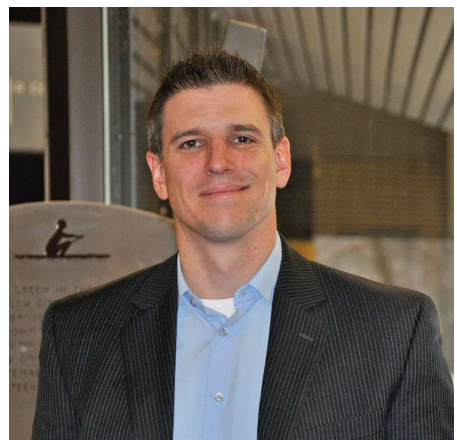
Jon Goodwillie (BSM '03).



Corey Wray (BSM '07).



Erin Mathany (BSM '05).



Andrew Tinnish (BRLS '99, BSM '01).

A Brock milestone: 10 years of confetti and happy dances



Every year, students who receive an admissions package from Brock have something extra to be excited about.

By Michelle Pressé

The tradition of students anxiously awaiting post-secondary acceptance letters runs deep, but for those who apply to Brock University, there's an added layer of anticipation.

Bags filled with colourful bursts of confetti mixed with gold letters stitching "congratulations" together are attached to a card with three-step instructions:

Step 1: Read your offer of admission.

Step 2: Open package of confetti.

Step 3: Throw confetti and do your happy dance... you're in!

Every year, social media is flooded with photos of the packages sent out by admissions staff with the hashtags #BrockU and #HappyDance, which are written on the card.

Kara Kelly, Manager, Recruitment Operations and Communication, says the idea started a decade ago during a brainstorming session about conveying the excitement of receiving an offer from Brock.

"Someone mentioned confetti exploding as you opened the package," says Kelly. "After a bit of laughter, we all paused and realized we might actually have an idea."

It took off around the same time as Twitter, gaining worldwide attention.

In 2013, one Faculty decided the confetti wasn't suitable for their students and asked for it to be removed from their offer packages.

"Once the packages started going out, the backlash was immediate," says Kelly. "Students from that Faculty began complaining and asking why they did not receive their confetti. Needless to say, we re-introduced the confetti the following year. Since that time, students from all programs have received it."

When Jacqueline Harber was a Grade 12 student in Grimsby, the confetti was the first thing she looked for in her acceptance package.

"The confetti was a great way to celebrate graduating high school and moving onto the next chapter in my life," she says.

Harber made her final decision while attending the Brock Open House shortly after receiving her offer, where she also overheard a student say that she was saving her confetti to open when she graduated.

"I thought this was a great idea," says Harber. "Even though I was excited to become a Badger, I knew I wanted to save the confetti until graduation. I thought it would be better to celebrate my hard work and reminisce on all of the memories I would make."

In 2018, Harber graduated with an Honours Bachelor of Arts in Political

Science and a minor in French. She's now pursuing her Master of Arts in Political Science from the University of Waterloo and is on co-op as a policy assistant with Ontario Public Service in Toronto.



Jacqueline Harber (BA '18) saved the confetti from her admissions package until convocation.

Harber says her fondest memories at Brock include getting involved on campus, excelling academically and making lifelong friends.

A highlight, while bittersweet, was graduating. After four years, she opened her desk, pulled out the confetti she'd been saving, and threw it in the air. ■



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2019 BUAA award recipients (from left to right): Alan Nursall (BA '79), Manny Figueiredo (MEd '01), Paul Paterson (BA '90, BEd '05, ENPC '05), John MacDonald (BRLS '82), Alex Valova (BA '08), Kirsty Salmon (BSc '91, MSc '94), Rita Middleton (BAdmin '87), Gregory Craig (BBA '91)

Homecoming celebrates alumni excellence

By Kaitlyn Daw

When she toured Brock during this year's Homecoming, Ellen D'Heureux (BA '94) was awestruck by the University's growth — both in infrastructure and curriculum development — since she last roamed campus as a student 25 years ago.

Returning to the University with her long-time friend and fellow Brock Badger Renae MacKenzie (BA '94), the Child Studies graduate was flooded with memories and a deep sense of pride as they came together to celebrate their 25th reunion.

