

Surgite

Vol. 7, No. 3, Fall 2015

A Brock community magazine



Photo courtesy of Toronto Blue Jays

**Brock alumni helped
power Blue Jays'
wild ride**

Marilyn I. Walker
1934-2015

Brock's co-op program
is a career starter

Meet the Brock grads
behind Leaning Post Wines

Youth Programs at Brock

2016 Programs including
March Break and Summer Camps

Sports camps

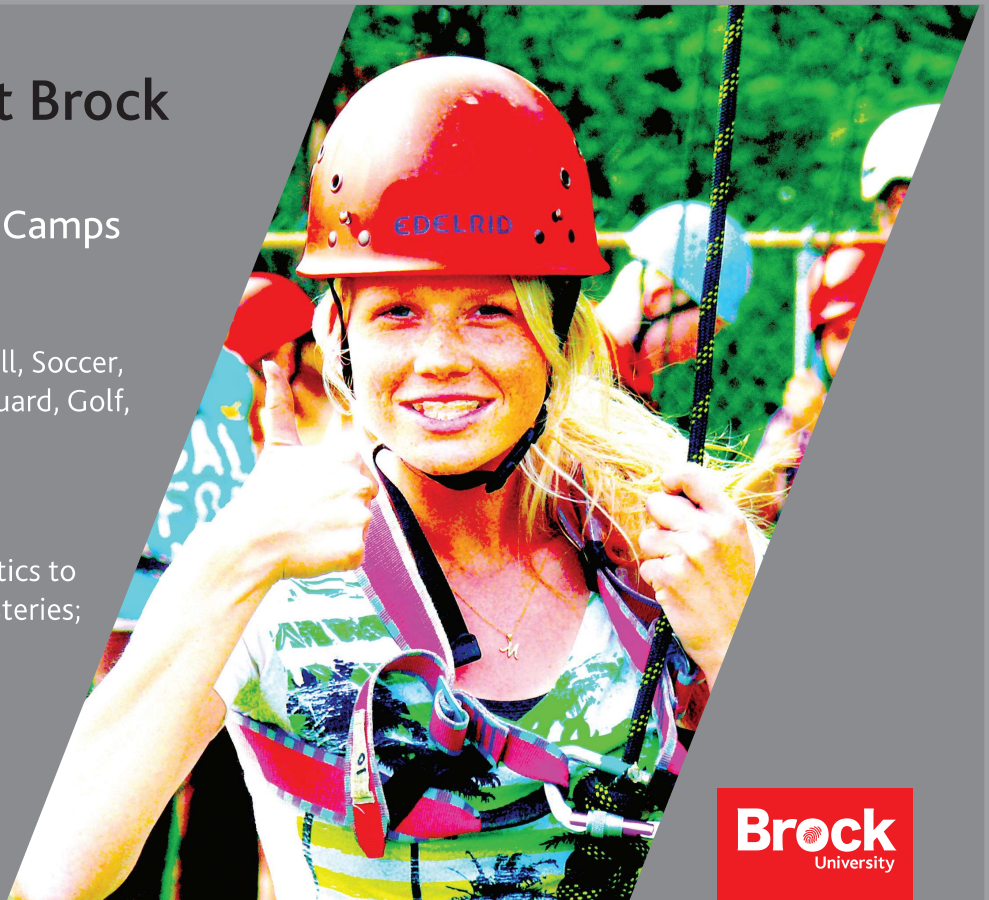
Sports School, Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Cheerleading, Fencing, Junior Lifeguard, Golf, Rugby, Rowing

Enrichment camps

Various exciting themes from robotics to fashion design; architecture to mysteries; gamemaster to amazing race.

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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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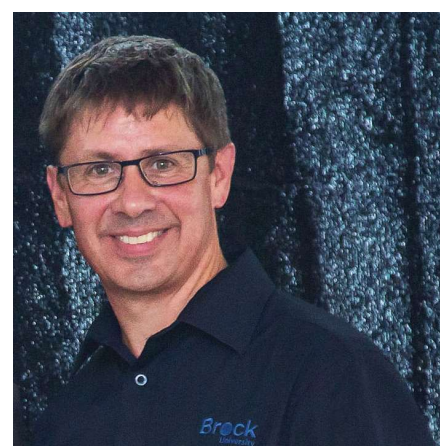
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As a graduate from the Goodman School of Business in 1994, it's hard to believe how much Brock has grown in the last two decades. At the time, there were 27,472 alumni and today there are more than 89,000 alumni living and working around the world. As the largest constituency of the University, the Alumni Association wants to ensure that the value of your Brock degree continues to remain strong. We are here to advocate for you, provide you with value-added benefits and services, provide opportunities for you to connect with fellow alumni and help grow and strengthen our Association by reaching out to current and future alumni.



Chris Phillips

We all have our special memories of Brock, the bonds we made with our roommates, friends and professors and our classes and experiences. There is no better way to keep those memories and experiences alive than by taking part in our various alumni events and activities. Staying connected through your Alumni Association is simple – you just need to update your contact information through the Alumni Office. Each of us plays an important role in the continued success of Brock.

I encourage you to connect with each other, give back to the University and our current students and take advantage of the benefits and opportunities Brock has to offer. I am honoured to serve as the President of Brock University's Alumni Association for the next two years and during my tenure I look forward to connecting with many of you and hearing about your great Brock experience.

The following is a list of our 2015/16 board members:

Crispin Bottomley (BA '04; Bed '05)
Kitty Cairns (BEd '87; Med '05)
Jim Dainard (BAcc '02)
Mary Ann Edwards (BPhEd'76, BEd'77)
Wendy Ingram (BA '67)
Alison Lahn (BA '95; BA '01; Med '10)
Keely Martin (BEd '06; BSc '06)
Erin Mathany (BSM '05)
Cooper Millard (BA '14)
Terry Morrish (BSc '99)
James O'Brien (BA '07)
Chris Phillips (BBA '94)
Matt Swindley (BAcc '08)
Diana Tuszynski (BA '82)



Chris Phillips, BBA '94
President, Brock University Alumni Association



Thousands of prospective students and their families attended Fall Preview Day at Brock University on Nov. 8.

Record attendance at Fall Preview Day

A record number of prospective students and their families attended Brock University's Fall Preview Day on Nov. 8. The annual event showcasing Brock's campus and community is the single most important date on the student recruitment calendar. More than 4,000 people participated in tours, information sessions, demonstrations and an information fair.



