


Surgite

Vol. 3, No. 1, February 2010

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. The image is split vertically, with the left side showing his face and the right side showing a dark background with text.

The scientist who helped put Brock on the map The enduring Ian Brindle

A young widower lives out
his wife's legacy

Cairns family makes its mark

A sportscasting dream
comes true

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Surgite

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

Cover photo: Ian Brindle and the Cairns Health and Bioscience Research Complex, by Bob Tymczyszyn

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Robyn Mortley (BA '01, BEd '01) and Chris Capredoni (BBA '91)
Co-presidents, Brock University Alumni Association

Greetings, fellow alumni, and welcome to the February 2011 issue of Surgite.

As co-presidents of the Brock Alumni Association, we are delighted and eager to be representing your interests on campus. For the next year, we will be working with our fellow grads on the Alumni Association board of directors who are equally committed to recognizing a tradition of excellence and working together to enhance the value of the Brock degree and experience.

One of our goals is to facilitate your continued connection to Brock. As advocates, we work on your behalf, not only to continue to link you to Brock but to continually strive to increase the value of your degree(s). It is that intangible quality that the Alumni Association is committed to bring to benefit past, current and future graduates.

It is an exciting time to be actively involved in the Brock community. The campus is changing daily, with new buildings and exciting research initiatives. Yet, at its heart, our alma mater remains the same tight community. Brock students are as committed as ever to learning both in the classroom and beyond.

Reading this magazine and keeping up to date with Brock is one way of remaining engaged as a grad. However, we also urge you to attend some of the many events held on campus or in communities across the country, or to sign up as a volunteer.

No matter how you choose to remain connected to Brock and your fellow grads, know that you are all part of a very special extended family.

Best wishes,

Robyn Mortley,
BA '01, BEd '01

Chris Capredoni,
BBA '91



Ian Brindle graduates from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology.

As a youth, Ian Brindle (MSc '72) was mocked constantly by a construction foreman for not "knowing his place."

Growing up working-class poor in England after the Second World War meant that "knowing your place" also represented limited options. Mixing concrete at a construction site, and being chafed by the foreman's social commentary, helped Brindle realize that education was the key to getting out from under Britain's oppressive class system.

And as it turned out, Brindle came to know his place very well. It is Brock University, and it has been his place for more than 40 years.

Brindle, who retires later this year as Vice-President, Research, has devoted his professional life to Chemistry in 1986 and Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Science in 2001. Between 2007-08 he was Associate Vice-President Research and International Development, and in 2009 he was appointed

Brock. He arrived at Brock as a master's student in chemistry in 1968, returning as a senior demonstrator in 1974. He became a professor in

A man with a vision

After 40 years at Brock, Ian Brindle keeps looking forward

By Joan Wiley

to his current position.

Brindle is scheduled to step down on July 1 and welcome a new VP Research. But his long association with Brock will not end with retirement. Besides staying on an additional six months to help his successor with the transition, the aspiring author has been approached to write a history of Brock for the University's 50th anniversary in 2014.

As a young student in his native UK, Brindle received a BSc from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST) and became a research technician. But his research involved making a better plastic coating for razor blades.

"I knew there had to be more to science and life," he says.

An early photo of Brindle in a Brock Chemistry lab



There was. Brindle's colleague, Martin Gibson, was leaving UMIST to take a chance on a young Canadian institution called Brock University. Gibson, who eventually became Brock's Dean of Mathematics and Science, encouraged Brindle to apply to Brock's master's program in science.

The rest, as they say, is... chemistry.

Brindle, who would go on to become a fellow of the Royal Society of



Ian Brindle (MSc '72) has always dreamed of a health and bioscience research complex.

Chemistry, worked on hydride-forming elements, and his pioneering use of L-cysteine in the determination of these elements led to its being called the Brindle Reagent. In 2002, UMIST recognized his achievements by awarding him a doctorate in science.

With Roger McLaughlin (BSc '94; MSc '97; BEd '09), a former graduate student, he received a U.S. patent for a device for atomic spectrometry. Known as the Multimode Sample Introduction System, the device improves performance in the analysis of water, wastewater, sludges and sediments for toxic elements such as arsenic and selenium.

Brindle also developed sensitive techniques for tracking the flow of contaminants into the Niagara River from chemical dumps in New York State.

Brindle met his wife, Jill (BA '71; BEd '78), while she was a Brock undergraduate in English. They wed on New Year's Day in 1970, and their 42 years of marriage produced three children. Brindle's eyes crinkle with affection when he speaks of his three grandsons.

"My fondest memory at Brock is meeting Jill," Brindle says. "She completely changed my life as a person."

So entwined has the University become with his personal life that an official family coat-of-arms is being modified to include the image of a badger, or "brock" — an Old English word for the animal.

When Brindle first taught at Brock, his research lab and classes were held in an old refrigerator factory at the base of the Niagara Escarpment, which also housed Brock's teacher's college. The Schmon Tower was the only building on campus. It would be 1984 before the Faculty of Mathematics and Science moved into H block of the Mackenzie Chown Complex. Since then, the number of buildings on campus has continued to blossom.

But when Brindle retires, he need only look at the massive Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex to know that he has left a huge legacy at Brock. Every day he sees the facility taking shape about 100 feet outside his office window, where gigantic cranes scrape the sky and workers construct what will be one of the most striking landmarks in the region.

Brindle spent years helping take this research complex from dream to reality. He was a key member of a team working tirelessly behind the scenes to secure funding from governments and donors to build the unique research and graduate teaching facility on the St. Catharines campus.

The complex is named in tribute of the Cairns family of St. Catharines, whose donation will have a \$10 million impact on the \$111.4-million facility. The province of Ontario contributed \$33.5 million, and the federal government

another \$38 million through its Knowledge Infrastructure Program.