"Visiting Brock again this year brought back a lot of memories," said D'Heureux, now a teacher with the Toronto District School Board. "From meeting new people, living on my own for the first time, exploring a new city, cheering on the hockey and basketball teams, to learning so many new things and having fun in residence. It felt really good to be back."

The Sept. 20 to 22 weekend welcomed more than 800 alumni who travelled near and far to walk down memory lane and saw the return of popular events including the Alumni Recognition Reception, Brock Night at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, Hometown Baseball, and various milestone reunions.



Kirsty Salmon (BSc '91, MSc '94), recipient of the 2019 Faculty of Mathematics and Science Distinguished Graduate Award, travelled from the U.K. to celebrate the prestigious honour at the Alumni Recognition Reception.

On Sept. 21, D’Heureux and MacKenzie joined 170 other alumni and friends at the Alumni Recognition Reception to celebrate alumni excellence. The luncheon and awards ceremony recognized alumni who graduated 25 and 50 years ago with a special pin presentation, and acknowledged recipients of various prestigious awards presented by the Brock University Alumni Association (BUAA) and Faculty Deans.

“I felt honoured to be recognized and celebrated on my 25th anniversary of graduation,” said D’Heureux. “I was touched by the University’s efforts to stay connected to their alumni and to make them feel special.”

During the reception, alumni from the Classes of ’69 and ’94 received their gold and silver Cameo Club pins, respectively, to commemorate milestone anniversaries with their alma mater. The prestigious pins are a silhouette of the University’s namesake, Maj.-Gen Sir Isaac Brock.

“The Cameo Club pin presentation recognizes our alumni and their lifelong connection to their alma mater,” said Shelley Huxley, Director, Alumni Relations. “The pins are a unique keepsake that symbolize and celebrate their connection to Brock. We hope our alumni will wear their Cameo pins with pride.”

The reception also highlighted Distinguished Faculty Graduate Award recipients, Outstanding Young Alumni Award recipient Alex Valova (BA ’08), and Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Gregory Craig (BBA ’91), President and CEO of Canadian Tire Bank, for their exceptional professional achievements and contributions to society.

“These awards are a way of not only recognizing the great work of our alumni, but ensuring that all Brock University alumni can share in the excitement over these achievements,” said Allie Hughes (BA ’09), Chair, BUAA Recognition of Excellence Committee.

The evening ended with Brock Night at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, one of the weekend’s most popular events, offering an exclusive alumni experience at Canada’s largest wine festival.

Homecoming closed with the second annual Hometown Baseball game at George Taylor Field, which hosted more than 400 fans who cheered the Brock Badgers through their 13-7 victory against the Ontario Blue Jays.

“I really do miss being a student at Brock,” said D’Heureux. “My nephew just started at Brock and I consider him very lucky to be on such a great campus with so many resources and supports to help students.” ■



Alumni celebrated their one, five and 10-year reunions with Boomer during Brock Night at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival.



Brock alumni from the Class of '94 toast to 25 years of connection with their alma mater at the annual Alumni Recognition Reception.



More than 200 alumni gathered in the Harvest Lounge Pavilion at the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival to reconnect over local wine and food during Homecoming.

EXPERIENCE. A VIBRANT ARTS COMMUNITY.



Post-show conversation with visiting high school students on the set of *Antigone*, directed by Mike Griffin of the Department of Dramatic Arts, MIW Theatre, November 2018.

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Indigenizing education at Brock and beyond



Kelsey Dick (BA '09, BEd '09, MEd '12) is an Indigenous Education teacher for the Niagara Catholic District School Board.

By Michelle Pressé

For Indigenous Education teacher Kelsey Dick (BA '09, BEd '09, MEd '12), choosing Brock was one of the easiest choices she's ever made.

"It was love at first sight," said Dick. "I knew as soon as I walked through the doors that I would be accepting my offer to the Concurrent Education program in Child and Youth Studies."

Dick, who works at Soaring Eagles, a program offered through the Niagara Catholic District School Board, credits Brock with playing a pivotal role in her teaching journey.

But the impact didn't end with her convocation ceremony.

In 2016, Dick connected with a former associate professor she had at a First Nation, Métis and Inuit Indigenous Education lecture held at the University.

Peter Vietgen, who is still an associate professor at Brock, worked with Dick and her students on a project that involved using visual arts to explore the Calls to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Report.