Niagara Region Chair Alan Caslin, Brock University President Jack Lightstone, Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock (played by actor Guy Bannerman) and aide de camp John Glegg (played by Brock student Mike Fusilo) introduce the street sign for the new Sir Isaac Brock Way.

Our new address

The buildings didn't move, but Brock University's main campus has a new street address. The University's address became 1812 Sir Isaac Brock Way, St. Catharines, in October. It ceases to be 500 Glenridge Avenue, but the postal code and P.O. Box remains unchanged.

The street number reflects the first year of the War of 1812, during which Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock died at nearby Queenston Heights while leading troops to successfully repel an invasion by American soldiers.



Students, staff and faculty gathered Oct. 6 to celebrate Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock's birthday.

A birthday toast to Brock

More than 500 people turned out to sing Happy Birthday and share a toast to Brock University's namesake on Oct. 6. Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock was born on Oct. 6, 1769. Students, faculty and staff planned the birthday bash to start a new tradition at Brock.

The day included cupcakes and punch, a giant birthday cake, a birthday card signed using thumbprints, an after-work gathering at Alphaie's Trough, the unveiling of a new Sir Isaac's Ale craft beer, and an evening pep rally to launch the #WeAreReady campaign.

Running against the odds

Three years ago, Robert MacDonald didn't know if he'd ever walk again.

In October, he ran a half marathon.

Pushing your body to run 21.1 kilometres is no small feat for any runner. But, for MacDonald it was closer to a miracle. The 29-year-old Brock University political science graduate (BA'10) was paralyzed after falling 30-feet from a balcony in Mexico.

He was given a five per cent chance of ever walking again.

He reached out to his friends and family, bringing together a team of 72 runners who together raised more than \$73,000 at the Scotiabank half-marathon.

Twenty-one of the runners on his team were Brock University grads.



Brock University graduate Robert MacDonald crosses the finish line at the Scotiabank half-marathon in Toronto.

Other-race face recognition research

Professor Catherine Mondloch in the Department of Psychology is the recipient of the 2015 Award for Distinguished Research and Creative Activity. Since 1994, Brock has presented the award to recognize outstanding research achievements, contributions toward the training and mentoring of future researchers, and consistency in scholarly activity and creative performance among faculty members. Mondloch, director of the Face Perception Lab at Brock, will use the award to continue her research into facial recognition. Face perception is part of our daily lives and relationships, but our ability to recognize faces, though important, isn't consistent. Can we get better at facial recognition? Mondloch plans to find out. This award will fund studies on how a face becomes familiar and whether the process by which we learn a new identity varies with age and as a function of the category to which the face belongs.



Barry Wright

Barry Wright named Goodman interim dean

Barry Wright, a member of the University's Business faculty since 2003, will become the new Interim Dean of Brock's Goodman School of Business.

Wright began his new duties on Dec. 1, accepting an appointment that is set to run until June, 2017.

As an Associate Professor in the Goodman School, Wright's research has largely focused on leadership, organizational change and how small business can use information technology.



Gino and Jesse Montani, winners of the Amazing Race Canada.

Amazing Race winners

Brock University graduate Gino Montani and his brother Jesse are the new Amazing Race Canada victors and winners of the biggest monetary prize awarded on a Canadian reality show. The pair won \$250,000 as the grand prize along with gas for life from Petro-Canada. They each also won four trips during the race and matching Chevy Colorado pickup trucks. Gino graduated from Brock with his human geography degree in 2008.

He said throughout the 48,000-kilometre race – across three continents, four countries, six provinces and 16 cities – he strived to be a good big brother.

"Being the older brother, I always want to be a good role model," he said.

The brothers live in Hamilton.

For more news visit
The Brock News
www.brocku.ca/brocknews

Co-op leads from campus to career

Real experience is a big asset in finding employment

By Erica Bajer

Growing up in China, Jing Wen Luo knew she wanted to attend university in North America.

She also knew she wanted to go to a school that would help her gain employment experience.

"A lot of schools did not provide co-op to international students but Brock was an exception," Luo says. "That's why I chose Brock."

The 25-year-old, who graduated in 2014 from Brock University's Goodman School of Business, says the five work terms she did while studying at Brock opened up the world of work to her.

"My resume was literally blank," she says, noting in China she was focused on her studies.

Evidence shows that having a university education leads to more employment opportunities and higher paying jobs, according to the Council of Ontario Universities (COU).

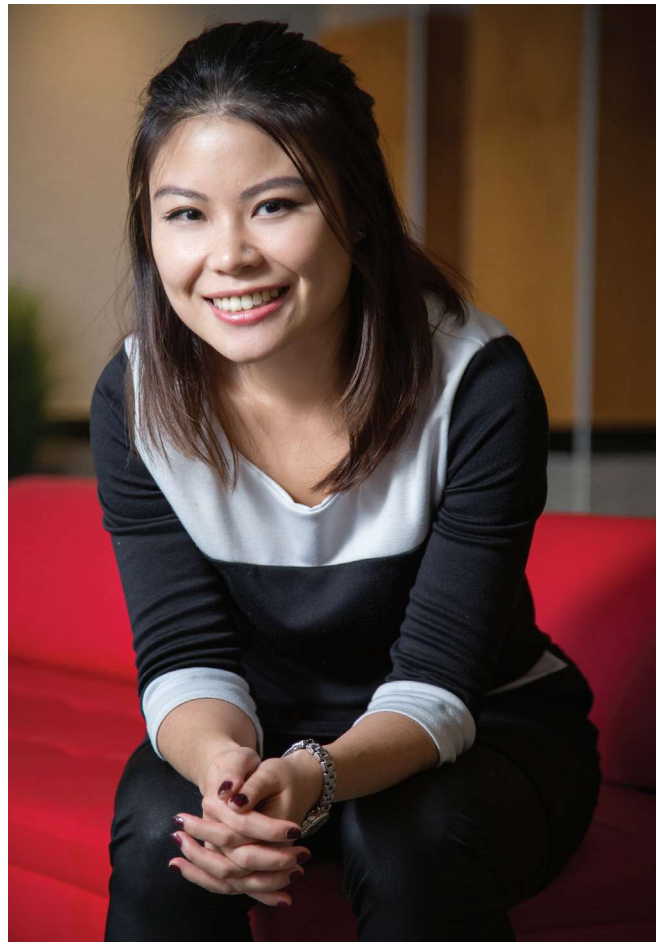
In its recent report *University Works*, COU used Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (Ontarians 25 and older). It found university graduates have the highest employment rates among all post-secondary education levels — 73.7 per cent for those with a bachelor's degree and 75 per cent for those with advanced degrees, compared to an employment rate of 72.4 per cent for college graduates.