The University is striving to raise its share of the cost of outfitting the complex, part of the \$75-million Campaign for a Bold New Brock, which

Continues on **page 15**.



A 16-year-old Brindle conducts an early science demonstration.



"I wish I was 20 years younger to watch this facility develop."

— Ian Brindle

Photo by Bob Tymczyszyn

Brindle, centre, chats with co-workers Stu Rothstein and Paul Bickart in 1974.



When Jeff Cairns (BEd '83) enrolled in Brock back in 1982, he never would have believed that 28 years later, he'd be announcing a multi-million dollar donation to the school.

But in September 2010, that's exactly what happened.

Cairns and his father — distinguished lawyer, businessman and stalwart community leader Roy Cairns, 85 — stood before a reverent crowd in the Plaza Building and announced a donation that will have a \$10-million impact on Brock's new health and bioscience complex. From that day onward, the \$111-million project has been known as the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex. The alumnus' mark on his alma mater is absolute.

It's just the latest in a long line of generous acts the Cairns family has done for the university. For the St. Catharines family, "giving back" aren't just buzz words.

Roy, who in 2009 received an honorary degree from

Brock, has given often and pledged to continue giving. He donated to the founding of Brock. He was part of the team that made the lead gift to build Taro Hall, which houses

An alum's family, and a huge legacy

By Mike Tenszen

Brock's Faculty of Business. The Roy Cairns Scholarship benefits a first-year student in the Oenology and Viticulture program.

The gift to the 176,000-square-foot research complex, which will open in 2012, is just the latest evidence that the Cairns family cares a great deal about Brock and Niagara's future, President Jack Lightstone says.

"They see that Brock, and others in the Niagara Region, are trying to put forth a coherent plan for building the knowledge economy here," he says. "Roy has a deep and long commitment to the institution."

Among other subjects, the complex will delve into biotechnology, green chemistry, plant pathology, health and wellness — even a cure for cancer.

The Cairns family has been directly touched by some of the topics that will be researched at the complex, says Jeff, 55. His mother, Lois, died of cancer in 2009. One son is allergic to peanuts. His brother has diabetes.

"Making (research) strides ahead is important to us in a personal sense," says Jeff, who is a partner with his father in Charlesway Corporation Ltd., a privately-held international wealth generator.



The Cairns family – from left: Roy, John, Kathleen (BA/BEd '93, MEd '05) and Jeff (BEd '83) – were all smiles at the unveiling of the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex.

The Canadian scientific community is already abuzz with praise for Brock's bold research offensive.

"Brock's new complex will catalyze industry-university partnerships," says Louis Visentin, a researcher in molecular biology and biotechnology, retired president of Brandon University in Manitoba and Niagara Falls native. "It signals Brock's commitment to becoming a national hub for innovation. Brock is establishing both the human and infrastructure needed."

Jeff and his father studied a written proposal and discussed the donation with Jeff's wife, Kathleen (nee Vasey, BA/BE'd '83 and MEd '05), and his brother, John. "We did our due diligence."



Photo by Bob Tymczyszyn

Jeff says he seeks nothing from Brock as far as the family's donation is concerned. Gratitude is enough.

"I am satisfied. There are no strings attached."

Besides philanthropy, the Cairns family has a record of military service. Roy was a wartime aircrew aerial photographer with the Royal Canadian Air Force. His grandfather and great uncles were members of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. His grandfather was in the Royal Field Artillery in the First World War, and his maternal grandmother, Mary Kiddell, was a longtime volunteer with St. John Ambulance.

Jeff is Lieutenant Colonel and former Commanding Officer of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment, as well as executive director of the regiment's charitable foundation and chair of the Regimental Museum in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"I'm kind of an idealistic guy," Jeff says. "I firmly believe in the monarchy, service to your country, sense of duty, the values of honour, truth, valour, integrity."

Philanthropy shows elsewhere in their genes too. The late Lois Cairns was in the Maycourt Club and drove cancer patients to Hamilton for treatments. She also volunteered with St. George's Anglican Church in St. Catharines, the family's lifelong place of worship.

"There was a family tradition there, a family legacy," Jeff says. "It's in our genes."

Jeff was at Brock from 1982-83 for the one-year Bachelor of Education program. He had previously earned a BA in history and politics from the University of Western Ontario.

In 1990, he married Kathleen, a teacher with the deaf who is now active in community service work. They have two sons, James, 17, and Matthew, 15, both students at Ridley College in St. Catharines. Both lads are, of course, in army cadets.

Jeff also has his eye on a Brock MBA, and/or a master's in military history.

His main message to Brock alumni, and to all students, is this:

"As you become successful, you have the opportunity to give back in kind. Don't forget that. Support your local

charities. Support your university. If only each student could give back only \$100 a year back to Brock. There are more than 70,000 Brock graduates. What a legacy that would give to building an endowment. It could do wonderful things. Remember your alma mater."

Vacations to the dark side

By Samantha Craggs

Imagine a tourism experience where you pay to spend hours pretending to illegally cross the American border from Mexico.

You trudge through muddy fields under the blare of gunfire. You run exhausted through sewer tunnels. You are blindfolded and placed in the back of a truck, only to end up where you started — at a restaurant and gift shop, with people telling you to enjoy your stay.

This is the new trend in post-9/11 dark tourism, a term that describes the act of visiting the sites of tragedies as a tourist. This experience is called immersive simulation, and Natalie Alvarez, assistant professor of Dramatic Arts, is writing a book about it.

