

Surgite

Vol. 1, No. 1

A close-up portrait of a man in a military-style uniform, wearing a dark cap with gold braiding and a red jacket with gold buttons. The background is a textured, painterly style.

Both sides now
Brock's look of
distinction

Grads help build a new
media industry

Researcher's dream
is rising at Brock

Alumnus honours
a prof who inspired



Rohan Kothari

Major: Biological Sciences. High School Avg: 99.7%
2007 & 2008 National Millennium Excellence Award
Goals: Reverse the aging process. Master the sax.

For both sides of the brain.

Welcome to Brock. A university designed for the very purpose of developing well-rounded human beings. A place that not only recognizes but nurtures both sides of the brain. Where diverse passions are not only welcomed but celebrated, and students become better versions of themselves. And what could be more important than that these days? brocku.ca

Brock

Table of contents

Brock 2.0	04
Niagara is taking a bold step into the world of new media.	
A Matter of Science	06
Brock enters a new age of research.	
Both Sides of the Brain	12
The campaign that has made a nationwide splash.	
The Good Doctor	14
Mary Guerriero Austrom is the Association's Distinguished Alumni Award winner.	
Regular features:	
People at Brock	08
Projects that have put Brock in the news this year.	
On Campus	10
The arts take centre stage with a move to downtown St. Catharines.	
Athletics	18
After 25 seasons, Chris Critelli retires from coaching.	
The Last Word	22
Alumnus Arthur Peltomaa honours his favourite professor.	

Surgite

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

Editor: Samantha Craggs
Design/production: Dante Sicoli
Contributing writers: Kevin Cavanagh, Joan Wiley,
Susan Pennell-Sebekos, Terry Cockerline

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

Surgite welcomes input from alumni for letters to the editor, articles or ideas. Please send correspondence to Surgite Magazine, Office of Alumni Relations, Brock University, 500 Glenridge Ave., St. Catharines, ON L2S 3A1. E-mail: www.alumni@brocku.ca. Please provide address updates at brockpeople.ca where AlumNews and other alumni messages can be found. For advertising inquiries, call 905-688-5550 x4420.

Welcome to the first issue of a redesigned Surgite, the alumni magazine that celebrates Brock University and our graduates.

Wherever you are in your life's journey, as our alumni you are valued members of the Brock family. And as families are wont to do, we look forward to keeping you informed of our activities, achievements and aspirations.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many of you at alumni reunions or University events. Our gatherings provide opportunities for sharing: I am able to bring you up to date on the changing face of Brock, and you are able to bring your insights as to how we can continue to strengthen the University's profile and enhance the value of your Brock degree.

A visit to campus will show you that Brock is indeed evolving. We increasingly offer a diverse and growing range of undergraduate, master's and doctoral programs, and more are in development. We are building upon our reputation for student engagement and academic excellence, of nourishing both sides of the brain and developing well-rounded graduates. And we are increasingly known for engaging many partners in our region and beyond in order to spur development economically, culturally and socially.

To support our goal to be known as Canada's best mid-sized university, last March we launched Bold New Brock, a \$75-million capital campaign. This initiative will help realize the vision of our academic plan, Brock 2014, and create much-needed teaching, learning and research space on our main campus and in downtown St. Catharines.

So enjoy the bold new presence of Surgite as we celebrate and profile your achievements and ours, and look forward to the future together.

Best wishes,



Jack Lightstone



Dr. Jack Lightstone,
President and Vice-
Chancellor.

Brock 2.0

The founders of FourGrounds Media are examples of Niagara's new entrepreneurs of interactive media.

By Samantha Craggs

If Mike Gillespie, Adrian Thiessen and Kristin Nater had wanted jobs in their fields five years ago, they would have had no choice but to be on the first bus out of Niagara.

Interactive media jobs for students with Film Studies degrees were scarce in Niagara, which has for generations had an economy rooted in manufacturing.

The trio is trained in the theoretical and technical side of film and video. Jobs using that knowledge have traditionally been in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, says Nater (BA '07), who is currently earning a master's in Film Studies and Popular Culture at Brock.

But that was before.

Last year, they founded FourGrounds Media, which does web video marketing, videography and film production from its headquarters in downtown St. Catharines. Their work has appeared on Silver City screens in Halton through their narrative ads for the Region's Clean Air Policy Campaign. They also produced a series of fire prevention videos for the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers' Association, Niagara division. It is the first campaign of its kind aimed at post-secondary students.

The company's success has been possible, they say, because of efforts to grow an interactive and new media sector in Niagara.

"It's been a matter of being in the right place at the right time with the right people," says Gillespie, a Brock student. "There's the potential for any area to do what Niagara is doing, but the Niagara region has specifically made a conscious effort to shift and gear toward this type of industry."

Brock has been at the forefront of that shift. In 2008, it helped form nGen, an interactive media business incubator with four flourishing tenants in its location at One St. Paul St. The incubator is a partnership between Brock, Interactive Ontario, the Niagara Economic Development Corporation, Niagara College, the City of St. Catharines, the Niagara



Photo: Bob Tymczyszyn

The founders of FourGrounds Media — from left, Mike Gillespie, Adrian Thiessen and Kristen Nater — say they exist in Niagara because of new efforts to make the area an interactive media hub.

Enterprise Agency and Silicon Knights, a St. Catharines game design company founded by Denis Dyack (BPhEd '90, BSc '90).

The incubator provides office space, guidance and support to four companies who network with each other daily. FourGrounds is an inaugural nGen

company, as is Furi Enterprises, a technology consulting company run by current Brock student Thomas Madej. Other tenants are Morro Images and Dragon Chess, which has John Bachynski (BA '03) and Andrew Cheeseman at the helm.

An inaugural nGen project also has a strong Brock link. A Brock team is developing a War of 1812 education game, which uses simulations, role-playing and strategy to teach students about Canadian history

and military conflict. The project is based on prototypes created by students in the Brock University Interactive Arts and Science Program.

The companies and projects are gaining steam. FourGrounds alone employs as many as 15 people for larger projects. Other nGen projects, like the Niagara College social entertainment site Noise in Niagara (noiseinniagara.com), show that Niagara has the makings of being the next Silicon Valley North, says Jeff Chesebrough (BA '98), nGen's

executive director.