"College and university grads are just as likely to get jobs, but on average university graduates make significantly more money," says the report's author Cecilia Brain, economist and senior policy analyst with COU.

The *University Works* report states that, on average, Ontario university graduates earn 58 per cent more than graduates of other Ontario post-secondary programs.

The 2014-15 Graduate Employment Survey — conducted by CCI Research Inc. for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities — found the Brock University graduate employment rate six months after graduation was 91.1 per cent compared to 87.6 per cent in Ontario. Two years after graduation, Brock's grad employment rate continues to top the provincial average, at 94.6 per cent compared to 93.6 per cent.

Luo said her first co-op term taught her what she didn't know about work and employment culture, and prepared her for her next work term — at Siemens Canada in Hamilton. She stayed in the role for two terms during a



Jing Wen Luo

time of transition for the company, which was moving the plant to the U.S.

"For me it was an opportunity, because a lot of people were leaving so the manager gave me a lot of responsibility," she says.

Seeing how companies are run, the importance of efficiencies, and a supply chain in action changed the course of her life, she says.

"After that placement, I decided to add another concentration to my degree — operations management." Finance was her other concentration.

After Siemens, Luo spent two work terms at Hydro One. "It opened my eyes to how different the company culture can be," she recalls.

Luo says Brock gave her the tools she needed to be competitive in the job market following graduation.

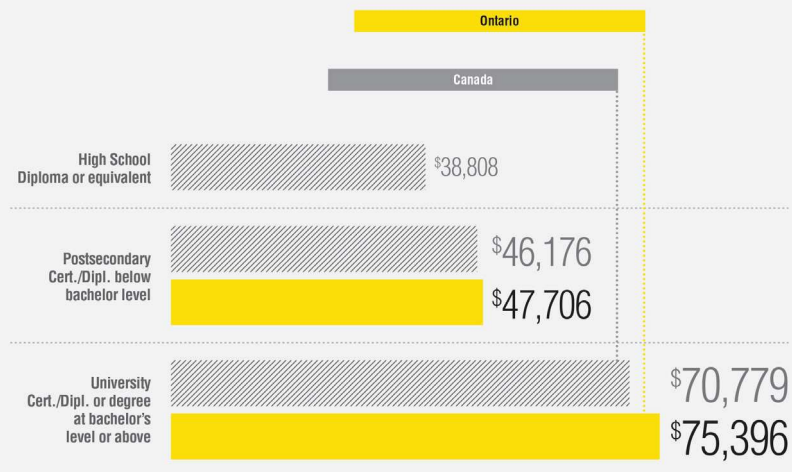
"It's dramatic. I don't know how I would have turned out without the co-ops. I grew so much from one work term to another. Co-ops really expedited the process of the development of me."

After graduating, Luo turned down a job offer at Siemens for a role at Purolator, where they are doing a pilot project focused on developing young professionals. The job was tailored for her, after she spent the day with CEO Patrick Nangle. That was the result of winning CEO x1 Day, a highly competitive contest for university students.

Hiring Brock co-op students full-time following graduation is not unusual for the Toronto accounting firm Collins Barrow, says Chief Operating Officer Rhonda Klosler.

Earnings highest for university grads, lowest for high school grads

Figure 7: Average employment income, for graduates of Ontario postsecondary institutions, 25 to 64 year olds, by location of study, 2011¹²



Graph courtesy of Council of Ontario Universities.

"We continue to recruit from Brock," says Klosler. "We are a very entrepreneurial organization and we find the students who go to Brock have a similar mindset."

Klosler knows the Brock culture well. She graduated with a Business Administration degree in 1993.

She worked co-op for the accounting firm Smith Nixon, which eventually merged with Collins Barrow.

"I've essentially been with the same firm for my entire career and it's as a result of Brock's co-op program," she says. "The opportunities that are available to students in the co-op program are limitless and I'm proof of that."

Julia Zhu, Associate Director of Co-op Programs at Brock, says the University has one of Ontario's most diverse offerings of courses that include a co-op component.

"We are one of the leaders in providing co-op education," she says. Brock's commitment to co-op programs is about preparing students for the job market and helping them use the knowledge they learn in the classroom in the work world.

"It's a way to gain hands-on experience and test drive opportunities," she says.

Anna Lathrop, Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning, says experiential learning is one of Brock's defining pillars, and co-op is an important part of that.

"We feel that we are preparing the 21st century learner," says Lathrop. "The co-op experience is designed to reinforce the theory in an employment setting."

Every year, Canadian employers take more than 1,000 Brock students into the workplace, and the co-op job placement rate is higher than 90 per cent.

Zhu says students have to apply to take part in a co-op program while still in high school, and grade requirements are higher. As well, students are taught to get co-op work placements using traditional job search techniques, including resumes and cover letters, and interviews.

"By the time they leave Brock, they will have life-long employment skills," Zhu says.

Erica Bajer is a writer/web editor in Brock's Office of Marketing and Communications.

Mark your calendar



Current Ontario secondary school applicants

Jan. 13, 2016

Spring Open House

March 6, 2016

Canadian university/college transfer applicants

June 1, 2016*

*Nursing application closes Feb. 5, 2016

Brock mourns loss of Marilyn Walker

University named arts school for philanthropist and artist

By Kevin Cavanagh



Marilyn Walker's passion for the arts and belief in the vital role they play in a prosperous community helped change Brock University and downtown St. Catharines.

The 80-year-old artist and philanthropist died Oct. 1, just two weeks after witnessing her dream of a downtown arts school become a reality.

The longtime friend and supporter of Brock attended the Sept. 18 official opening of the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, where a beautiful and symbolic quilt she made and donated - called The Tree of Learning - was unveiled.

Her husband, Norris Walker, spoke during the opening ceremony, noting that from the moment his wife committed to the project in 2008, she started working on a quilt for the facility.

The nine-foot-tall tapestry is prominently displayed in the main corridor of the building. The Tree of Learning incorporates uncommon fabrics and techniques from textile and fibre art to depict a dream about learning that floats between reality and fantasy.

On that warm late-summer afternoon in September, hundreds of people packed a marquee tent in front of the new school as Marilyn and Norris sat in armchairs beside the stage, listening to University, arts community and political figures praise the Walker School's transformative impact for Brock students and the community at large.