Alvarez has received \$23,449 from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council for her research project, “Enactments of difference: immersive simulations and performance from training to dark tourism.” Alvarez will study two types of immersive simulation: that experienced by tourists, and that experienced by soldiers who train in increasingly popular model villages to prepare them for overseas interaction with foreign cultures. Included in that is investigating how performance techniques are used in counterterrorism and intelligence training.

One dark tourism experience Alvarez will study is that of El Alberto, Mexico, a town that has been depleted by immigration to the U.S. — and where customers pay \$20 each to be taken on an overnight fake U.S. border crossing. Ironically, the popularity of the adventure tourism has rejuvenated the town’s economy. Alvarez, who herself has twice experienced the tour, describes it as frightening and surprisingly political, given that it’s billed as adventure tourism.

“It started with a rousing speech by members of the community about how the work is an homage to those who lost their lives crossing the border,” she says. “We sang the Mexican anthem, followed by the sounds of sirens in the distance of the U.S. border patrol and shouts telling us to start running.”

Other examples of this dark tourism include a recreated Stalin-era gulag prison camp in Lithuania, where people pay to spend a day as prisoners, and a tour in Liepaja, Latvia, where customers stay overnight in a naval jail.

Alvarez will also visit simulated villages used to train soldiers for duties in Iraq and Afghanistan. There is a recreated Afghani village in Norfolk, England, and simulated Iraqi villages in California and Arizona, where actors are recruited to play insurgents and civilians.

Demand for these simulations has skyrocketed since 9/11, she says.

“A lot of performance scholars and performance artists talk about the border hysteria and the kind of war on difference that evolved from 9/11,” she says. “There seems to be a desire to rehearse encounters with the cultural ‘other’. I want to know what kind of anxieties are being played out in these scenarios.”

While on the surface, immersive dark tourism and immersive military simulation seem unrelated, “there are intersecting themes that make them worth putting together in conversation,” she says.

Alvarez will spend the next two years traveling and observing these simulations, followed by a year of writing.

Alvarez, who is cross-appointed to Liberal Arts, joined Brock in 2006. She currently serves as a co-editor of the *Canadian Theatre Review’s Views and Reviews* and has two forthcoming edited books: *Fronteras Vivientas*, an anthology of Latina/o-Canadian plays, and *New Essays on Latina/o-Canadian Theatre and Performance*. Both are published by Playwrights Canada Press.



Natalie Alvarez will write a book about how grim simulations draw tourists.

His secret to success

Brent Faught's teaching approach is to 'just try to be myself'

By Lorie Murdoch

When Brent Faught (BPhEd '89, BEd '92) landed at Brock University in 1985, with one bag full of hockey gear and another stuffed with clothes, he was there to study for a Physical Education degree.

The idea that he would become an award-winning professor in 2010 didn't even cross his mind.

In hindsight, however, there was a predictor for Faught.

"As an undergrad, Brock allowed me to flourish," says the associate professor of Epidemiology, who last year won both the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Award for Teaching Excellence and the Brock University Award for Distinguished Teaching.

"Now, as a faculty member, I'm experiencing those same opportunities that allow me to 'be me'."

He sums up the ambiance throughout the school that personifies that idiosyncrasy: Brock University lets you BU.

"If I am different in my teaching style, it's because I just try to be myself."

Faught uses self-deprecating humour to break down barriers. He strolls around the class, stirring up conversation to evaluate course comprehension.

"I present information in a way everyone can understand. The way I lecture is very simple — no big words, no complex language. I repeat."

Lots of visuals help too.

"The magic Brent brings to the classroom is a unique combination of truly caring for every student and recognizing the diversity of learning styles," says Anna Lathrop (BPhEd '78), professor and Associate Dean of Undergraduate Studies in Applied Health Sciences. "And he has managed to integrate technology into his courses without compromising the interpersonal connection with his students."

Since getting his BEd in 1992, Faught has taught more than 20 courses in two departments. In Community and Health Services, he became an assistant professor in 2001 and associate professor in 2005. He also developed the Supercourse, a first-year program of intensive learning that packs eight months of instruction into two weeks, and a fourth-year course that compresses four months into one week.

Former student Julie Paul, who took the fourth-year Clinical Epidemiology Supercourse, gave it a clear thumbs-up.

"Everything was still fresh in my mind when exam time came," says Paul. "Dr. Faught made it so interesting that the complex information wasn't overwhelming. He raised discussions, made jokes and told personal stories."

The Supercourse was not Faught's first brush with academic innovation.

About a decade earlier, Faught worked with the St. Catharines fire department to develop health and psychological criteria for firefighting candidates. He spent a year piloting the new protocol, which became the Brock University Firefighter Screening Services. Today it's the largest firefighter pre-employment screening program in Canada.

So what's next for the man who showed up at Brock all those years ago with his hockey equipment and a change of clothes?

The ambitious Faught, who also holds a MSc and PhD, has just started work on his MBA.

Brent Faught (BPhEd '89, BEd '92) leads a class discussion at Brock.



Photo by Julie Jocsak

New International Centre brings the world to Brock

By Samantha Craggs

Brock has officially opened its new 46,000-square-foot International Centre.

The project, which is part of the Campaign for a Bold New Brock, had an official ribbon cutting in September.

“Within the corridors and learning spaces of this building, students and faculty will gain a shared understanding of the world,” President Jack Lightstone said at the event. “We are bringing the world to Brock, and sending Brock out to the world.”

The new International Centre is three stories and located on Norman Road between 573 Glenridge Ave. and Quarry View Residence. It houses all the central international services offices at Brock.

Brock is home to more than 1,400 international students from more than 80 countries around the world. The University aims to increase its international student population to 10 per cent of our student body, up from less than five per cent.