The dream is not as unreachable as one might imagine. A 2007 feasibility study conducted by Millier Dickinson Blais Inc. shows that interactive media accounts for more than 3,000 businesses, 32,000 jobs and more than \$7 billion in gross revenues in Canada. More than 90 per cent of Ontario companies surveyed had the same or higher revenues from the year before. Fifty-five per cent of the revenue was generated by fee-

for-service activities, with the remainder derived by creating intellectual property. Twenty-seven per cent of those companies had trouble filling skilled employee positions, most notably programmers and creative designers.

"This shows that we have the components. We have the talent," Chesebrough says.

What makes Niagara special is "tapping into Brock and Niagara College, where there are competitive programs in the field," he said. "We have a lot of people pulling in the right direction."

The FourGrounds team is now among them. Thiessen, 23, is from Quispamsis, N.B. He has been business minded since he collected and resold golf balls that flew from a golf course near his house.

Gillespie, 27, produced a closed-circuit animated show for his school as a high school student in Unionville. Nater, 27, of Port Colborne, is a founder of Brock TV (brocktv.ca), an online television network in its fifth year. Gillespie is still Brock TV's executive director.

FourGrounds will stay in Niagara, Thiessen says.

"The opportunity is here right now to transition between the manufacturing industry and digital media technology," he says. "You don't need to be in a big city to operate in the area of digital communication."

FourGrounds received the first Nitsopoulos Family Entrepreneurship Award this year, an honour given by former trustee Angelo Nitsopoulos to recent Brock graduates starting businesses in Niagara. FourGrounds receives \$10,000 to support new business expenses and advice from Brock's Business Advisory Council.

The new award is just one more reason the interactive media industry will continue to grow in Niagara.

"We joke that here we are, three film students with an entrepreneurial business award," says Thiessen. "It's just one more check on the list of things we're trying to accomplish in this area."



Photo: Bob Tymczyszyn

"It's been a matter of being in the right place at the right time with the right people."

— Mike Gillespie

A matter of science

By Samantha Craggs

Ana Sanchez has dreamed of this moment since the day she arrived at Brock.

She is a renowned researcher in infectious diseases, but when she arrived in 2001, she had no laboratory to use. Within a year, she had a Biosafety Level 2 laboratory, which is suitable for work with moderately hazardous agents. Level 2 means protective gloves, decontaminated surfaces and limited access during experiments.

But finding space to do more intensive work has been difficult. There are Level 3 labs in Toronto, but they have busy schedules. Sending results to the only Level 4 lab in Canada — the National Centre for Human and Animal Health in Winnipeg — lands it in an endless queue. Often the lab is so busy that work is turned away entirely.

With the new Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Complex (NHBC), Niagara will have its very own Level 3 lab. Sanchez can't wait. One of three faculty members on a committee to advise about the laboratory, Sanchez travelled to Winnipeg and Atlanta this summer to be trained in working in a high-containment lab.

"Brock has changed so much since I came here," said Sanchez, an associate professor in Community Health Sciences. "I'm happy to have been a part of the change."

With the NHBC, which had its official groundbreaking Sept. 8, more than 30 researchers from the Faculties of Mathematics and Science and Applied Health Sciences will gain much-needed lab space. In the past, professors have turned away graduate students because of the space crunch. Students have shared workstations. Experiments have been stalled because there was simply no space to store new samples.

Sanchez is currently researching the patterns of transmission of dengue fever in Mexico, but the roughly 1,000 samples are parked at McMaster University.

"(With the new lab), we could have been analyzing them here," Sanchez says.

Sanchez is particularly interested in Niagara having its own facilities to more deeply examine ailments such as H1N1, West Nile and tuberculosis. This fall, she will publish the results of her own tuberculosis study, wherein she and PhD student Angela Duarte (MSc '08) studied the incidence of latent tuberculosis in Niagara migrant workers. While

tests of old show as much as one-third of the population has a latent form of the disease, Sanchez and Duarte's study showed only 18 per cent of the workers from countries with high incidence of tuberculosis had it.

Other work that will benefit from the NHBC's amenities includes the research of Tomas Hudlicky, a Chemistry professor



Ana Sanchez says the new Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Complex will give students and researchers much-needed space.



who recently developed a simpler route to producing Tamiflu. He is one of six Canada Research Chairs who will be in the new building.

Stephen Cheung, associate professor in Applied Health Sciences, researches how extreme temperatures, protective clothing and exercise work together. Vincenzo De Luca, professor in Biological Sciences, examines how to harness cell factories to produce natural products. The work of Ping Liang, associate professor in Biological Sciences, will lead to greater

understanding of human and plant genetics. Melanie Pilkington, associate professor in Chemistry, is advancing the development of new chemical, electronic and magnetic devices. Charles Despres, a Chair from 2002-07, conducts research recently used to make crops more disease resistant.

More than just lab space, the NHBRC will be epic to Brock's evolution as a comprehensive university with greater emphasis on graduate studies, says Ian Brindle (MSc '72), dean of Mathematics and Science.

The complex will be a 142,000-square-foot, \$109-million research facility on the main campus, and home to nearly 400 students, visiting and current faculty, scientists and researchers.

It will also have a business incubator to nurture the development of research-based discoveries. Students and researchers will not only have space to make discoveries, but access to the resources and expertise to market their inventions.

The federal government gave \$38.3 million to the project in May. The Ontario government contributed \$33.5 million in February 2008. In a nod to the complex's wider community benefits, the Regional Municipality of Niagara committed \$2 million. The project also benefits from money raised in the Campaign for a Bold New Brock.

The culture of Brock is changing, Brindle says. When he was a Brock student, there were four graduate programs.

"Brock has about as many faculty now as there were students then," he says.

The NHBRC has been on the wish lists of people like Brindle for years. But it wasn't until President Jack Lightstone arrived in 2006 that the concept gained momentum, Brindle says.

"His ideas and the ideas for the NHBRC are so well aligned," he says. "He really poured the gas in the fire. He got it bubbling."

The complex will have five floors, with its basement fully occupied. The heaviest labs will be at the bottom, and there will be a greenhouse on the top floor. The top two floors will be dedicated entirely to research, Brindle says.

But the work itself is also exciting. Scientists like Hudlicky and De Luca are leaders in their fields, doing "the sort of work that makes people here excited to get up and come to work."

Brock research in the NHBRC will include understanding and harnessing the power of photosynthesis, electricity transmission and the fundamental atomic processes that result in superconductivity.

"I've always felt Brock would find its time as a research institution," Brindle says. "That time is now."