Marilyn was a passionate advocate of the arts as well as a generous philanthropist.

In 2008, she made history and headlines when she donated \$15 million to Brock's School of Fine and Performing Arts, which was renamed in her honour. It was the University's largest-ever gift and ultimately the catalyst to create the new downtown school.

University President Jack Lightstone called her death "a loss that will never be replaced."

"Marilyn leaves a huge legacy for the University and for the whole community," said Lightstone. "She not only altered Brock's ability to accelerate learning for future generations of students, she changed the course of history for the University and for the Niagara Region.

"Brock's new school would never have been created in the city centre if not for Marilyn's vision and generosity, and its role in the renaissance of the downtown would never have been realized."

Derek Knight, Director of the Walker School, said Marilyn's vision and passion had already made her an inspiration for students and faculty alike.

"I can't imagine a more thoughtful, compassionate person than Marilyn," said Knight. "She has changed all of our lives for the best. The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts is testament to her enduring strength, emphatic belief in the arts and the legacy of creative vision."

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

In Her Words

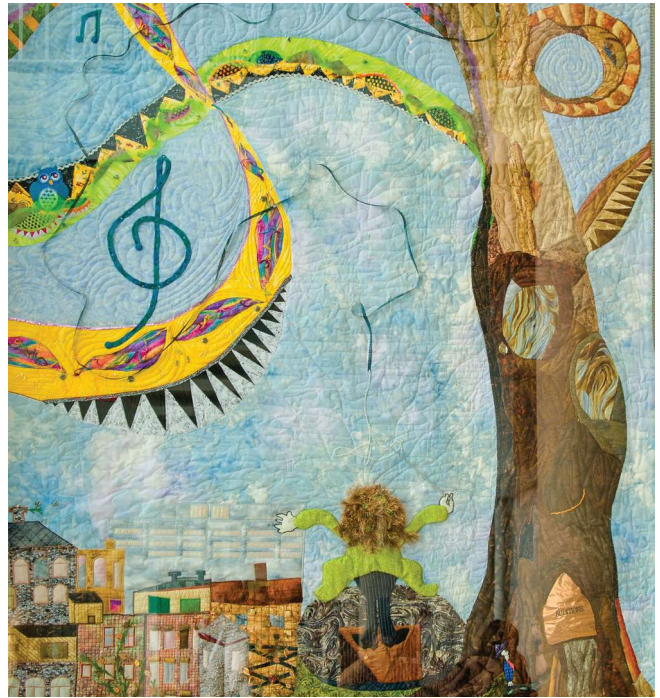
"I very much believe in helping our local area in order to facilitate people to not have to leave for education or work."

"Without appropriate facilities and programming, a city will stagnate."

"My real love is this area and seeing it become the best."

"It's not what the physical building means so much as the opportunities that it provides. Now it's a challenge to your imagination to comprehend what all could be done within this building."

"Imagination is our single most important talent, for without it one cannot be creative or innovative."



Marilyn Walker's beautiful quilt, 'The Tree of Learning', is a key feature in the MIWSFPA and was unveiled at the facility's official opening.



With husband Norris at Soirée 2009, Chateau des Charmes.



Creating the Marilyn I. Walker Chair in Creativity, Imagination and Innovation, 2010.



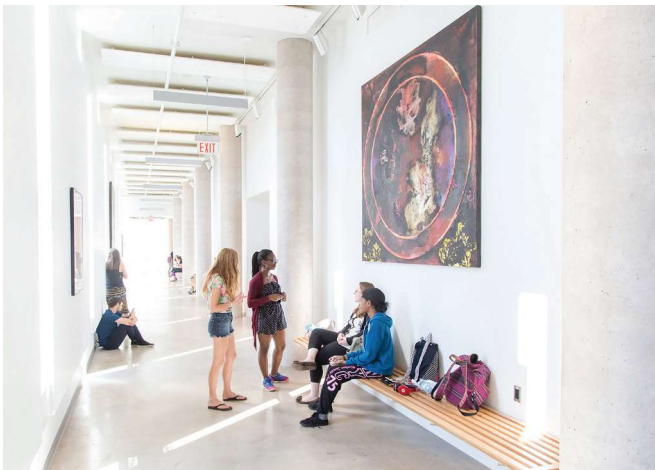
Digging in with other dignitaries at 2013 ground-breaking for new arts school.



In 2008, set to receive her honorary doctorate from Brock



Canada's new centre of excellence for art education.



Creativity fills the air, both inside and out

Downtown arts school opens to rave reviews

MIWSFPA a gem in St. Catharines

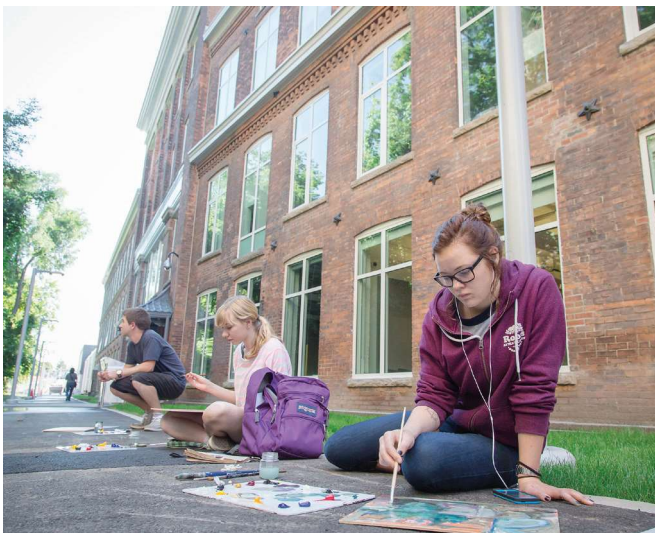
By Erica Bajer

The Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts is a bricks and mortar tribute to partnerships and what a community can achieve when it comes together to transform a downtown, education and access to the arts.

The \$45.5-million facility in downtown St. Catharines is the result of nearly a decade of hard work and commitment from hundreds of people. The building wouldn't have been possible without a \$26.1-million investment from the Government of Ontario, and numerous corporate and private donors including Marilyn Walker.

Brock University President Jack Lightstone said the school is a blend of vision and partnerships. It would not have happened as a standalone project, he said.

"The University was clear that unless it was part of a total plan for the revitalization of downtown and its future, it wasn't





Heritage comes to life: Part of the Walker School is a beautifully restored 19th-century textile mill.

interested,” he said.