“Canada is a nation that trades with the world, and our students must learn to be leaders in this global arena for the sake of our social and economic future,” Lightstone said. “Thus, internationalization

is a central plank of Brock’s mission.”

The new building includes offices for:

- Brock International
- English as a Second Language (ESL) Services
- International Market Development
- Office of International Services
- Brock’s new Confucius Institute
- the Department of Classics
- the Cypriote Museum

On the ground floor are 12 seminar rooms, a food service space, an International Students’ lounge, a general lounge area and public washrooms.

On the second floor are offices for Brock International, International Services, International Market Development and Intensive English Language Program (IELP)/ English as a Second Language (ESL), meeting rooms, a staff lounge and washrooms.

On the third floor are offices for Classics, an archeology workroom, the Cypriote Museum, lounges for faculty, staff and students and washrooms.



Students, from left, Hilda Osae, Emilia Ayipio, and Sandra Hoahene do a group performance of traditional Ghanaian dances at the opening of the International Centre.

Photo by Denis Cahill

TD donates \$500,000 to Bold New Brock

TD Bank Financial Group has donated \$500,000 to the University as part of the Campaign for a Bold New Brock.

The gift will help create the TD Bursary for Environmental Studies as well as support the development of the new Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in downtown St. Catharines.

Brock is moving full steam ahead with the downtown campus in partnership with the City of St. Catharines, Brock President Jack Lightstone said.

The TD Bursary for Environmental Studies will provide grants to full-time Brock students demonstrating financial need while pursuing a degree in Environmental Studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences, or studies to reduce the impact of humankind's footprint in the world through the Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences.

TD will donate \$250,000 over five years toward this award. Brock will apply for matching funds through the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS) program to maximize the award's endowment at \$500,000.

The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts downtown campus will receive \$250,000.

On the fifth floor of the historic former Canada Hair Cloth building, Brock will build the TD Roof Terrace. It will have a spectacular southern view of the first Welland Canal route and the Twelve Mile Creek green space looking toward the Schmon Tower on the top of the Niagara Escarpment.



Photo by Julie Jocsak

Murray Knuttila, Provost and Vice-President Academic, greets TD Deputy Chair Frank McKenna, right.

Hundreds fan the growth of Brock's distinct black-tie party

At just three years old, General Brock's October Soirée is still a new entry in most social calendars.

But after the success of the latest annual event, it is clearly becoming one of the hottest tickets in southern Ontario.

With many alumni faces in the crowd, more than 300 guests — sporting their formal finery or, occasionally, 19th-century period dress — turned out in October for an evening of entertainment, socializing and superb cuisine.

It didn't hurt that the 2010 version of the black-tie affair had Canada's top celebrity chef Michael Smith to craft the menu, prepare food and join in on the festivities.

An actor dressed as Sir Isaac Brock entertains the crowd at Soirée.



Or that, this year, the gala had found itself a permanent home on the University's main campus: the spacious and contemporary Market Hall, whose construction was completed in 2010.

Held each autumn, the Soirée celebrates Niagara and themes of 1812-13, when Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock commanded British troops during the War of 1812.

Again this year, a professional actor portrayed the Canadian hero. The evening also featured musical and performances by artists and students from the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts.

This year's Soirée raised more than \$55,000 to support the Campaign for a Bold New Brock, an amount that grows to more than \$70,000 when matched by the Ontario Trust for Student Support program, which provides matching funds to be used to help students with financial need.

Since its inception in 2008, the Soirée has raised more than \$200,000 to help strategic priorities at Brock.

Continues on page 21.

For the love of Meghan

By Samantha Craggs

The boy was only 11, and part of the lowest caste in India, but when he looked at Adam Warner, he nailed it.

“You have a heart problem,” he told him. “After you leave here, your head and heart will change.”

Warner, 29, was blown away by the boy’s observation at the school for impoverished kids where he volunteered in the Jaisalmer district of India. His “heart problem” is the loss of his wife, Brock alumna Meghan Baker-Warner (BA ’04), who died of cancer in April 2010 at age 28.

And he is on a journey to accomplish Meghan’s own goals, a journey that is

taking him around the world.

Last fall, Warner volunteered for three months at the Jaisalmer school as part of his mission to accomplish Baker-Warner’s life goals – a list of 26 things she wanted to achieve that she posted in her popular cancer blog, *The Bee’s Knees*. He has traveled across Canada by rail. He’s training to run a half marathon. He’s performed 100 hours of volunteer work, a goal Baker-Warner always wanted to achieve. He’s doing it all as part of his one-man campaign called For the Love of Meghan.

Warner met his future wife in 2007 when they taught English in South Korea. Brock alumna Joanna Zgurzynski (BA ’06) introduced them. He was attracted to Baker-Warner’s intelligence and sense of fun.

They’d been dating about a year when Baker-Warner visited a South Korean doctor who told the 27-year-old the worst.

“We both went in to talk to the doctors about the results of the biopsy,” Warner recalled on *Global TV’s 16x9*. “They sat us down and (told us) in broken English – completely uncomfortable with telling a foreigner this awful news – that she had breast cancer.”

Baker-Warner returned to her hometown of Petrolia, Ont. Warner returned to his native Washington, D.C. and flew to see her every two weeks. Eventually he moved to Michigan. He suggested she start a blog about her cancer journey.

“I thought it would be good for her to write it all down,” he says. “When she looked for resources, she couldn’t find them. She couldn’t find a young woman’s straightforward and honest account of breast cancer.”

Baker-Warner’s blog gained followers from around the world. She posted photos of radiation machines and her mastectomy scars. She shared descriptions of the reactions she got when she went out without a head scarf.

“I really want people to know that I am not embarrassed of this,”



she wrote. "This is what my body looks like now and I don't want to be ashamed."