Artist's rendering of the new Niagara Health and Bioscience Research Complex (NHBRC)



Photo: Bob Tymczyszyn



People at Brock

By Joan Wiley

Medieval manuscript found in University archives



Examining the parchment are, from left, University Archivist David Sharron, chaplain André Basson, History/Medieval Studies professor Andrew McDonald and Angus Somerville, associate professor in English Language and Literature.

A medieval manuscript found tightly folded in a drawer in Brock's Special Collections has attracted research funding and scholarly interest.

The Humanities Research Institute (HRI) has provided funding to help unravel the mystery behind the parchment, and a professor of medieval history at the University of Toronto has helped to pinpoint its age.

Jonathan Milner, who graduated with an honours BA in History in June, has received about \$650 in funding from HRI to do a follow-up investigation into the parchment that was believed to date as far back as the mid-13th century.

The text records a transfer of land between Robert de Clopton and his son, William, in England. Milner's research indicates there was some sort of complication that would have required the transfer deed to be written.

"If the inheritance passed on to the eldest son," Milner said, "typically no document or contract would have been required. But the de Clopton contract has witnesses, so it's not a straightforward issue. Also, the father is charging his son an annual rent of 12 silver pennies for the land. This is a rather steep rent/tax for a small plot (about 30 acres), and uncommon in inheritances."

Brock archivists initially thought the land document — and its accompanying seal and quill sharpener — dated back to the 15th century. They based their belief on a note that accompanied the manuscript at the time of its discovery.

After reading an account of the manuscript's discovery in University Affairs, Professor Michael Gervers from the University of Toronto's history department contacted David Sharron, head of Special Collections, suggesting Brock become involved in the Documents of Early England Data Set (DEEDS) project. The main objective of the project is to develop a computerized method of dating medieval English charters that were issued without dates.

Angus Somerville, an associate professor of English Language and Literature at Brock, ran his Latin transcription through the DEEDS database in mid-August. The Clopton Charter was dated to 1241 AD, plus or minus 2.5 years.

Sharron is currently investigating the best way to house the document — there's writing on both sides — and to preserve it.



Save the Date



Alumni Reunion Weekend 2010
Sept. 17-20

Reunite! Reminisce! Reacquaint!

Visit our photo gallery
from 2009 online brockpeople.ca

Brock



Glenn Tattersall, associate professor of Biology, researched how toucans shed heat with their bills.

“An elephant uses its ears to dump heat. Mice use their tails. Toucans use their bills.”

Mystery solved behind the toucan’s giant bill

Toco toucans are often associated with a brand of breakfast cereal, but a Brock researcher says the colourful and exotic birds may lead to a better understanding of how animals respond to temperature change.

In a July article published in the journal *Science*, Brock associate professor Glenn Tattersall observed that toco toucans use their iconic gigantic bills to regulate their own body heat. The research could help humans better understand how animals cope with climate change.

“An elephant uses its ears to dump heat,” said Tattersall, a researcher in Biological Sciences. “Mice use their tails. Toucans use their bills.”

The discovery dispels the notion that bird bills are only useful for feeding and attracting potential mates.

Using a thermal camera, Tattersall and research colleagues in Sao Paulo, Brazil produced striking images that show that a toucan’s giant bill acts as a heat exchange organ, helping the bird regulate its own body heat. They found that the birds reduce or increase their heat loss by contracting or expanding arteries in their bills.

The research generated intense media interest. The story was picked up by the BBC, Los Angeles Times and other media outlets.



Creative Thinking

Brock takes the arts to downtown

By Samantha Craggs

To some, it's fixing a long-time space crunch that has seen arts students squeeze into performance, studio and practice space.

To others, it is the key to renewed economic activity in downtown St. Catharines, attracting new business and fans of the arts.

Any way you look at it, the Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts (MIWSFPA) is undergoing a transformation.

Plans are underway to locate the school downtown, adjacent to the city's planned Niagara Centre for the Arts as part of a \$101-million project. The MIWSFPA will move to a new campus location in the former Canada Hair Cloth building, a soon-to-be-renovated 19th-century building with oak floors, attractive brick work and 500 wooden spindles that Brock students will turn into art.

The project will take the often-undervalued disciplines in the fine and performing arts and move them to the forefront, says Rosemary Hale, dean of Humanities. It will show the importance of arts and culture in economic development.

"Arts and culture are what enable communities to be prosperous," Hale says. "If you want to transition the economy from manufacturing to a knowledge economy, you need to ensure that cultural renewal is there."

President Jack Lightstone proposed the idea of a partnership to St. Catharines city council in April 2007. That led to a favourable feasibility study.

The Niagara Centre for the Arts received \$36 million in joint federal-provincial funding in May. The University is seeking funding from the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. The project will also benefit from The Campaign for a Bold New Brock.

The school got a boost in November 2008 from Marilyn I. Walker, a renowned fibre artist, author, teacher and philanthropist. Walker made a personal donation of \$15 million, the largest the University has ever received.

The contents of the new MIWSFPA are still being finalized. But it will include ample studio and performance space for music, visual arts and drama with space for new media down the road, Hale says. Other options include a gallery, elevated terrace, lecture hall, digital music room and a roof terrace.

The Niagara Centre for the Arts will contain a 900-seat concert hall, where all programs from Brock's Centre for the Arts will be held. It will also have a smaller theatre for community arts organizations.

The Department of Dramatic Arts has grown exponentially, says David Fancy, associate professor and chair. The number of majors has doubled in five years.

"We've been served well by the University," says Fancy, who has been at Brock for five years. "But we're served for a much smaller population. We just simply need more space."



Artist's rendering of the new Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts campus.



The rejuvenated downtown streetscape.

Alumna gets replacement Dean's Medal after burglary

Of all the moments Tara-lea Beaudoin (BA '06, BEd '07) has shared with instructors in the Faculty of Education, few rank as high as the time she got her medal back.

Beaudoin dreamed of being a teacher. When she graduated from Brock in 2006, it was the end of a 16-year journey attending the



University part time. She was awarded the Dean's Medal for academic excellence, an honour so special she kept the medal with her most prized possessions. Among those possessions: jewelry, family heirlooms and a ring from her late best friend Monica.

"I kept it with the things I valued the most," she says. "That's how special it was."

In May, nearly three years into her post-Brock teaching career,

thieves broke into Beaudoin's home in Hamilton and stole it all, including the Dean's Medal.

She has remained friends with Gail Phillips (MEd '98), a lecturer at the Hamilton campus who shares French teaching resources with her. When Phillips and her colleagues heard of Beaudoin's loss, they had another Dean's Medal made for her and surprised her with it June 23.