When community partners came together to develop a plan that would see downtown become a hub of arts and culture, entertainment and digital media, the University was on board, Lightstone said.

Countless people put their hearts and souls into making the school come to life.

“This phenomenon happened because committed and generous people made it happen. As a result, we are all witnesses to a dramatic change that is like very few transitions we will ever again see in our lifetimes,” Lightstone said.

The transformation of the former Canada Hair Cloth factory pays homage to St. Catharines’ manufacturing history and is a testament to the renewal of the local economy.

“This facility will only enhance the opportunity for those involved in the cultural scene to share their talents,” said MPP Jim Bradley.

Designed by the renowned Toronto firm Diamond Schmitt Architects and built by Bird Construction, the MIWSFPA is a combination of new space along with the renovated Canada Hair Cloth building, parts of which date to the late 1800s. The project was a joint venture with the City of St. Catharines to create a multi-use arts complex to connect the talent of Brock students with the needs of the community. The result is a 95,000-square-foot education facility showcasing the history of the original space combined with modern architecture and learning technology.

Creativity is in the air throughout the historic building with students filling the brightly lit hallways and state-of-the-art

studios. It’s not uncommon to see students outside plein-air painting or in the halls rehearsing.

St. Catharines downtown core is also benefiting with students visiting local cafes and restaurants before or after classes.

“The MIWSFPA is an integral part of the transformation of our downtown,” said Mayor Walter Sendzik, noting it has injected “a vibrant, creative energy within the heart of our community.”

He gave credit to everyone involved in making the school a reality from Lightstone for his vision, former Dean of Humanities Rosemary Hale for her spark of an idea and Marilyn and Norris Walker for their gift to the arts.

Erica Bajer is a writer/web editor in Brock’s Office of Marketing and Communications. Photos by Colin Dewar.



Music studio classroom at the MIWSFPA.



Another hit year for the tent: Hundreds of alumni gathered for the second annual Red Dinner at Homecoming.

Homecoming 2015

During Homecoming weekend Sept. 19-20, nearly 1,300 alumni, friends, donors and guests participated in various activities ranging from reunions to athletic events.

The annual Red Dinner, held in front of the Schmon Tower, was a big hit on Saturday. During the Alumni Recognition Reception, five faculty graduates were recognized and more than 100 individuals received their Cameo Club pin recognizing their success since graduating from Brock University 25 years ago or more. Dan McGrath (BAdmin '85) was presented with the 2015 Brock University Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award.

12

Alumni Field opening

Alumni, students, staff, faculty and community members gathered at Brock's Alumni Field for the Grand Opening celebrations on Sept. 19. The \$1.5-million project was primarily funded through the Brock University Students' Union, as well as a generous donation from an anonymous Brock alumnus and contributions from other alumni and friends of the University. Brock Badgers men's and women's lacrosse teams became the first student-athletes to use the field when they played home games at Alumni Field.



Dan McGrath (BAdmin '85), bottom left, was named this year's top alumni by Brock University Alumni Association. Other alumni to receive faculty awards included Mark Arthur (BAdmin '77), middle left, Craig Tallman (BA '76), bottom left, Scott Maxwell (BA '88), top right, Yousef Haj-Ahmed (BSc '80; MSc '82) and Erin Mathany (BSM '05).

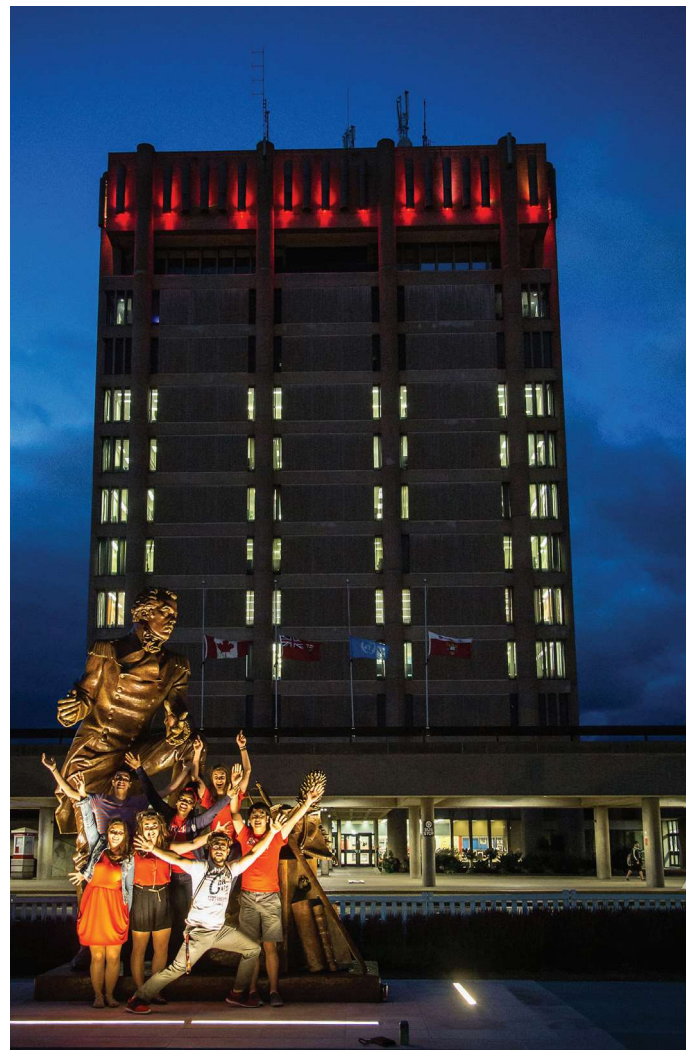


Students, staff, faculty and alumni gathered for the grand opening of Alumni Field, a \$1.5-million artificial turf field.



An aerial shot of Brock University's new Alumni Field.

Save the date
Homecoming 2016
Sept. 17-19



Alumni gather in front of the Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock statue for pictures during Homecoming weekend Sept. 18-20.



Minutes after being installed as Chancellor, Shirley Cheechoo delivers her first Convocation address.



President Jack Lightstone and Chancellor Cheechoo prepare to congratulate the graduates at Fall Convocation 2015.

New Chancellor plans to make a difference

Cheechoo challenges Brock to be a leader in Indigenous education

By Erica Bajer

Wearing a First Nations beaded crown adorned with an eagle's feather, Brock University's new Chancellor Shirley Cheechoo made history Oct. 17 when she was installed during an emotional and inspiring ceremony in front of hundreds of graduates.