In December 2009, five months after completing radiation, she started getting headaches. A trip to the doctor revealed that the cancer had metastasized to her brain. In describing the tumours in her cerebellum, she joked about her lack of neuroscience knowledge.

"Clearly I should have taken the advice of my old pal (Psychology professor Stefan) Brudzynski and taken a few neuroscience credits in university," she wrote. "Hindsight is 20/20, eh?"

The cancer quickly spread to her organs, and she died four months later. In that time, she crossed off as many items on her list as she could. ("Don't call this a bucket list," she wrote. "No one is planning on dying.") The final item was the most important – she and Warner were married in March, a month before she died.

It was a few hours after her death, in the hospital parking lot, that Warner decided to finish her list.

Some of the goals are simple, like ice-skating on the Rideau Canal. Others are harder, like mastering another language and getting a PhD. The most daunting for Warner is running a half marathon — 20 kilometres. He's gotten to where he can comfortably do about five kilometres.

In India, Warner taught children a range of computer skills, from typing with two hands to uploading videos online. He felt his wife's presence from the moment he arrived.

"Right away, I felt like I was in the right place with the right people," he says.

Warner's journey has attracted attention. He has appeared on Global TV, MTV and the CBC, among others. He continues to write in Baker-Warner's blog, located at ms-mae.blogspot.com.

Baker-Warner is fondly remembered by Psychology faculty and staff. She was a research assistant for Prof. Kimberly Cote (BA '93).

"She was a bright student," Cote recalls. "But what stands out in my mind is how happy she was. She always had a smile on her face."

The next item on Warner's list is snowshoeing. But he's currently in Washington, D.C. to take a breath and earn some money. The journey has taken considerable time and resources.

He has ideas about continuing Baker-Warner's legacy, from starting a non-profit organization to establishing a scholarship in her name at Brock.

Right now, though, he's trying to comprehend it all. He will finish the list, and he has no time limit.

"It's hard to watch the world continue on without you or refuse to slow despite how badly you need the break," he wrote. "It's important to keep moving, to pick a direction and go. You may not be sure it's the right one but at least it's not where you were. Movement is healing."



FurtneyknowstheScore

Brock grad wins reality show competition to become a national TV sportscaster

By Tiffany Gallagher

Turn back the clock 13 years, and Brent Furtney (BPhEd, BEd '08) could be found shooting hoops in the back yard of the Fonthill home where he grew up.

Like most kids, he would pretend he was playing with the likes of Michael Jordan. But instead of just focusing on glory on the court, Furtney would give the play-by-play with every dribble, pass and layup, calling the game a la television sportscaster.

"People thought I was crazy," Furtney, 26, says with a laugh.

Nobody's laughing now.

In January, the Brock graduate became the newest addition to the lineup of sportscasters on the Score, the all-sports television network that sends news, information and highlights into more than 6.8 million homes across Canada.

Furtney won a one-year contract with the network after starring last summer in *Drafted 2*, the Score's reality show that seeks out Canada's next great sportscaster. Think of it as *Survivor* for the sports nut who aspires to be the next Ron MacLean.

"I was nervous the whole way through," says Furtney, but "I had to get over it because it was such a short time to prove myself."

And prove himself he did. Furtney learned in July that he had won the contest, but was sworn to secrecy for another four months, until the Score broadcast the show that

publicly announced the winner.

Keeping quiet about his sweet success was no easy feat, since he had given up the security of teaching high school English in Ottawa last January to try and get a teaching job closer to his family in Niagara. He only entered the Score's contest on a whim.

"The hardest part was August. Nothing was shown on TV yet, (and) in August people were asking, 'What are you going to do? Are you going to look for a teaching job?' I'd say, 'Ah, well, I'm going to see how the show turns out', and they'd kind of roll their eyes."

Since starting his new job, Furtney has kept busy coming up with story ideas and getting accustomed to the demands of a 24-hour news cycle and life in front of the camera.

He's says he wants to absorb everything and give his all to this opportunity, particularly since it was a stroke of luck, not just his talent, that helped him land his

coveted chance to move straight into broadcasting at a national level.

"There could be people who might think, 'What can this guy bring?'"

"I skipped a lot of steps to get here. I want to stay as long as possible, and I realize this year that I have to work hard, stay humble and keep asking questions."

Brent Furtney (BPhEd, BEd '08) says he will spend his year as a sportscaster working hard and staying humble.



ALUMNI WEAR



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A man with a vision continued from page 05.

seeks to increase endowments for student financial assistance, invest in teaching and research facilities, expand knowledge, and empower Brock's faculty as educator-researchers and innovators.

Scheduled for completion by 2012, the 176,530-square-foot complex will provide world-class support for Canada Research Chairs and award-winning researchers in biotechnology, green chemistry, plant biology and health and wellness.

And for Ian Brindle, it is tangible gratification for devoting so much of his energy to advancing the strength of research at Brock.

"I wish I was 20 years younger to watch this facility develop," muses Brindle. "Being research-intensive is no longer an aspirational comment about this university. It's a reality here on the ground."

For more information on the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex, visit brocku.ca/cairns-health-bioscience

Speak and be heard at Brock Days

If you had 20 minutes to speak to fellow Brock alumni on a theme about learners and leaders, what would you say? Would you present a one-of-a-kind idea? Share a story? Run a mini-workshop?

We want to showcase you and other alumni to inspire ideas, motivate an audience and support innovation during Alumni Weekend, Sept. 16 to 18, 2011.

For details about the speaker application process, criteria and speaking tips, please visit our website at brocku.ca/brock-days

Deadline for submissions is May 15, 2011.