There were tears when they gave it to her, Phillips says.

"I handed (Tara-lea) the envelope, and really quickly, she knew what it was," Phillips says. "It was just so cool to be there and watch her face."

The gift was "beyond anything I would have expected," Beaudoin says. "It's just so far beyond."

It is the second major reason — education aside — that Beaudoin remains a Brock supporter. The first, she says, was about 15 years ago when Athletics director Lorne Adams "saved my life."

Allergic to bee stings, Beaudoin suffered a sting on her hand in the Walker Complex and couldn't get her lid off her EpiPen. Adams stopped and asked if she was OK. Beaudoin had just enough energy to show him her EpiPen before she fainted.

Adams called an ambulance. Later, when asked who helped her, Beaudoin could only remember the colour of his eyes.

"For me, between this and Lorne Adams, I can't believe the things Brock professors have done for me," she says.

Teaching is a competitive field, but Beaudoin, a former recreation program organizer with the City of Hamilton, got a permanent job right away. She teaches physical education and French at Greenville Public School.

"It's the greatest job in the world," she says.



Rick Mercer, left, and Belinda Stronach receive honorary degrees from Brock's chancellor, Ned Goodman

Mercer, Stronach get honorary degrees

Brock's spring Convocation ceremonies got a dose of star power in the form of a famous comedian and a former would-be party leader.

Rick Mercer, host of the CBC's Rick Mercer Report, and Belinda Stronach, chair of the Belinda Stronach Foundation, were made honorary Doctors of Law at a ceremony June 9. They were honoured for their work with Spread the Net, a charity that has distributed 370,000 bed nets in Africa to slow the spread of malaria.

Last year's Spread the Net campus challenge was kicked off at Brock.

Mercer said his greatest piece of paper marking achievement is not his high school diploma, but a threatening letter from the lawyer of former Reform Party leader Preston Manning.

Honorary degrees were also bestowed on Richard Howden Tomlinson and Roy Cairns. The former was lauded for his commitment to education, research, entrepreneurship and philanthropy. The latter is a lawyer, businessman and longtime Brock supporter.



For Both Side

12

In 2008, Brock asked more than 700 alumni, students, faculty and staff to put their finger on just what it is that makes the University distinct and special.

A recurring theme was that Brock develops well-rounded people.

Individually and in groups, people spoke of a dynamic culture that lives beyond the boundaries of academic convention, encouraging students to develop not just academically but innovatively and creatively. A place that prompts people to reach out and see beyond their physical setting.

From that grassroots direction came the eye-catching public campaign positioning Brock as a place that develops “Both Sides of the Brain”.

The award-winning creative firm Target Marketing

gave life to “Both Sides of the Brain”, and their striking images have been turning heads and raising Brock’s profile nationally (through *Maclean’s* and the *Globe and Mail*), regionally and on our own campus — where students returned this September to find posters, banners and stickers of the visual concept adorning the building walls, lampposts, elevator doors and even washroom mirrors.

The campaign’s models are real Brock people — students, alumni, faculty, donors, researchers — whose varying stories tell different versions of the tale of exceptional thinkers or achievers with something in common: they were all drawn to Brock University. Three of the profiles — Denis Dyack, Arthur Peltomaa and Erin Norton — are alumni. (For more on the



s of the Brain

people, go to boldnewbrock.ca).

A key strategy to the campaign is to tell the world why Brock is such a unique learning and living environment.

University President Jack Lightstone says strengthening our reputation, and explaining why we have been so popular in terms of growth, helps Brock in a competitive environment for the best students and faculty, more research funding, and more government and private support.

And the efforts also provide a life-long benefit to students and alumni, he says, by increasing the value and prestige of their Brock degree.

"We work hard to promote Brock," says Lightstone of the 'Both Sides' campaign. "This means fully

developing and realizing the 'Brock identity' and effectively communicating that identity to those outside Brock."

The campaign has drawn positive reviews. Many in the Brock community have voiced excited support for the campaign.

In the *Globe and Mail* earlier this year, journalist Jennifer Wells called it "one of the most arresting university campaigns to come along in a very long while".

And it will be around for a while yet. Brock plans to use the imagery campaign for several more years in recruitment efforts, advertisements, capital campaign fund-raising efforts, our own website and other situations.

Dr. Mary Guerriero Austrom is a warm and charming person, the type who is equally at home in a junior kindergarten classroom or a 200-seat lecture hall.

She has an easy, sometimes self-deprecating sense of humour. Her laughter comes easily. When asked a question, she ponders it deeply and honestly, whether it is about her students, her patients or her own aging in light of her landmark research into Alzheimer disease (AD).

Austrom, an expert in the field of aging and AD, is the recipient of Brock's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Since receiving her BEd and BA from Brock in 1980 and 1981, she has published more than a hundred articles, chapters and abstracts on AD. At the Indiana University School of Medicine, she is the first and only endowed professor for Alzheimer education in the world, receiving the Wesley P. Martin endowment in 2006.

Her work involves developing non-pharmacological interventions for patients and caregivers of AD patients. She delivers workshops for families and staff at long-term care homes. In addition to

The Good Doctor

By Susan Pennell-Sebekos

professional conferences, she has given hundreds of presentations to families, professional caregivers and support groups across North America.

After Brock, Austrom earned master's and doctoral degrees from York University in 1983 and 1989. In 1990, she joined Indiana University, where she is a professor of Clinical Psychology in Clinical Psychiatry and the director of the Education Core at the Indiana Alzheimer Disease Center.

"(The) opportunities that Brock gave students prepared me for graduate work and for my academic career," she says.

She didn't have a master plan for her career and education. But she attributes her success to her willingness to try. She credits her parents' support and her education at Brock for laying the solid foundation for her to build upon.

"Somehow," she says, "I've cobbled together this great career."

Great Beginnings

Austrom came to Canada from Italy at age three. When she started at Brock, she intended to get her Bachelor of Education and become a teacher.

But when she began to teach at a junior kindergarten in St. Catharines, her advisor at Brock, Gary Glavin, encouraged to push on with her education.

"Mary was a challenging student – and by challenging, I most certainly do not mean difficult in any way," says Glavin, now associate vice-president (research) at the University of Manitoba. "She was constantly pushing for more information; always asking 'why?'"

Glavin was "a fantastic teacher and mentor and made me want to go to class," Austrom says. "I think I took every class he offered. He made class so interesting and instilled a love of learning in me."