The project included an exhibition curated by Dick's students, driven by their voices and experiences.

"I really enjoy sharing traditional ways of learning with students and promoting cultural pride with sensitivity," said Dick. "I am on a journey with my students where we are co-learning together. Connecting with my own Indigenous culture as a citizen of the Métis Nation has helped me grow both personally and professionally."

In the 2019/20 academic year, Brock's Aboriginal Student Services report 435 students at the University self-identifying as being Indigenous, compared with 357 in 2016/17.

Dick said she's proud of Brock's leadership in advancing Truth and Reconciliation, including the hiring of Amos Key Jr., the University's first-ever Vice-Provost, Indigenous Engagement.

Brock has committed to supporting Indigenous education, as well as strengthening relationships of trust with Indigenous

communities and partners across all sectors and activities of the University.

One such initiative was an eye-opening experiential exercise that took place in October, where Public Health and Biomedical Sciences students examined centuries of systematic abuse faced by Indigenous peoples.

Sandra Wong, Aboriginal Academic Support Program Co-ordinator/Instructor, said the exercise delivered a powerful narrative that provides insight into many of the contemporary issues experienced by Indigenous people.

"We have to promote whatever type of learning needs to be done for our people," she said. "It's not competitive and we want to work together. We want our Aboriginal kids (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) and non-Aboriginal kids to learn the history."

In the 2019/20 academic year, Brock's Aboriginal Student Services report 435 students at the University self-identifying as being Indigenous, compared with 357 in 2016/17.

Dick adds that the University has cultivated Indigenous learning on campus through various services, including Aboriginal Student Services.

"Brock's Aboriginal Student Services truly provides a welcoming and supportive environment for Indigenous students on campus," said Dick. "We have brought our secondary Indigenous students to participate in workshops and transition activities, which were uplifting and really engaged them." ■

"I really enjoy sharing traditional ways of learning with students and promoting cultural pride with sensitivity."

*—Kelsey Dick
(BA '09, BEd '09, MEd '12)*

Brock research team invents process for self-healing plastic



Chemistry Instructor Paul Zelisko and his current master's students Phoebe Booth, Paria Azadi and Laura Voigt are working to improve the process for self-healing plastic.

By Cathy Majtenyi

If you dropped your plastic water bottle and cracked the container, would you throw it out, or blow-dry the crack away?

For years, scenarios like this intrigued Brock Chemistry Instructor Paul Zelisko and his research team, who invented a self-healing silicone polymer.

Small molecules connect together to form a larger, unique structure called a polymer, which are contained within countless everyday objects. They can be flexible or hard, appearing as strands, which Zelisko characterizes as resembling spaghetti.

“If you imagine those spaghetti strands having hands that shake hands across the strands, when you shake hands you get a bond between the strands which strengthens them,” he says.

These linkages form rigid structures that can be manipulated into 3D shapes.

Other researchers have created self-healing processes, but many only work one time, says Zelisko.

“With our reversible approach, we should be able to get healing happening multiple times before the polymer is no longer viable, extending the lifetime of an object for possibly up to 15 years,” he says.