She is Brock's first woman chancellor and the first Indigenous person to serve in that role at Brock.

In her first convocation speech, Cheechoo talked of racism and the struggles of First Nations people.

"I come from a background where when we spoke, our voices were not heard," she said. "Today we still feel marginalized, excluded and devalued."

As a residential school survivor, Cheechoo said she has struggled throughout her life. In her 20s, Cheechoo found art and is now a world-famous filmmaker, writer and visual artist.

"Healing is the first step on the road to empowerment," she said. "I took this position to make a difference and I worked hard to move beyond old racial wounds."

She said forgetting the past is not the way forward. She pointed to one of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation report, which stresses the need for more education about Indigenous people. The federal government compiled the report after extensive interviews with First Nations people who were ripped from their families and put in schools aimed at stripping them of their native heritage.

"My hope is that Brock takes a leadership role," she said. "Canadians should know about the first people of this country and I wear this eagle feather to symbolize the beginning of First Nations history in the classrooms."

Tears filled her eyes as her older brother Ben placed the beaded crown on her head. Her mother made the crown when Cheechoo became Canadian Native Princess, a title she still holds.

Cheechoo - a member of the Cree tribe - lives on Manitoulin Island, where she runs the Weengushk Film Institute for Indigenous youth.

Following her speech, outgoing chancellor Ned Goodman gave Cheechoo a high five. He looked proud to be passing the role to her after serving for eight years.

He said he was honoured that Cheechoo's first duty as chancellor was presenting him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

"I wish you all the things that come well with the role you have taken on," Goodman said to her during his convocation address. "They are all related to young people and that's the nice part of being involved in a good university."

Erica Bajer is a writer/web editor in Brock's Office of Marketing and Communications.

Goodman's legacy continues at Brock

By Dan Dakin



Ned Goodman

Ned Goodman may have wrapped up his eight-year term as Chancellor at Brock University in October, but his legacy will continue well into the future.

"Ned Goodman has brought personal warmth and wisdom to the graduation ceremonies for tens of thousands of graduates," said University President and Vice-Chancellor Jack Lightstone. "He

is a stalwart supporter and champion for the business school that bears the Goodman name, and he is never more happy and spirited at Brock than when engaging students in dialogue and debate about business and economic trends."

Goodman's legacy at Brock consists of much more than having bestowed thousands of degrees on beaming graduates during years of convocation ceremonies.

In 2013, Brock's business faculty was renamed the Goodman School of Business in recognition of a transformational gift made to the University by the Goodman Foundation. The generous donation provided key capital for an ambitious \$22-million expansion and reconstruction of the Goodman School facility, to take place over the next two years. Because of Goodman's commitment, the Ontario government has also pledged \$10-million to the project.

The expanded Goodman School of Business will provide much needed learning space, equipped with the latest technologies, to ensure Brock students receive the best education available in an environment that encourages and facilitates innovation and excellence in research, teaching and service.

"Ned has been a great booster for this institution," Lightstone said. "Ned is not ambitious for himself, but he's been ambitious for the University. He has been a transformational benefactor of our business school."

The successful international businessman served as Brock's seventh Chancellor. He stepped aside to make way for his successor, Indigenous Canadian actress and filmmaker Shirley Cheechoo, who was installed Oct. 17.

He looked proud to be passing the role to her after serving for eight years. He said he was honoured that her first duty as chancellor was presenting him with an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

Lightstone thanked Goodman for his service, noting he shook the hands of more than 30,000 graduates and presided over 75 convocations since 2007.

During a career that has spanned more than 40 years,



President Jack Lightstone adjusts the sash as Ned Goodman receives his honorary degree from the new Chancellor.

Goodman applied his geological training and business acumen to help build several successful mining companies — notably International Corona and Kinross Gold — and nurtured many other mineral producing companies through astute and timely investments.

In addition to being an outstanding member of the philanthropic community, Montreal-born Goodman is considered one of the leading architects of Canada's investment management industry. His impact as a securities analyst and portfolio manager has helped shape Canada's investment management industry. As founder and CEO of Dundee Corporation and Dundee Wealth, and as chairman of Goodman and Company, he shaped an impressive offering of financial services and investments.

Dan Dakin is the media relations officer in Brock's Office of Marketing and Communications.

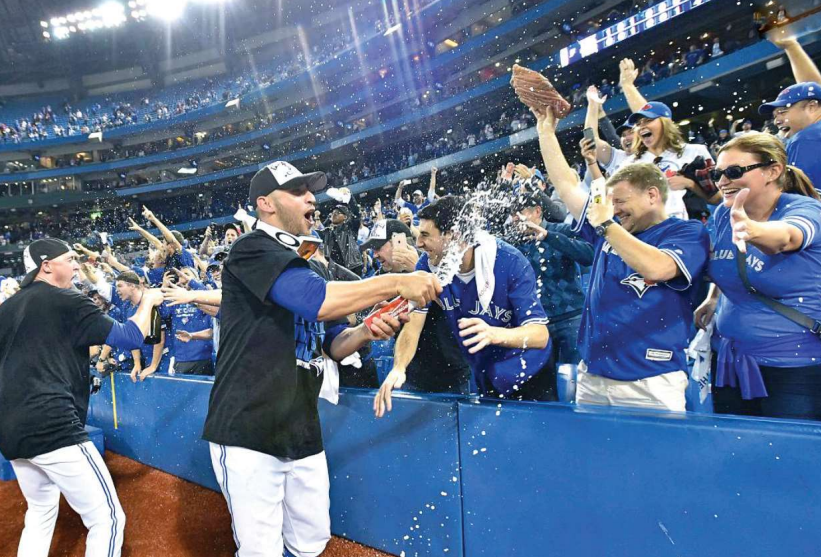
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BMO gives \$500,000

The Goodman School of Business received a major financial boost in the fundraising efforts for their expansion on Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, announcing one of the largest gifts-to-date for the project.

A \$500,000 investment was made by the BMO Financial Group in support of a 70-seat lecture hall. The fundraising goal is set for \$4 million, with just over \$1 million already raised.

For more information on this fundraising initiative, please contact Jana Boniferro at jboniferro@brocku.ca



Having won the ALDS, players Ryan Goins and Marco Estrada party with fans while, in the clubhouse, Andrew and Trina Tinnish savour the moment. Facing page: After his dramatic “bat-flip” home run in Game 5 of the ALDS, Jose Bautista is greeted by Josh Donaldson as the fans go wild.