Glavin taught her to write papers, and also to look at studies with a critical eye.



"I owe so much of my kind of love for my discipline to him," she says. "He gave me the encouragement to continue."

Austrom was never content with what was given in class or in a seminar, Glavin says. She wanted more and more information until she felt that she had a full grasp of the subject.

Austrom says she owes her success to many of her Brock professors and mentors, including Rosemary Hunter, who was an energetic teacher-educator in the Faculty of Education.

Austrom was also impacted by professor Nora Carlson's style, and by Howard Bell, professor emeritus of Mathematics who remains her friend to this day.

"She was one of the most sensible and focused students I have encountered," says Bell.

Attending Brock meant having access to teachers, "whereas if I'd been at a much larger school, I would have only talked to TAs," Austrom says.

"At the time I was working on my undergrad degree, there wasn't a graduate program, so by the time I was in third year, we were given the opportunity to be teaching assistants. Usually you don't get that unless you're a grad."

Austrom was always the clear ringleader of social events, Glavin says.

"My clearest recollection is that Mary was easily one of the very best seminar leaders we had. She earned consistent high praise from the students in her seminars – so much so that faculty members were looking over their shoulders because of her superb teaching and interpersonal skills."

Austrom used what she'd learned at Brock in her later academic career.

"I remember [at Indiana University], doing some research and collecting data, I said to my boss/chairman, 'I'm collecting this data. I know how to write it up,'" she recalls. "They were somewhat shocked."

Choices and success

Austrom's research and clinical interests include aging, late-life transitions and adjustment to retirement, but she obtained her master's in adolescent bereavement.

"It was an area that hadn't been looked at, and my advisor at York worked with Bereaved Families of Ontario," she says. "So I thought, well, there's my niche."

Her husband Douglas, a former Brock professor in the Faculty of Business, headed to Indiana to become a professor at the Kelley School of


Business. Austrom wanted to complete her dissertation without redoing much of her coursework. So she finished her degree from York.

A colleague at Indiana University invited her to work on a project dealing with dementia. Families of dementia patients feel intense loss and grief, so it tied in with Austrom's previous research.

She became interested in non-pharmacological interventions for dementia patients and their caregivers. The stress and grief associated with caring for someone with dementia, both in family and professional caregivers, is also an interest.

"My work in non-pharmacological care for patients is what I'm most known for," she says. "So I try to teach

With Canada's aging population, Austrom's work is increasingly vital. Dramatic changes in life expectancy over the past century mean a larger proportion of the population is 65 or older.



Renowned for her work with aging and Alzheimer disease, Mary Guerriero Austrom is the Brock University Alumni Association's 2009 Distinguished Alumni award winner.

2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

Faculty of Business Distinguished Graduate Award **John Zoccoli, BAdmin '86**

A native of the Niagara Region, John Zoccoli graduated (first class honours) with an Honours Bachelor of Administration degree (co-op program). He worked as an accountant for Dunwoody & Company Chartered Accountants before returning to Brock University to spend 14 years as an administrator. Currently, he oversees administrative and financial functions for his eight family-run Tim Horton's Stores in Niagara.

Zoccoli is a board committee member for the Tim Horton's Children's Foundation, a member of the Brock University Faculty of Business Advisory Council and treasurer of the Briardale Public School council.

Faculty of Education Distinguished Alumni Award **Edward (Ted) Palmer, MEd '84**

After completing his undergraduate degree from the University of Western Ontario, Ted Palmer obtained his Master of Education from Brock University and teacher/administrator certification from University of Western Ontario and Brock University.

He is executive director of the Business Education Council of Niagara (BEC), one of the largest and most diverse business education councils in North America. He is also the founding chair of the Ontario Business Education Partnership, a consortium of industry education councils across Ontario.

Prior to the BEC, Ted was a teacher and administrator with the District School Board of Niagara and faculty member at Brock University. He was also the original resource expert to the Provincial Partnership Council: Ontario Ministry of Education.

Faculty of Humanities Distinguished Graduate Award **David MacKenzie, BA '74**

David MacKenzie of Ridgeville, who graduated from Brock with a BA in Drama, is a modern Renaissance man. He is a gifted actor, director and playwright with the Carousel Players theatre company. He has written nearly 20 plays and pioneered an innovative style of participation, engaging hundreds of thousands of students, teachers and performers in Canadian and world history and myth.

He played a pivotal role for Trivial Pursuit and is credited as protector of Canadian content in the wildly popular board game. David has also portrayed Welland Canal visionary William Hamilton Merritt for more than 24 years.

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award **Marty Calder, BPhEd '92**

Marty Calder of Thorold is an alumnus whose name is synonymous with athletic excellence. In addition to being Brock Male Athlete of the Year three times, Marty is a seven-time national wrestling champion and Commonwealth champion who placed high at the 1992 and 1996 Olympics.

Marty has been responsible for the development of many high school athletes, two of who have gone on to the Olympics. He is a tireless ambassador for Brock and contributes to his community by regularly speaking to high school and elementary students and volunteering with youth at risk.

Distinguished Mathematics and Science Alumni Award **Karl Kaiser, BSc '74, LLB '94**

Karl Kaiser is considered by many to be a Canadian wine legend. He received an honorary doctorate from Brock in '94 recognizing his contributions to the Canadian wine industry.

Karl teamed up with Donald Ziraldo to establish Inniskillin Winery. Karl created icewine in 1984, a product that is now a global icon for Canada.

Karl has received numerous awards, including the Order of Ontario, the Queen's 50th anniversary Golden Jubilee Award, the Tony Aspler Award of Excellence and the first ever Ontario Wine Society Lifetime Achievement Award.



Arts BrockU.ca
Tickets and FULL season listing online.

10% ALUMNI DISCOUNT WITH I.D.
Some restrictions apply.

Ron Sexsmith
special guest
Dala




Nov. 18



CENTRE for the ARTS
Brock University

Close to home.
Far from ordinary.

Niagara's Cultural Treasure!

905.688.5550 x 3257 or Toll Free 1.866.617.3257

Tickets for High School Students
\$5 eyeGO.org  Canadian Heritage  Patrimoine canadien

International Guitar Night



Nov. 25

Four unique and mind-blowing guitarists.