A concern for the environment is the

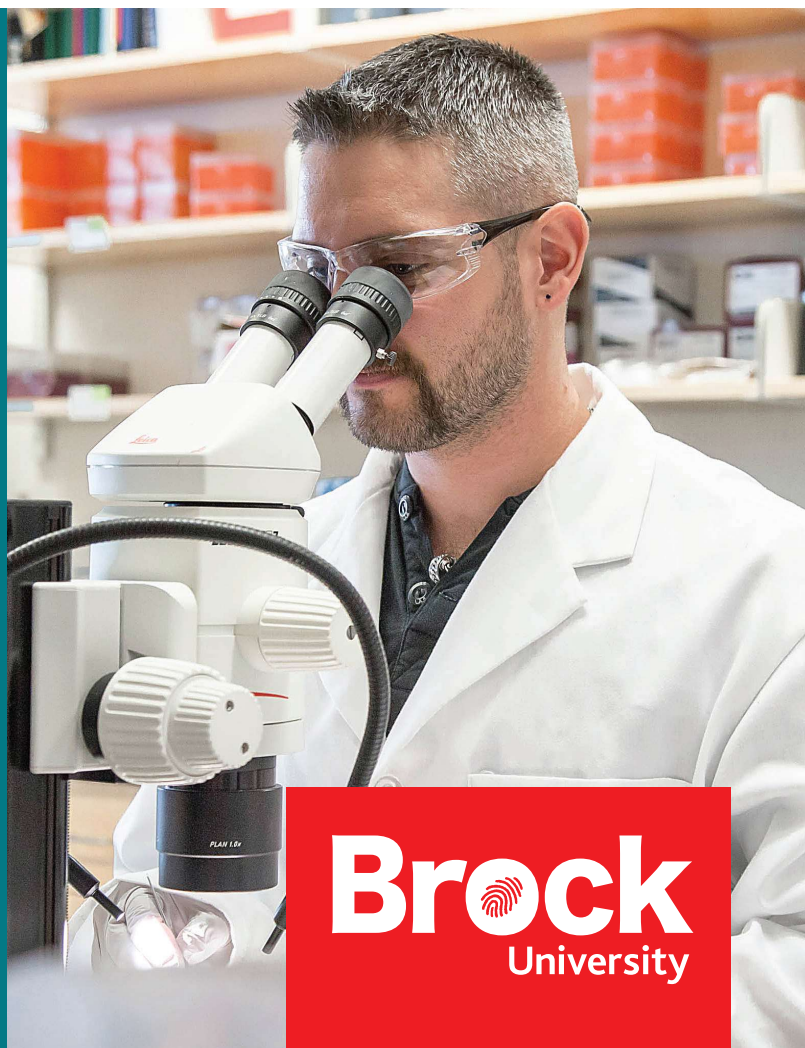
motivation behind Zelisko's work, which is funded by a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada Discovery Grant. He says creating products that last a long time “keep them in circulation and out of landfills.”

Alongside his previous master's student, Amin Nasresfahani (MSc '18), they patented their self-healing silicone polymer invention. Zelisko and his current master's students, Paria Azadi, Phoebe Booth and Laura Voigt, are dramatically improving the self-healing process. ■

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Master of Sustainability student maps Niagara's invasive species



During her Master of Sustainability program at Brock University, Lyn Brown (MS '19) created the Niagara Region Aquatic and Riparian Invasive Species Control Database, which lists activities by organizations and groups in Niagara that manage invasive plant and aquatic species.

By Cathy Majtenyi

They hitch rides on the soles of people's shoes and in water carried and dumped by ships, enabling them to sneak through borders undetected.

Once in their new homes, they destroy their neighbours by crowding them out, passing along diseases or even poisoning nearby plants, sometimes leading to major landscape transformations.

Plants and animals being introduced on purpose, or inadvertently into new environments, can have harmful impacts on native ecosystems.

During her Master of Sustainability program at Brock University, Lyn Brown (MS '19) learned all about the dangers of invasive species.

As part of her thesis, Brown created the Niagara Region Aquatic and Riparian Invasive Species Control Database, which lists activities by organizations and groups in Niagara that manage invasive plant and aquatic species.

The initiative includes an interactive GIS map to show the locations of control efforts, and the database itself can be searched by invasive species, control type, control effectiveness or organization.

"The overarching goal of this database was to make a resource that could be an information and networking tool for organizations in the Niagara region," says Brown. "This forms a first-ever baseline of what's being done to control invasive species in Niagara so that organizations can assess the effectiveness of what they're doing now and plan future management strategies more efficiently."

"This forms a first-ever baseline of what's being done to control invasive species in Niagara."

—Lyn Brown (MS '19)

Most of the database's 86 entries consist of plants that come from other parts of the world. Among the most common in Niagara are phragmites and common buckthorn originating in Eurasia, and purple

loosestrife, native to Europe and Asia.

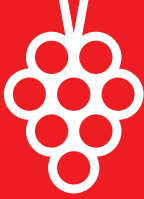
Asian carp, zebra mussels and quagga mussels are included as invasive riparian species.

Brown, who now works for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, says she first became passionate about the issue of invasive species as an undergraduate student.

She says invasive plant and animal species cause a host of negative effects, including starving native plants and animals by consuming their food sources, preying upon native species, disrupting agricultural activities and lowering property values.

"Invasive species are great at spreading and growing," says Brown. "They basically take over habitat, displacing many native species and further endangering native species that are already threatened."