Jonathan Sobol (BA '99) has some advice for aspiring filmmakers: don't go to film school.

"Most writers I know, and directors, tend to be adept in many fields almost across the board," Sobol says. "They are educated, and educated across many fields."

That kind of advice doesn't get the 35-year-old screenwriter and director many return invitations to speak to classes on film production. But coming from someone who has made a feature film starring Hollywood heavyweight Harvey Keitel, and garnered a spot in the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) Gala program, one can't help but think Sobol's are valid words.

It was his Niagara Falls-set comedy, *A Beginner's Guide to Endings*, that snagged the coveted spot at TIFF last September. The film is about five brothers working through troubling news that comes to light after their father's death. And now Sobol is on the brink of another career pinnacle: worldwide release of the film in 2011.

"It's going to get seen, which is good, especially for how small it is," Sobol says, adding it was made with a "very, very modest" budget.

"I'm extremely happy with the attention it's getting. I was excited and humbled by the TIFF screening."

Sobol, a Niagara Falls native who lives in Toronto, didn't dabble in film before graduating from Brock with his general

BA. But he did try his hand and mind at just about everything else while in university, including art, history and politics.

One professor in particular encouraged him to avoid pigeon-holing himself with one topic of study. Sobol says art history professor Derek Knight, now the director of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, piqued his curiosity for so many subjects.

"Derek Knight is one of those rare professors that sparked interests across the board in your life. Professors like that are why you go to university."

Knight, for his part, remembers Sobol as bright and independent.

"I recall him as in possession of a vivid imagination," says Knight, "driven in part by a fickle knowledge of popular culture and his desire to arbitrate his experience of the world through the stamp of his own art making or storytelling. Jonathan, to my mind, was

always resonant with potential. It's tremendously rewarding to see him succeed."

After a dozen years of paying his dues with production jobs, Sobol finds it rewarding to make the cut in a brutally competitive business.

Still, he isn't about sit around and savour success.

"On to the next," Sobol says. "You've got to keep working. It's not what I've done in the past. It's about attempting new things in the near future."

Grad nails a spot at TIFF

By Tiffany Gallagher



Jonathan Sobol (BA '99)



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Photo by Barry Thomas

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Niagara's Cultural Treasure!

That 'old' all star Brad Rootes is back at courtside But this time he's calling the shots, not taking them

By Bill Potrecz

Brad Rootes (BPhEd '07) is living a dream.

The 25-year-old Niagara Falls native, one of the most decorated basketball players in Brock history, could think of no better way to stay in the game than to coach at his alma mater.

"It's very special to me," Rootes says. "I feel like I grew up here. Even when I was keeping score here as a high school student and coming to Brock camps, it felt like a simple choice to come here. It felt like home already.

"It makes it extra special that this is where I get to do what I want to do for a living."

Rootes, who capped off his storied five-year career at Brock with a Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) National Championship in 2008, had worked as an assistant for the past two seasons for the Badgers. He concentrated on recruitment, guard play and breaking down game film under head coach Ken Murray (BPhEd '73).

So when Murray stepped down from the position in spring 2010, Rootes couldn't say yes fast enough.

"My goal was to get a university job, but I didn't think it would be Brock right away. When the opportunity presented itself, this was my No. 1 choice."

Chris Critelli, Brock's director of athletics, says the feeling was mutual.

"You're always glad when we get them and someone else doesn't, when they're of the quality that Brad is," says Critelli. "We are proud of our alumni and the successes they have, and when we can get someone in place that is an alum here at Brock, that certainly speaks well for the University."

Rootes was an intense competitor as a player, and has been finding ways to channel that energy from behind the bench.

"You have more control as a player during the game," he says. "As a coach, the majority of your work is done prior to the tip in terms of preparation and practice. It is still a competition, it's just a different competitiveness."

In 2008, as a member of the CIS National Championship team, Rootes was named an Ontario University Athletics (OUA) first team All-Star for a fifth consecutive season, the first-ever Brock player to be a conference all-star in all five seasons. As well he was the OUA West Player of the Year and a second team All-Canadian for his second straight season.

In his final year as a player, Rootes led the Badgers in scoring, assists, free throws made, minutes played and steals. He is also the team's all-time leader in career free throws made and steals, and he finished his university career ranked second all-time in scoring, assists and three-pointers made.

On March 31, 2008, Rootes was honoured as just the fourth Brock basketball player to have his number retired, joining Murray, David Picton (BA '95) and Kevin Stienstra (BAcc '06).



Brad Rootes (BPhEd '07) runs a practice in the Bob Davis Gym.
Photo by Bob Tymczyszyn

Badgers slug their way to Ontario baseball crown

The Brock men's baseball team captured its third Ontario University Athletics Championship (OUA) in school history in 2010.

The team defeated the first-place Western Mustangs on Oct. 9 with the score of 5-1 at Labatt Park in London. It was the first Badgers OUA title since 2004 and 20th victory of the season.

The team fell just short of winning the national Canadian Intercollegiate Baseball Association championship, placing second in the country, losing out to McGill in the final.

"It was great to see our entire lineup come and play hard both games this weekend," head coach Jeff Lounsbury said on the October victory weekend. "Our defense was solid today, turning four double plays, and we got key hits when we needed them. This is a well deserved victory for our program."

Badgers starter Jason Champ (London, Ont.) put forth a great performance in front of a hometown crowd. He threw seven complete innings, allowing one run on six hits with one strikeout, earning Championship Game MVP honours.

Rookie Shaun Valeriotte (Guelph, Ont.) contributed with a two-run single, finishing the OUA playoffs with a .500 average (4-for-8). For his performance, he was named the OUA Playoff Most Valuable Player.