In an amazing Blue Jays’ season, behind the scenes with Brock alumni

By Kevin Cavanagh

For 12 unforgettable weeks, from steamy August to a crisp autumn evening in Kansas City, Canadians from coast to coast were spellbound by the Toronto Blue Jays’ thrilling playoff run.

Millions tuned in on TV. The ballpark sold out every night. Did someone say there’s an election going on? Baseball was the only game in town.

And within the Jays organization was Brock University’s own winning team, a crew of alumni filling various roles and trying to focus on their jobs amid a buzz of excitement like they’d never experienced.

By July it was feeling like another bridesmaid season. Vacillating between wins and losses, the Jays were still “in it” but lacked consistency, and seemed stuck at five games behind the New York Yankees.

Then came the remarkable mid-summer trades. Around the league, heads turned. More than bringing in talent, they added leadership, created the kind of chemistry that managers dream of. Every player looked like there was no place they’d rather be. Things felt different.

Andrew Tinnish (BRLS ’99 / BSM ’01), Jays Assistant General Manager, remembers when he knew something special was happening. It was Civic Holiday Monday, with Minnesota in town. In his much-anticipated first start as a Blue Jay, star pitcher David Price defused a bases-loaded, none-out jam without giving up a run. At the third out, the stadium erupted.

“It was just electric,” says Tinnish. “Huge. That’s when I felt like, OK, now we have an ace. We knew our offence was great, we knew our defence was great. (But) with an ace on the mound you’re just confident that you’re going to win. That’s when I really started to feel it.”

The Jays went on a tear, passing the Yankees, clinching the American League East. Come October they won a dramatic divisional playoff and got within two victories of the World Series.

Fans were emotionally drained but deeply enamored with these talented, bonded, seemingly ego-free athletes.

For Holly Gentemann (BSM ’03) it was something she’ll never forget.

“Given this was my 13th season with the club, experiencing meaningful September baseball and then post-season for the first time as an employee was an incredible experience,” she reflects. “We went on the same emotional roller coaster many of our fans did.”

Tinnish talks of the scene after their heart-stopping playoff win over Texas. Players partied with fans in the stadium, then went into the clubhouse where it continued raining champagne.

“That was probably the best moment for me. I was able to get my wife Trina — who’s also a Brock grad, and a lot smarter than me — down into the clubhouse for the celebration. It was surreal being able to share that moment with her. I’m away so much with the team, she’s the rock of our family. I couldn’t do any of this without her.”

Both Tinnish and Gentemann say the Brock bond is strong, that alumni sense it when they cross paths in meeting rooms, hallways or social gatherings. “We are definitely aware of each other,” says Gentemann.

Tinnish also keeps in touch with another Brock grad just down the street, having lunch or exchanging texts with Toronto Maple Leafs Assistant General Manager Kyle Dubas.

“Kyle is a huge baseball fan, but a Seattle Mariners’ fan. And he loves Joe Madden, manager of the Chicago Cubs.

“But I think this year we’ve converted him. That was one of my goals this season.”

Kevin Cavanagh is Brock’s Director of Communications and Public Affairs.



Brock alumni in the Jays' front office

- Andrew Tinnish (BRLS '99, BSM '01), assistant general manager;
- Holly Gentemann (BSM '03), manager of community marketing and player relations;
- Scott Hext (BSM '01), box office manager;
- Ryan Pasquale (BSM '05), sales and marketing manager;
- Manpreet Pandha (BSM '07), corporate partnership marketing;
- Jordan Cassel (BSM '06), corporate partnership marketing;
- Tanya Proctor (BBA '93), accounting manager;
- Darcy Brooke-Bisschop (BSM '06), Care Foundation co-ordinator;
- Lindsay Whitlock (BBA '07), management trainee;
- Kelly Woloshyn (BSM '08), administrative assistant.

Putting Brock degrees to work



Nadia and Ilya Senchuk are living their dream of owning a winery, Leaning Post Wines in Winona.

Couple opened Leaning Post Wines

By Jane van den Dries

Alumni duo Nadia and Ilya Senchuk paired their passion for winemaking and entrepreneurship to open Leaning Post Wines.

It was a leap of faith they were both trained to make. Nadia, a 2007 graduate of Brock's MBA program with a concentration in finance, always dreamed of owning her own business.

Ilya, a graduate of Brock's oenology and viticulture program (BSc '03), knew he always wanted to make wine.

"We thought if a good winemaker and someone who has a strong business sense and a love for the wine industry can't make it work in this industry, who can?" says Nadia.

After graduating from Brock, Nadia put her risk-assessment knowledge to work at RBC Royal Bank where she spent four years in commercial banking providing entrepreneurs with the financing they needed to help turn their dreams into a reality. While working with these entrepreneurs, she started crunching her own numbers and realized that maybe her own ambitions were within reach.

The couple had often talked about opening a winery one day. After seriously looking at the numbers, they realized that the dream was in reach if they approached it the right way. They launched Leaning Post Wines as a virtual label in 2009, built their brand and opened the winery and retail store in Winona, Ont., four years later.

Their journey started when Ilya read a brochure about Brock's Oenology and Viticulture program in 1999, knew that winemaking was his passion and transferred to Brock immediately.

He never looked back.

"I knew right away that this is what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," he says.

For Nadia, the Goodman MBA was the perfect fit to build

her business knowledge and skills so she could one day work in the same industry as her husband. She initially started the MBA with the hope of concentrating in marketing but soon realized she enjoyed the world of finance.

Nadia credits Leaning Post's growth to both degrees and describes her experience in the Goodman MBA as immeasurable.

"The Goodman MBA program is so valuable because it gives you a strong base in strategy, legal, marketing, finance and more," she says. "You need to know every facet of business to make it work as an entrepreneur. Without my MBA, we would be struggling now. I would rather invest in human capital for ourselves than pay a consultant to help us grow our business."

Leaning Post Wines is comprised of three employees. Strong connections have already been built with both customers and growers.

Their aim is to make the best quality wine possible and to showcase what Niagara tastes like in a glass.

There is no separation between winemaking and sales at Leaning Post, and customers know that the people they talk with during a tasting are intimately involved with the winemaking process.

Ilya takes pride in the uniqueness of Leaning Post's wines and the winery, which is a charming restored barn on their family's property.

"No one else's wines taste exactly like ours, which is really the point," Ilya says. "All of our wines are usually from one vineyard in one particular area in Niagara. We're not making every kind of wine possible. Instead, we concentrate on a small number of varieties that do well each year and focus on achieving the highest quality we can from them."