Organizations that have put links to the database on their websites include the Canadian Council for Invasive Species, Invasive Species Centre, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Aquatic Nonindigenous Species Information System. ■



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Fourth-year Oenology and Viticulture student Jessica Oppenlaender received the 2019 Cuvée Award for Academic Excellence.



Nick Pappas (BSc '18) was awarded the 2018 Cuvée Award for Academic Excellence.

CCOVI celebrates role in the future of the grape and wine industry

By Britt Dixon

Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) is celebrating five years of investing in the future of the grape and wine industry through the Cuvée Legacy Fund.

The fund is supported by proceeds from the Cuvée Grand Tasting, organized by CCOVI, which is a celebration of Ontario VQA wine and local cuisine from chefs from across the Niagara region.

"Cuvée and the Legacy Fund support the next generation of winemakers and grape growers by funding industry-driven research initiatives and providing scholarships to students," said CCOVI Director Debbie Inglis.

One of those students is Jessica Oppenlaender, who received the 2019 Cuvée Award for Academic Excellence.

"It was quite an honour to receive this prestigious award and scholarship," said Oppenlaender. "Cuvée and the Legacy Fund really matter because they support the research that helps our industry to continue to grow and produce top quality products."

Coming from a family of grape growers, Oppenlaender has seen that research first-

hand while working in CCOVI labs to help develop diagnostic tests, evaluate new equipment, write operating procedures and translate those procedures to the grape and wine industry.

"My passion has just exploded," she said.

The year before, the same award went to Nick Pappas (BSc '18), who is now making wine at Marynissen Estates Winery.

"Winning that scholarship meant that all my hard work at Brock and during my co-op placements in the industry really came together," said Pappas. "That money helped me finish off my last couple of courses, and having that award on a resumé is just amazing."

Pappas was also able to add "award-winning wine" to his resumé. During one of his co-op placements, he made his first commercial wine which was entered into a national competition and won bronze.

This year's Cuvée Grand Tasting has been set for Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls. The event will feature more than 100 VQA wine selections from Ontario's top winemakers, along with gourmet food delicacies prepared by celebrated chefs at live cooking stations. The Après Cuvée party guests can also look forward to live music and selections from micro-breweries, cideries and VQA wineries.

"Cuvée and the Legacy Fund support the next generation of winemakers and grape growers."

—Debbie Inglis, CCOVI Director

During the weekend-long event, the Cuvée en Route passport program allows ticket holders access to exclusive tasting flights at more than 30 Niagara wineries from April 24 to 26.

"It is our hope that Brock alumni will start a new tradition by attending what has become the largest event of its kind in Canada and supporting students like Jessica and Nick," said Cuvée Manager Barb Tatarnic.

For more information or to purchase tickets to the Cuvée Grand Tasting or en Route passports, visit Cuvée.ca. If you can't attend but would like to donate visit brocku.ca/donate and choose the Cuvée Legacy Fund. ■

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Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being co-ordinator Katherine Crockett looks on as 99-year-old Chuck Page does a series of leg presses at the Lockhart Drive facility.

Brock celebrates as oldest fitness participant turns 99

By *Maryanne Firth*

After routinely hitting the gym three times a week, Chuck Page has earned the right to have his cake and eat it too.

And that's just what the regular at the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being was treated to when he celebrated his 99th birthday on Aug. 9.

Page, the centre's oldest participant, blew out the candles, enjoyed a generous slice of chocolate cake and then got back to breaking a sweat.

He's never been one to miss a beat, said centre co-ordinator Katherine Crockett. Even when a hairline shoulder fracture kept him temporarily out of the gym earlier this year, he was determined to get back on the machines.

Page's connection to Brock began 14 years ago when he saw a call in a local

newspaper for participants in a University study. Associate Professor of Kinesiology Kim Gammage was evaluating whether exercise could improve balance in seniors and Page, who was doing no exercise other than walking at the time, was intrigued by the concept.

He signed up, saw the study through and has been a regular at the gym ever since. The St. Catharines resident has been a real inspiration for other clients at the centre, Crockett said.

"So many of them say, 'I hope I'm still working out and doing chest presses at 99,'" she said. "It's great motivation."

Page believes his exercise routine has played a big role in his health as he approached his later years.

"I think that's why I'm 99 and still going," he said. "Even a little bit of exercise makes a big difference as you age."