Photo by Craig Glover

Rowing medals add up to provincial championship

The Brock men's rowing team won its first Ontario University Athletics Championship (OUA) title since 2004 in October, and went on to finish #2 in all of Canada.

The Brock men finished one point ahead of the University of Western Ontario for the men's provincial crown. On the men's lightweight side, the Badgers captured gold in the double, four and eight. They also medaled in the men's heavyweight four, men's heavyweight double and men's heavyweight single, capturing bronze in every category.

The Brock men advanced to the Canadian University Rowing Championships (CURC) in November, where they placed second overall. The host, University of Victoria, captured the men's and women's crowns.

The Brock women placed fifth overall nationally.

At the CURC Awards banquet, Brock's Ben Cushnie was named the Oarsman of the Year and Mike Purcer was named the Coach of the Year.



Outandproud

Lauren Chapple forms a network for LGBTQI educators

By Joan Wiley

While Lauren Chapple (BA/BEEd '91) is a kindergarten teacher, increasingly it's her life outside of the classroom that fuels her passion.

Chapple, who graduated in 1991 from Brock's Concurrent Education program with a BA/BEEd (her name at the time was Lauren Meichenbaum), is a teacher in the Durham District School Board. But a big part of her heart is with Proud Rainbow Voices, an organization she established in May 2010.

Proud Rainbow Voices is an Ontario-wide network for educators who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bi, trans, two-spirited, queer and intersex (LGBTQI). An educator could be anyone from a pastor or home-schooling parent to a teacher, daycare worker, professor or health-care professional.

The organization provides support with other professionals, acquires resources and ideas in dealing with workplace homophobia, and addresses LGBTQI issues with educators and the broader community.

Chapple "came out" while she was at Brock in the late 1980s. She recalls the University as a "scary culture of non-acceptance" that was probably not unlike other post-secondary institutions of that time.

"The student newspaper would frequently put down people who were LGBTQI," Chapple says.

"My partner (Karen Chapple, BPhEd '93) and I would always check around us before we went to the human sexuality section in the University library, the only section that carried books about LGBTQI issues. Homophobic slurs were written on Brock property. I was aggressively confronted by fellow students in residence, and there was no such thing as a Positive Space campaign like there is now.

"The only people who supported us were each other."

When she returned to Brock three years ago, however, she realized that attitudes had shifted. She had been invited to speak to Faculty of Education

students about a curriculum document she co-authored, entitled "Imagine a world that is free from fear: Addressing homophobia and heterosexism in the classroom." She and her partner walked hand-in-hand down the hallways with their one child and pregnant with a second one, without fear.

Then in May 2010, after facilitating a workshop in Windsor on the need for further LGBTQI support, she was driving home to Bowmanville when it struck her that a professional association was needed.

Today Proud Rainbow Voices has grown to include 165 Ontario educators. The organization is affiliated with Egale, a national organization that advances equality and justice for LGBTQI persons and their families. It is also reaching out to connect with educators of different faith traditions.

Four meetings are held annually in different parts of the province, the group's second newsletter came out in January and the organization is exploring non-profit status.

"It's frustrating when co-workers and others roll their eyes as if these issues aren't important," Chapple says. "But they are. We all have a right to be free from fear."

For more information, contact Chapple at laurmeich@rogers.com



Lauren Chapple (BA/BEEd '91)

Continued from page 11.

Accounting grads score big on national honours list



Nora Kaethler
(BAcc '10)



Marc Priestley
(BAcc '10)

Two Brock graduates have earned top national honours after successfully writing the 2010 Uniform Evaluation (UFE) exam — the grueling test that is a critical hurdle to becoming a chartered accountant.

Nora Kaethler (BAcc '10) and Marc Priestley (BAcc '10), who graduated earlier this year from the Bachelor of Accounting co-op program, were named to the elite honour roll that recognizes the top 50 UFE writers from among thousands across Canada who sit the three-day exam.

Priestley is currently with BDO Canada LLP in Mississauga. Kaethler is articling with the firm Crawford, Smith and Swallow in St. Catharines.

(The two Brock grads made the top-50 honour roll from more than 3,000 people who successfully wrote the UFE, considered one of the most challenging professional examinations in the world.)

Murray Knuttila, Vice-President Academic, hails their achievement.

"We're thrilled," Knuttila says. "This is major national recognition for the competence of our students and our faculty. Brock's Faculty of Business is one of only six Ontario schools to be accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, and this distinction is just more evidence of that quality."

Brock's co-op accounting program has established a national reputation for quality education, and this year's group of successful writers join thousands of Brock graduates who are holders of the CA designation.

Accessibility committee celebrates victories

Marie Cutler can rest a little easier at night knowing that her alma mater is more accessible to anyone who enters its doors.

The alumna co-chairs the Brock University Accessibility Advisory Committee (BUAAC) with Human Rights and Equity officer Marla Portfilio (BA '02). It's a committee with the daunting task of advising the university on modern accessibility standards.

The committee gives staff input in various areas, including web accessibility, the employment of people with disabilities and the University's buildings. It does so under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The early victories are visible. BUAAC has provided input into projects such as the Cairns Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex, the International Centre and the new Market Hall. Several of its members living with disabilities have spoken to numerous classes and shared their stories at conferences and training sessions to faculty and staff. With BUAAC's input, there are accessible Sharps containers in some washrooms.

The committee has advised on the new brocku.ca website,

the university's Emergency Notification System, and various other policies that impact the day-to-day lives of students.

Cutler sees accessibility as a moral responsibility as well as a legislative duty.

"Brock has a major role in the community, so I think it's important that Brock is an example to show how accessibility can be done," says Cutler, who works at St. John Ambulance in Niagara Falls.