Matt Dusk
special guest
Theo Tams




Nov. 21

Justin Hines
special guest
Sierra Noble




Dec. 3

Travel with Brock and invest in your vacation – you'll come home richer for the experience!

| Small group travel | Some groups may be accompanied by a Brock representative or faculty trip host | Accommodations, most meals, excursions and activities included | Professional travel services available | Open to all community members, faculty, staff and alumni | Prices listed are estimates and based on minimum numbers | For detailed information on what is included, single supplements and all trip details, visit www.brocku.ca/edutravel

Brock
Edutravel 2010



Tuscany-Cortona (Italy)
Dates: June 16–24, 2010
Price: estimated at \$2895 CDN per person based on double occupancy



Cruise the Galapagos (Ecuador)
Dates: October 15–26, 2010
Price: estimated from \$5795 U.S. per person based on double occupancy



The Romance of Rajasthan (India)
Dates: November 4–18, 2010
Price: estimated at \$3695 U.S. per person based on double occupancy

For information contact the Edutravel office at 905-688-5550 x4772 or email edutravel@brocku.ca

Calling it a game

After 28 years, Chris Critelli steps down as coach of the women's basketball team

By Samantha Craggs

Chris Critelli had never socialized with the students she coached when a car full of them showed up at her house on her 50th birthday.

The women's basketball coach rarely shared her life with the team members. Their interaction was strictly related to the sport. But the team knew it was a monumental birthday. They would not take no for an answer.

The festivities were held at someone's house, where, Critelli recalls, "I learned to play beer pong." There was also karaoke and foosball, although "I'm not sure if I was really good at it or if they let me win."

These days, those are the aspects of coaching she remembers most fondly.

In April, the well-known head coach who guided the women Badgers to 22 of 25 league playoffs retired from the position, handing the reins to Si Khounviseth. Critelli took on a new role as assistant athletic director.

Critelli's contribution to women's basketball is well documented. The St. Catharines native began a seven-year stint on the Canadian National Team when she was 17, serving as a member of the Olympic team in 1976 and 1980. She was assistant coach of the national team from 1989 to 1994, and was inducted into the Canadian Basketball Hall of Fame in 1998. She was inducted into the Ontario Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, and the hall of fame for St. Catharines in 1999.

She has 393 career victories with the Badgers. In 2005-06, she set a Brock season Ontario University Athletics (OUA) record with 19 conference wins, taking the team to first place in the OUA West Division. She led the Badgers to 25 victories that season, five shy of the team's all-time record.

Critelli started at Brock 28 years ago with a government grant for women in non-traditional occupations. The grant was for \$9,000. The University contributed another \$1,000, she says.

There were few women in sport management then, she says. That continues to be true.

"Women still want to be home at 4:30 when the kids come home," she says. "There's still that tradition. Coaching is a very demanding job. I was in here at 7:30 in the morning until four. After four, I'd be at practice or watching high school kids play.

"To be a coach, you either have to have a passion for the game or be crazy."

When she recalls her coaching career, the sweetest memories are of seeing the players flourish. Many of them are still in touch.

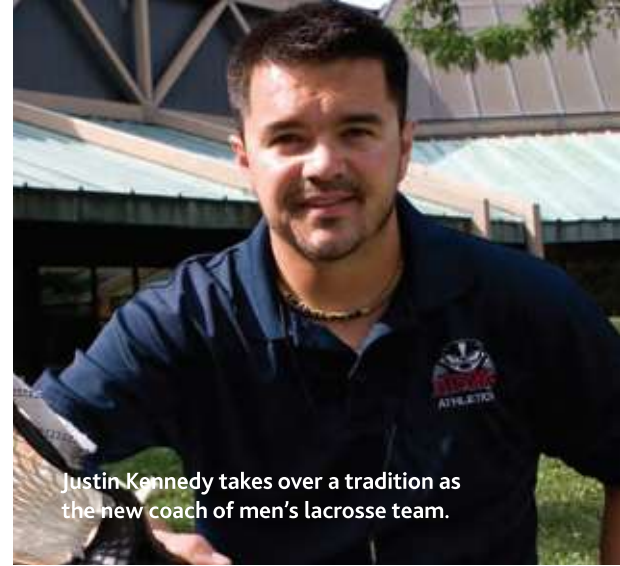
"My alumni email list is at least 200 names deep," she says.



Lacrosse legacy continues with Brock alumnus as coach

A Brock alumnus and former Badger is the new head coach of the University men's lacrosse program.

Justin Kennedy (BA '09) took the lead this summer. He hopes to keep up the legacy that has earned Brock 16 Baggataway Cup championships in 24 years.



Justin Kennedy takes over a tradition as the new coach of men's lacrosse team.

"We're going to come out hard right off the bat," says Kennedy, who studied psychology. "We're going to concentrate on our short-term goals the entire season and see what we can come up with."

His new staff includes new assistant coach and Brock alumnus Clem D'Orazio (BPhEd '08) and administrative co-ordinator Danielle Smith.

Kennedy replaces Dan Pilon (BA '99), Mike Fishleigh (BPhEd '00) and Jim Kirchner (BSc '97, '99), who were involved as players and coaches since the program started 24 years ago.

Under their watch, more than 25 players went on to play professionally in the National Lacrosse League. Among them were Shawn Williams (BPhEd '99), Anthony Cosmo (BPhEd '03, BEd '04), Pat Maddalena (BPhEd '02) and Ryan Cousins (BSc '04).

"We all worked hard to build the Brock program into the best in the country," Pilon said when he retired. "I would have liked to continue coaching, but at this time in my life, I cannot commit the time it takes to run a successful program."

Kennedy has captured four Ontario Lacrosse Association championships as a player in Barrie and Owen Sound. He has been part of five national championships over six years, including with the Brock Badgers in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Brock's success can be attributed to its reputation that has built over the years, he says.

"The better your reputation is, the more you get guys who want to come and play," he says. "It turns into a dynasty."

Raptors coach and three Badger greats honoured

One of Niagara's best-known athletes has been honoured with a local lifetime achievement award at an event co-sponsored by Brock.

Jay Triano, a Niagara Falls native and Toronto Raptors head coach, was guest of honour at a celebration in May where he received the Jimmy

Rose Lifetime Achievement Award. The Brock University Men's Basketball Team partnered for the event, which drew more than 250 Niagara basketball supporters.

The evening also saw former Brock Badger greats Ken Murray (BPhEd '76), Doug Fast (BBE '83) and David Picton (BA '95) be the first inductees into the Brock Men's Basketball Hall of Fame. To end the presentations, Larry Miller, a member of the Jimmy Rose Executive, presented a cheque to Bill Rootes and Brian Bleich for \$4,000 to the Brock Basketball Scholarship Fund.