Even Page's own son has been moved by his gym journey.

"He's an inspiration," said Rick Page, who has also begun working out at the centre during a month-long visit from British Columbia.

"I had to come in and watch his routine first to make sure I could keep up," the 65-year-old quipped.

Page is happy to be able to offer a bit of encouragement to get people moving.

"Sometimes all they need is a little motivation and then they take off and are glad they got started," he said. "That's the hard part — getting started."

Working out at the Brock-Niagara Centre for Health and Well-Being, which allows seniors to use the space for a minimal membership fee, offers more than physical benefits, Crockett said.

"It's the social aspect of it as well. A lot of people who come here live alone or only with their spouse, so this gives them a space to come and socialize." ■



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Former Brock Badgers women's hockey captain Brenna Murphy was one of 30 student-athletes to graduate during Fall Convocation on Oct. 18.

From arena to classroom, women's hockey captain graduates on high note

By Stephen Leithwood

During her time on the ice, Brenna Murphy wore the 'C' as captain of the Brock Badgers women's hockey team, but after earning two degrees, she's adding a few more letters to her name.

After previously earning an Accounting undergraduate degree from Brock, the hockey player received an Accounting master's degree in October. The Odessa, Ont. native now has her sights set on earning a Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation to her title within the next year.

"Overall, my experience at Brock was awesome," said Murphy. "I was able to continue playing the game I love while getting two degrees from one of the best accounting programs in the country."

A steady force on the blue line as a shutdown defenceman, Murphy was named alternate captain in just her second year.

"I knew it would be a challenge as one of the captains at only 19 years old on a team with girls who were four or five years older than me, but I felt like I was ready, so I accepted the role," said Murphy.

She was named captain the following season.

"Brenna is the type of person who wants to do everything right," said Head Coach Margot Page. "She took pride in everything she did in the classroom, community, workout room and on the ice. Brenna had a lot of pride in being a Brock Badger. That is why she was a good captain."

Murphy was named an Academic All-Canadian for four consecutive years she competed at Brock.

She recently completed the CPA Common Final Examination (CFE) and landed a job as an accountant for KPMG Canada.

"Brenna has been an exceptional student and athlete throughout her time at Brock, and as a result, she has been a role model for all," said Associate Director of Brock Sports Emily Allan. "As captain of her team, she consistently demonstrated what it took to succeed both on and off the ice."

Even though she's no longer a varsity hockey player, Murphy hasn't hung up her skates.

"I'm still playing hockey for a Senior A team in Toronto, so my plan is to continue playing competitively as long as I can," she said. "I also plan on volunteering with



Brenna Murphy, an Academic All-Canadian, received her Master's of Accounting degree from Brock.

female minor hockey teams in the area to help give back and mentor aspiring young female hockey players."

Murphy offered two pieces of advice to incoming student-athletes.

"Enjoy the experience, both the ups and downs," she said. "The four or five years you spend as a Brock student-athlete fly by, so even though there are those early-morning workouts, fitness testing, and sometimes long and intense practices, learn to enjoy it all. Cherish it while it lasts." ■



Brock University broke ground on a new 300-room residence building on its main campus on Oct. 28.

New residence signals new era for Brock University

By Dan Dakin

As the shovels were pushed into the ground by Brock University senior staff and student leaders, an important construction project on the main St. Catharines campus officially kicked off on Oct. 28.

Answering the request for more on-campus housing from students and the community, the University broke ground on Residence 8, a \$40-million, six-storey student residence expected to be completed by the summer of 2021. The project is self-funded and will contribute to the University's operating budget when it opens.

University President Gervan Fearon said Brock's reputation for academic excellence and student experience has led to record enrolment and more students wanting to enrich their university experience by living on campus.

"We have a responsibility to help more students have that experience, but Brock also has a duty to our host communities," said Fearon. "Brock needs to be part of the solution. We need to help accommodate the people we are attracting, and that's what we are doing today."

Residence 8 is the first Brock-owned housing complex to be built on campus since Lowenberger opened in 2003, when the University's enrolment jumped because

of the end of Grade 13 in Ontario high schools. The new facility's 300 beds will increase Brock's housing capacity to nearly 2,800.

"This project is important because demand for residence exceeds our capacity," said Director of Residences Jamie Fleming. "We have a long waiting list, so we could have filled this residence this year if it was open."