Jane van den Dries is the Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator for the Goodman School of Business.

Alumni Journal

News and events from Brock University
Alumni Association Chapters

We love staying connected with our alumni. And our alumni love staying connected to each other. Every year, the Brock University Alumni Association holds several events for our alumni to reconnect with their university. The Alumni Journal is a glimpse of how Badgers old and new recently came together. To find out more about upcoming Alumni events, follow us on Twitter @BrockAlumni or Facebook. com/brockalumni or visit our website brocku.ca/alumni.



The Toronto Brock Alumni Network and SPMA alumni cheered on the home team at a Toronto Blue Jays game this summer.



Niagara alumni cheer on the Niagara IceDogs with Brock University students, faculty and staff at Brock Night at the Meridian Centre on Nov. 5.



The Brock University Ottawa Alumni Chapter gathered for a tour of the RedBlacks Stadium and met with President and Vice-Chancellor of Brock University Jack Lightstone and his wife Dorothy Markiewicz before the game.



Employees of the Ottawa RedBlacks, Damien Ford (BSM '08), Brian Keefe (BA '11), Matt Bennett (BSM '04), John Walsh (BSM '14), John Mathers (BSM '02) provide a brief Q & A to fellow Brock alumni at the Ottawa RedBlacks Alumni Chapter Event.



Brock alumnus Greg Plata (BSM '08) Team Lead, Sponsorship and Experiential Marketing for West Jet, Emily Hutton (BA '09) Alumni Relations Officer, Dorothy Markiewicz and President and Vice-Chancellor of Brock University Jack Lightstone met for lunch in Calgary.



Record-breaking crowd

Two teams. Two wins. 2,887 fans. The cheers were deafening at the Meridian Centre Nov. 28 as the Brock Badgers men's and women's basketball teams scored big wins over the Lakehead Thunderwolves. Fans wore red, painted their faces and voiced their support for their teams as Brock played their first-ever games at the Meridian Centre in downtown St. Catharines in front of a record-breaking crowd.





School children at the Badgers versus Bullying event on Oct. 22.

From 800 screaming elementary school kids cheering on the Badgers basketball team to a Brock international student winning gold on the world stage, it has been a busy few months for athletics.

Badgers take on bullying

A new initiative by the Brock Badgers Men's Basketball program saw 800 elementary school children from across Niagara visit the University on Oct. 22. Badgers versus Bullying was a project launched by men's basketball coach Charles Kissi as a way to give back to the community and educate young kids about bullying.

The coach, along with two players and Brock bullying expert Associate Professor Tony Volk all spoke to the kids, who then watched as the Badgers beat the University of Victoria Vikes 99-69 in a pre-season game.

While 20 schools were represented, nearly 2,000 students from dozens more schools wanted to attend the sold out event. Plans are being made to host next year's social awareness event at a bigger venue.

Nationally ranked

Even before the first 2015-16 regular-season games were held, the Brock Badgers got a boost of confidence from the Canadian Inter-university Sport Top 10 pre-season basketball rankings. It was the first time since the 2006-07 season that both the men's and women's basketball teams had made the list simultaneously.

The men were given the fourth spot after a 7-0 record against CIS opponents in the pre-season while the women were ranked sixth after a 4-0 record in the CIS.



Jessica Lewis

Gold for Lewis

Fourth-year Brock University Recreation and Leisure Studies student Jessica Lewis, an international student from Bermuda, was her country's only representative at the 2015 IPC World Championships held in Qatar during the last week of October. She didn't disappoint, racing in four events, finishing fourth in the 200m final and winning bronze in the 100m. It was Bermuda's first-ever IPC World Championship medal and followed Lewis' gold medal at the 2015 ParaPan Am Games in Toronto.

On her personal blog, Lewis said she was "so grateful to have this amazing experience and I am looking forward to many more races in the future."

Silver for men's baseball

It was another successful year for the Badgers men's baseball team with the squad capturing a silver medal at the 2015 Ontario University Athletics Championships.

The Badgers faced the hosting Western Mustangs in the gold medal game on Oct. 20 and lost 9-4. Brock finished the 2015 season with an impressive 28-7 overall record.



The Badger's men's baseball team swings to silver.

The last word

Mandie Murphy (BA '05)



When I met my husband Mark during our first week in Brock University's Alan Earp residence, I wouldn't have believed one day we'd end up running a brewery together.

After Brock, Mark (BAcc '06) went on to earn his chartered accountant designation and worked for a mid-sized public accounting firm while I started my marketing career client-side, working on ad campaigns for one of Canada's large telecommunications conglomerates. We got married, bought a house and daydreamed about starting our own business and working together, for ourselves.

In 2010, Mark was travelling extensively on audits and spent

a great deal of time reading about and exploring the small but rapidly growing and fascinating world of craft beer. One late night in a hotel room in Fort Saskatchewan, Alta., he read about a new brewmaster and brewery operations diploma program that was about to become an offering of Niagara College. He came home and told me an idea straight out of left field. He planned to apply to the program, commute back to the Niagara Region for two years and learn to brew beer with the dream of someday combining our business, accounting, marketing and PR experience to open our own brewery. I thought he was out of his mind.

Not too long after that, a former colleague of mine got in touch to see if I would be interested in a new cooler, cider and spirits brand management role that had just opened up at the global wine company that she was working for. It was a light bulb moment for both of us. If Mark went on to learn brewing and if I could gain some sales and marketing experience in the world of beverage alcohol, maybe someday we could make this – craft beer – the business we had been dreaming of. And that's exactly what we did. We launched Left Field Brewery as a contract brewery (meaning we brewed our beer in other existing Ontario craft breweries) in February of 2013 and started building our brand in the market.

Two of the shortest/longest years later, we opened our dream business - The Left Field Brewery - as a real-deal, bricks and mortar brewery. Just blocks from our home in the East Toronto neighbourhood known as Leslieville, we operate a small production brewery, tap room and bottle shop serving local beer enthusiasts and neighbours.

We've never worked harder for longer hours and we've never had more fun. Although it seems odd, we no longer work for ourselves. We work for the beer – to make it the very best it can be, for the brand – to consistently earn it a best-in-class reputation and for our growing team of 11 wonderfully talented, energetic and passionate employees. It's more gratifying than we would have ever imagined and none of it would have ever existed without our time at Brock.



Please **DONATE NOW** as we celebrate our past and look towards our future.

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