To end the presentations, Larry Miller, a member of the Jimmy Rose Executive, presented a cheque to Bill Rootes and Brian Bleich for \$4,000 to the Brock Basketball Scholarship Fund.



Photo: Bob Tymczyszyn

Chris Critelli says talking to students and alumni was her favourite part of coaching women's basketball.

The Good Doctor continues from page 20.

families what I've learned: how to intervene with dementia behaviours without using drugs. At least not at first."

She is most proud of her work with the Alzheimer Disease Center, for which she has received National Health Institute (NIH) funding for nearly 20 years.

Her endowed professorship in Alzheimer education came from a grateful family member of a former patient.

"It allows me to hold the Martin symposium every year," she says. "I present my work at meetings where, previously, funding wasn't available to for that. I'm extremely honoured."

A vital discipline

With Canada's aging population, Austrom's work is increasingly vital. Dramatic changes in life expectancy over the past century mean a larger proportion of the population is 65 or older.

At the turn of the last century, about four per cent of the U.S. population was over age 65. Today, seniors account for 13 per cent of the population, Austrom says. That will likely be more than 20 per cent by 2030.

A common misunderstanding Austrom hears from caregivers is that dementia patients behave the way they do on purpose, she says.

"I show brain images anatomy of the brain in normal and Alzheimer's and they can see it's a degenerative disease. Patients can't help what they do."

Austrom has helped develop specialized care for dementia patients. With her program, a nurse practitioner in a clinic helped physicians deal with dementia patients.

"We'd review the charts and the patient would come in and be screened. Then the nurse practitioner would be armed with tons of information from our expert panel. The doctors loved it. The most difficult thing is how expensive that model of care is."

Austrom is passionate about her work, which she says she does "selfishly, so people will take care of me when I'm in this situation."

Her career has given her insight into her own mortality, and she remains conscious of aging and the passage of time. She does not want the regrets some of her patients have had. Some regret not speaking to an estranged family member. Others wish they'd treated their children equally.

Austrom is a mother of five, including two daughters she adopted from Russia.

"No one's ever said they wished they'd spent more time at the office or wished they'd scrubbed the toilets more," she says.

Austrom's dedication has led to a remarkable career, one she built while balancing a growing family. The balancing of career and family is one of the biggest challenges for young professional women, she says.

As for her own life, "I wish I could say I have a magic formula," she says of life. "As they say, 90 per cent of life is just showing up. Throw your hat in the ring."

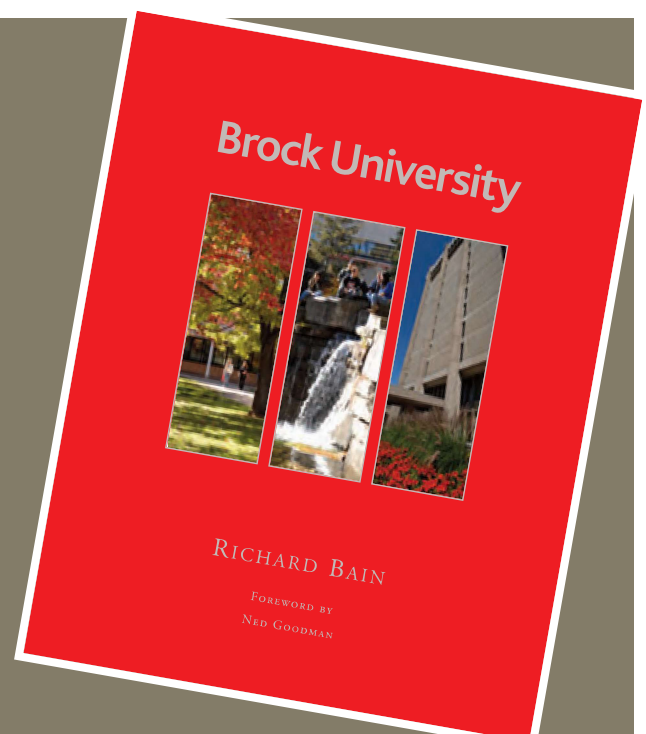
Brock Commmorative Book

A great keepsake

A great gift

A great book

Get your copy while supplies last
www.campusstore.brock.ca





A matter of science continued from page 07.

The impact of university research — not just intellectually, but as a revenue generator — cannot be underestimated, Brindle says. Warfarin, he points out, was developed at the University of Wisconsin. Its research was funded by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation, hence the first four letters of the word. Warfarin is now among the most successful of the association's 1,900 patents.

Gatorade has a similar story. It began with the research of electrolyte replacement therapy at the University of Florida, and is named after the university's football team, the Gators. The university still receives annual royalties for Gatorade, which is now owned by PepsiCo.

"To do this sort of research, you develop a culture, and that culture carries you for a long time," Brindle said. "And it's here."

The physical structure of the NHBRC should be erected by 2011. It will take another year to install its complicated interior elements, from fume hoods to greenhouse glass to a biosafety containment facility, Brindle says.

Sanchez also sees the NHBRC as bringing space and a culture that will generate revenue and draw more researchers who will do important work.

"We need more people and more brains," she said. "We will benefit from having others come on board."

Calling it a game continued from page 18.

Her former players include OPP officers, professional athletes and stay-at-home moms. She loves getting emails and family photos.

"I think of the weddings I've been to, and the weddings I couldn't go to but was invited," she says. "Students bring their new babies by. Those moments are things I get excited about."

Khounviseth and the team's assistant coach, Rob Anderson, have glowing praise for Critelli. They have started the annual Chris Critelli Golf Day and scholarship fund.

The scholarship will be awarded each year at the Niagara YWCA Women of Distinction ceremony. A mentorship program between female Brock athletes and women staying at the YWCA shelter has also been established.

"I have so much respect for her, and put her in such high regard, that out of anybody, I feel she deserves this," Khounviseth says.

"She's had such a legacy, and not just with what she's done in St. Catharines, but what she means to women's basketball nationally."

The partnership between Brock and the YWCA is the start of something dynamic, says Elisabeth Zimmerman, executive director of the YWCA Niagara Region.

"We are looking forward to working with the coaches and players in a number of volunteer activities at our emergency housing shelters," she says. "It's the kind of relationship that will continue to grow. There are so many possibilities."

An important aspect of the partnership will be the players' involvement in one-on-one mentorship with young people at the shelters, Zimmerman says.

"It's important that young people at the shelter meet and get to know members of the team who are experiencing success in education and sport. The youngsters in our shelters can see that this can be them."