He said living on campus is an important part of the student experience that Brock is recognized across the country for.

"Many of our students choose to live in residence and many initially do so because they find it convenient, but very quickly realize there's a whole experience that goes

along with it," he said. "It's a very safe, comfortable and welcoming environment that makes them feel engaged with what's happening on campus."

Residence 8 will be built beside the existing Alan Earp Residence using a section of what is currently Parking Lot M. In order to accommodate the building and to increase the University's parking capacity overall, a new parking lot will be built on the east side of Ray Woodfield Drive parallel to Glenridge Avenue.

The new housing facility will include a dining hall, a 24/7 service desk for students and a hub for Conference and Events Services. ■



An artist rendering of Residence 8, which will be built beside the existing Alan Earp Residence and is scheduled to open in Summer 2021.

CPA Ontario invests in the success of Brock's Goodman School of Business

By Kaitlyn Little

A significant investment from CPA Ontario will help Brock University's Goodman School of Business strengthen its position as a leader in accounting research and education.

The donation, announced Aug. 29, included the appointment of three CPA Ontario Research Scholars within the School; the establishment of the CPA Ontario Centre for Public Policy and Innovation in Accounting (CPA-CPPIA) at Goodman; and a capital gift that will give naming rights to an expansive gallery within Goodman's new building.

The funding for three CPA Scholars is a five-year commitment, which will be used to assist Goodman faculty in support of their research activity.



Goodman School of Business Dean Andrew Gaudes, CPA Ontario Director, Student Recruitment Vicki Liederman and Brock University President Gervan Fearon in front of the new CPA Ontario Gallery.

The CPA-CPPIA will study the development and implications of public policy with the aim to influence policymaking and policy change. The CPA-CPPIA will work at advancing the accounting profession by bringing together academia, industry, government, public accounting and CPA Ontario members to develop and promote relevant and timely thought leadership.

"Brock has a long history of providing Ontario with innovative thinkers that positively contribute to the accounting profession," said Craig Smith, Executive Vice-President of Member and Student Services, CPA Ontario. "We are proud to further invest in the future of our profession and support the important work done at the Goodman School of Business." ■



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Brock's new Engineering program breaks the mold

By Kevin Cavanagh

Coming in Fall 2020, Brock's scope of academic disciplines will take a major step when the University launches an undergraduate minor degree in Engineering Science.

Students enrolling in the program, which will be open to all students at Brock and Niagara employers, will encounter a bold interpretation of engineering that eschews conventional thinking, says Janusz Koziński, the Presidential Advisor who has been leading the new program's development team that involves scholars from all Faculties.

Koziński says the Brock program is unlike typical approaches to teaching a discipline that generally studies the application of science to construction, propulsion or manufacturing.

"Our goal is to place the employability of our students at the core of the program," said Koziński. "It will be achieved by creating a highly transdisciplinary learning environment that is required to respond to demand for engineers with a broader set of entrepreneurial, design and technology skills."

He said the Brock program will emphasize a human dimension by addressing local and global challenges "with a focus on human imagination, human values and human needs."

"Brock will teach engineering differently. Most traditional lectures will be replaced with practical project work supported by mentors, to develop the specialist skills needed to graduate as engineers."

Koziński calls the new program "bold and future-proof," one that will prepare engineers to address needs both locally in the Niagara region, and beyond, in a world that will increasingly be defined by constant economic, social and technological change.

"This new style of engineering student thinks in big, sustainable systems, not uni-disciplinary silos. This is a person who is confident in working with megatrends, like food innovation, additive manufacturing and robotic process automation, while mastering conceptual skills like emotional intelligence, cognitive flexibility and complex problem-solving."

Physicist Thad Harroun, who teaches in Brock's Faculty of Mathematics and Science, has been helping develop the new curriculum. After launching in the coming year with a minor in Engineering Science, the program will ambitiously expand into a full realm of undergraduate and graduate degrees, including a Master of Engineering (MEng professional degree) launching in 2021; Bachelor of Engineering (BEng) in 2022; Master of Applied Science (MASc research-based) in 2022; and PhD research-based in 2023.



Janusz Koziński, an internationally renowned higher education leader, researcher and entrepreneur, has been leading the development of Brock's Engineering program.