Students just starting university are already nervous, she said. Seemingly small measures can alleviate a lot of stress.

For example, there are more door operators, which

Cutler sees as a huge improvement. "It's been a big help for people to not have to push open doors by themselves."

She is also pleased with the increase in accessible washrooms.

"People don't have to go from one building to another to use the washrooms anymore," she says.

The University is improving accessibility over time, but there is still a lot of work to be done says, accessibility co-ordinator Margaret Sanderson.



Marie Cutler (BBA '07), left,
and Marla Portfilio (BA '02)

The last word

Currently in her last year of Brock's Concurrent Education Honours program, Christine Rougoor is an active, adventurous, high-achieving 23-year-old. For most of her life, she travelled, played sports and volunteered. Then, while on vacation in Florida two years ago, her life changed forever.



A place called "the crossing" is "the only hotel/rest stop gas station for a long stretch in the Rockies," Rougoor says.

motocross. Sharing the common interest to get down and dirty on the two-wheeled machines, we packed up our gear and bikes and headed to a well-known motorsports park in Ocala, Fla.

Unfortunately, that day on vacation two years ago — Dec. 9, 2008 — marks the anniversary date when I was in a catastrophic motocross accident. This accident severed my spinal cord and rendered me a paraplegic. I was left paralyzed from the chest down and requiring complete facial reconstruction. After three weeks in a coma, and numerous intense surgeries, I was airlifted between snowstorms to Hamilton, Ont. Waking up on Christmas Day, I endured the devastating realization that I would

In December 2008, during Christmas exam break, I flew to Orlando, Fla. where several of my friends resided and regularly invited me to visit. Being an athlete and extreme sports enthusiast, Florida offered my friends and me the opportunity to indulge in one of my favourite hobbies:

likely never walk or look the same again.

After weeks in the Hamilton General's Intensive Care Unit, and about three months in intensive rehab at Chedoke Hospital, I remarkably healed faster than most. Despite earlier predictions, I look virtually the same and have regained feeling in my face. My body, however, remains fully paralyzed from the chest down. I rely on a manual wheelchair and likely will

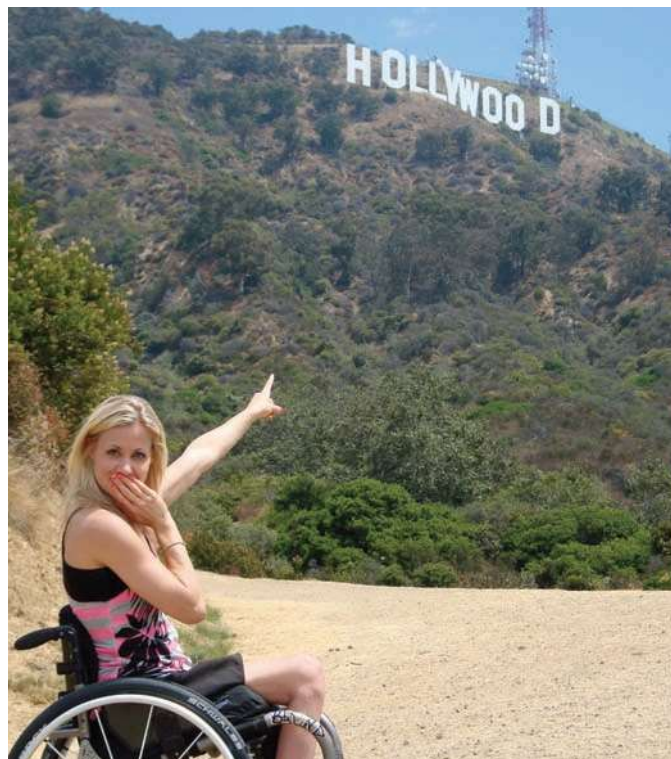


"This was taken at Lake Louise in the Rocky Mountains, and here is where I felt the most liberated and free since my accident," she wrote.

for the rest of my life.

Despite all the obstacles attached to a newly injured paraplegic, I have been determined to achieve. Only three months after leaving Chedoke, while continuing my out-patient rehabilitation, I participated in the Rick Hanson Wheels in Motion event at Brock. Three months later I returned to my classes.

Since my accident I've completed two marathons, helped raise over \$50,000 for spinal cord research and become an advocate for those who are also in wheelchairs. While continuing to volunteer, attend school and keep



"This was my first trip ever to California," Rougoor wrote in her submission to the Brock News 'What I Did On My Summer Vacation' photo contest. "It was quite a change of environment (from her other travels) but still equally amazing."

up with my rehabilitation, I've continued my hobbies such as basketball, tennis, rowing, ATV riding, and snowmobiling.

My latest endeavor, which won me first prize in the *Brock News* "What I did on My Summer Vacation" photo contest (brocku.ca/brock-news), shows my first travels as a paraplegic. It was difficult and stressful at times; it is not easy for someone restricted to a chair to get around in a two-legged world. But my travels took me from the beaches of California to the top of the Columbia Icefield in the Canadian Rockies.

I never thought I'd be able to do what I've done, so far and so soon. It was truly liberating experience and has only fueled my motivation to continue on despite the many stares and stereotypes that are bound to greet someone in a wheelchair, and despite all the things the doctors told me I could never do.

I'll be graduating this April with a BA/BEd Honours, with teachables in Visual Art and French. However, this is only the beginning. I hope to continue my education as I apply for my Masters in Art in Education combined with a more specialized interest teaching with a disability.



"At the top of the Columbia Icefield on the Athabasca Glacier in the Rockies," Rougoor wrote. "I was one of the first to be there in a wheelchair and I also happen to be wearing my Brock sweater!"

Glenn Stevens
Master of Business Administration candidate.
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