As for Critelli, her new role includes learning about marketing, ticket sales and scholarships. She hopes to continue hearing from alumni — even the group from three years ago who forced her into karaoke.

"The value (in coaching) is in seeing what happens in the lives of alumni afterward," she says. "I'm not alone in that. Every coach loves to see that."

For more information on the Chris Critelli Golf Day and scholarship, contact Khounviseth at skhounviseth@brocku.ca or 905-688-5550 x3809, or Anderson at randerson@cogeco.net or 905-971-8553.

In October 2008, the ribbon was cut to officially open the Matheson Learning Commons.

With eight group study rooms, two classrooms for workshops, a career resource centre and a drop-in learning centre, the Learning Commons became the new hub for Brock students.

There are 113 new public computers there. There are 30 laptops on loan. Large tables and cushioned benches accompany a new coffee bar that draws a line of students each morning.

The last word

Of the \$2 million in donations to the Learning Commons project, half came from the Brock University Students' Union Strategic Expansion Fund. Arthur Peltomaa (BA '74) was also a substantial donor.

With naming privileges, he could have requested it be called the Arthur Peltomaa Learning Commons. Instead, the Toronto-based lawyer gave the honour to his favourite Brock professor, Bill Matheson.

With a 30-year Brock career that included a stint as Brock's first Vice-President, Academic, Matheson saw the first floor of the James A. Gibson Library named after him. For both of them, the moment was unforgettable.

When I first heard of Art Peltomaa's generous gift to the University and that the Learning Commons would bear my name, I was astonished; especially since I was not even aware of the plan to open a Learning Commons.

Then of course, I felt very humble. It is not everyday that one's name is attached to such a fine facility. I never forgot Art Peltomaa as a student and as a friend, but we had been out of touch with one another for some time. I was very pleased to hear of his success as a lawyer.

Art was the kind of student one never forgets. He was a wonderful student; one who, in a way, a teacher fears because one has the uncomfortable feeling that he may know more than the teacher. I should add that I was not the only one who was surprised at this announcement because many people on hearing the news assumed that I had died. Naming a facility after someone who is still living is an unusual step, one that I applaud.

I came to Brock in 1969, when the University was five years old. The department was then known as the Department of Politics and Dr. Bill Hull, its founding Chair, was still in office and it was he who offered me a job, for which I will be ever grateful. His personal example and leadership laid the foundations of a successful and vibrant Department. Brock's first President, Dr. James A. Gibson, welcomed me to Brock and was a great

help to me as I worked on my PhD thesis. I recall one conversation with him when he remarked that as a new University without a track record, Brock was inevitably having difficulty attracting students. He added that the way to deal with this problem was to acquire a reputation for quality teaching. I took those words to heart, maybe too much. Every year when I served as an administrator (Dean and then Vice President), I taught, usually large classes involving hundreds of students. I believe that my teaching experience helped me as an administrator, forcing me to keep in touch



Attending the official opening of the Matheson Learning Commons were, from left, Teja Peltomaa, Sarita Peltomaa, Arthur Peltomaa, Bill Matheson, President Jack Lightstone and Jody Thomas, then-president of the Brock University Students' Union.



with students who, after all, are the heart of the University.

My approach to teaching was to work with whatever students the admissions office and the school system produced; to always be available and to encourage them so that they would have the best possible university experience. I taught thousands of students over the years and I frequently meet up with them. It is always a pleasure to learn that they are doing well and that they remember me and Brock

University.

Recently there has been criticism of Universities for emphasizing research over teaching. I am sure that is not the case with Brock University. Good undergraduate teaching is essential to the mission of universities and is expected by those who pay the bills, that is, students and governments. The Learning Commons will greatly contribute to both the undergraduate and student experience, and that is why I am so pleased that it bears my name. — William Matheson

I attended Brock in the early 1970s, which was an exciting time in its history. The faculty was young, enthusiastic and committed. The students thirsted for all that Brock (and the Mansion House) had to offer.

A couple of years ago, I heard that Brock was proposing to build a Learning Commons on the main floor of the James A. Gibson Library and was seeking financial support for this project from its alumni. I was immediately drawn to the concept of a Learning Commons as a central location where students could study, meet and interact and where counselling and other important support services could be provided under one roof. This seemed to me to be an obvious way to help maintain some of the sense of intimacy, personal connection and community that was so much the “soul” of the Brock that I had attended.

I decided that I wanted to help Brock make the Learning Commons a reality. Brock had enabled me to thrive in a challenging and stimulating learning environment, thereby setting the stage for my eventual attendance at law school and entry to the legal profession. A gift to help with the creation of the Learning Commons felt like the right thing for me to do.

I also wanted the Learning Commons to reflect in a tangible and lasting way my time and experiences at Brock. That is why I asked the University to name the Learning Commons in honour of Professor William A. Matheson, who served Brock for more than thirty years as a highly regarded professor, administrator and leader. More than that, Bill

Matheson had been to me and to many others a friend, mentor and source of encouragement and support. Although his Introduction to Politics course was always packed to the rafters, he took the time to get to know his students individually. He kept his office door wide open to those who needed help or who wanted to engage in lively debate. To me, Bill Matheson epitomized all that was and is good about Brock as an outstanding academic institution where the focus and priority is on the teaching of students.

That is why I believe that there could have been no better name for this exciting facility than the Matheson Learning Commons.— Arthur Peltomaa '74



GROUP HOME AND AUTO INSURANCE

for Brock University Alumni



PROTECTION MADE EASY... GROUP RATES MADE EASIER!

As a graduate of **Brock University**, you can save on your home and auto insurance through **preferred group rates**, while enjoying **high-quality insurance products** and **outstanding service**.

As the leading provider of group home and auto insurance, we offer a wide range of innovative products, so you are sure to get the coverage that is right for your particular needs...and the peace of mind that goes with it!

Insurance program recommended by



Request a quote and you could



www.melochemonnex.com/brocku

1 866 352 6187

(Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.)



The TD Insurance Meloche Monnex home and auto insurance program is underwritten by SECURITY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY and distributed by Meloche Monnex Insurance and Financial Services Inc. in Québec and by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc. in the rest of Canada.

Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan.

*No purchase required. Contest ends on January 16, 2010. Skill-testing question required. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. Complete contest rules available at www.melochemonnex.com.

Meloche Monnex is a trademark of Meloche Monnex Inc., used under license.

TD Insurance is a trademark of The Toronto-Dominion Bank, used under license.