The decision to embark into this new direction was informed partly by Brock's Institutional Strategic Plan, whose four key priorities include expanding the University's research capacity and offering a transformational and accessible academic and university experience.

"We must not fear a future where the very pace of change is the barometer of success," said Koziński. "Adapt early, adapt often" will be the mantra of tomorrow's humanist engineers as they flow into a challenging and multifaceted job environment. Brock is poised to lead the way." ■



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)

New Brock facility to support economic growth in Niagara

By Dan Dakin

A \$5-million investment by the federal government will allow Brock University to create a landmark facility aimed at making Niagara a research and innovation leader in bioagriculture, bioscience and chemical manufacturing sectors.

The FedDev funding through the Community Economic Development and Diversification stream was announced in September and means Brock can now launch the Brock-Niagara Validating, Prototyping and Manufacturing Facility (VPMF).

Enabling area businesses to access the University's researchers, expertise and advanced technology, the new centre will be housed in a \$6.1-million expanded facility, which is expected to open in 2021.

Brock University President Gervan Fearon said the visionary facility will make the Niagara community a Canadian leader in university-engaged collaborative research and innovation that advances the competitiveness of the manufacturing and agri-food sectors.

"We are grateful for the Government of Canada supporting this strategic initiative that helps to build the regional economic cluster of the Niagara region and supports the competitiveness of industry across Canada," said Fearon. "The VPMF will support applied research and development, innovation and

commercialization efforts to help businesses grow and thrive. It will play an important role in Brock University's strategic priority to partner with businesses and communities in supporting the prosperity and vitality of the Niagara region and beyond."

The VPMF will be comprised of three main components: research and innovation; testing and prototyping; and training. It will expand on existing partnerships created through Brock's Advanced Biomufacturing Centre (ABC), Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) and the BrockLINC.

The VPMF will give businesses access to state-of-the-art analytical, prototyping and early-stage manufacturing tools, as well as expertise and training, to help expand and tackle new markets. It will provide the bioproduct, bioagriculture, bioscience and chemical manufacturing sectors with a single-site solution to improve or launch products and new processes.

"This will enhance industrial-academia partnerships by providing businesses with the capacity to fully design, study and characterize both biological and chemical systems while working with the related expertise at Brock University," said Tim Kenyon, Vice-President, Research at Brock.

The VPMF will work with a wide range of companies in Niagara and across southern Ontario in sectors such as wine production, cannabis, food-based products, health care, medicines and nutritional supplements, and chemical companies that produce polymers and resins used in manufacturing. ■

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Mary Ann Tierney (BA '07)

Transition Coordinator, Student Accessibility Services, Brock University

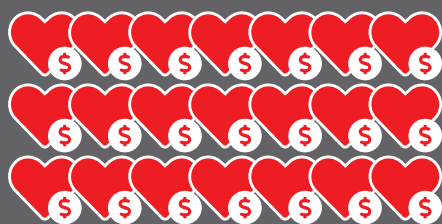
Mary Ann Tierney faced many obstacles throughout her degree, but with hard work, perseverance and the support of academic scholarships and bursaries, she overcame each one. Two years after graduating, Tierney started making \$10 gifts every month to the Brock Fund where her contributions are immediately directed to emerging priorities and campus needs that help ensure the student experience comes first.

I was inspired to give back as an alumni donor since I was fortunate to receive scholarships and bursaries during my time as a student. Times were tough, and if it wasn't for the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP), a wide range of scholarships/bursaries and working part-time, I would never have been able to afford school. While I wish I could donate more, it is important to me to be a Brock donor in hopes that my small contribution can help where it is needed most.



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Janet Savard (BA '72, DIPLED '74, MED '80)

Retired Educator, District School Board of Niagara

As the daughter of one of the union skilled trades people who contributed to building Brock University more than 50 years ago, Janet Savard was inspired to continue in the tradition of giving back. She has been making monthly gifts supporting various funds at the University since 1983, and currently supports Indigenous students in the teacher training program with her monthly donations of \$40 to the Faculty of Education.

If it had not been for Brock, I would have struggled financially to complete my degrees at another Ontario university. I am pleased to do my part to ensure that future Niagara students have the opportunity for a post-secondary degree. I thoroughly enjoyed my years at Brock and I hope I am assisting others to have the same experience.

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