

Surgite

Vol. 6, No. 1, Winter 2014

Deborah Rosati reflects on her path to success

Brock turns 50 and gets
ready to celebrate

Paying homage to
Arthur Schmon

Isaac Brock gets ready to
come home

Looking back on five
decades of athletic feats

Deborah Rosati
(BAdmin '84)



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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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Calling all alumni: It's time to come home



Jack Lightstone

Back in 1957, the Allanburg Women's Institute couldn't have envisioned what they started when they petitioned the Ontario government to approve a university for the Niagara Peninsula so area families could get a solid post-secondary education.

It was an opening shot that inspired a grassroots phenomenon. Soon public meetings, union halls, service clubs and town council chambers resonated with overtures imploring citizens to sign petitions, donate money and otherwise demonstrate that the community was determined to help establish a new university.

Factory workers gave through payroll deductions, door-to-door contributions were collected in rural areas, corporate leaders challenged each other and buttonholed political decision-makers.

Eventually a timetable was struck, our heroic namesake was embraced and in 1964 the whole dream came true when Brock University opened its doors.

In 2014, as we toast our 50th anniversary, the University is especially proud of our alumni and how they have gone around the world to be agents of leadership and ambassadors of Brock.

But I want to tell you all: This is the year to return, reunite and relive.

Come celebrate our history — your history. Commemorate the milestone by participating in reunions, or coming back to be part of a very special Homecoming weekend Sept. 18-21.

In the following pages, get a sense of the party that you need to join.

Surgite!

Jack Lightstone
President and Vice-Chancellor
Brock University

50

Brock reaches its golden anniversary and invites everyone to join in the celebration.

Images courtesy of the Brock University Special Collections and Archives



1962 Founders Committee

By Nancy DiPasquale (BA '92)

Brock University is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

It reached this milestone thanks to the grassroots efforts and determination of Niagara's residents in the 1950s and 1960s to make the region home to a university. They rallied the government to create a local university so people didn't have to leave the region for larger neighbouring cities to get an education.

But it was in 1962 that it became obvious the lobbying was paying off. That year, the Brock Founders' Committee was incorporated and received approval to build a university. So began a community-wide effort to raise money to make Brock University happen for Niagara. Farmers, factory workers,



1964 official opening

business leaders and everyday residents banded together, donating to and championing the cause.

When Brock opened in September 1964, 127 students enrolled and started classes taught in a refurbished refrigeration factory at the foot of the Niagara Escarpment in St. Catharines. In 1966, the landmark Brock Tower was completed, and faculties began moving "up the hill" to the University's permanent home at the top



First intercollegiate hockey game.



Community support

of Glenridge Avenue.

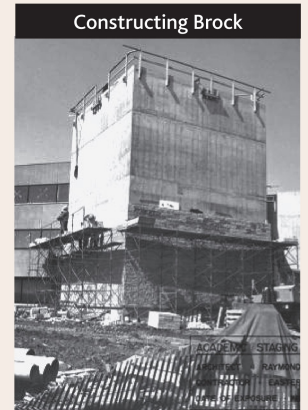
The rest, as the adage goes, is history.

Year after year, Brock's momentum grew, as did its campus, student body, faculty, and depth and breadth of academic excellence. Brock's founding fathers and mothers have much to be proud of.

More than 80,000 graduates have completed



Brock's Glenridge Campus.



Constructing Brock

degrees at Brock in our 50 years. Today, more than 18,000 full-time students are pursuing their education and dreams at Brock with the help of 600 faculty to inspire and challenge them. Despite Brock's growth into a comfortable mid-sized university, it's still known for its personal approach to learning and developing well-rounded students, who have both the skills to gain meaningful employment and enhance the communities in which they live.

"For a university, 50 years old is still young enough to have the energy and flexibility of



YEARS YOUNG



youth, and to show the accomplishments and trajectory of maturity as a unique individual within the family of universities in Canada and internationally," says Brock President Jack Lightstone. "We are accomplishing important and exciting things in teaching, research and service to the development of the communities around us and beyond."

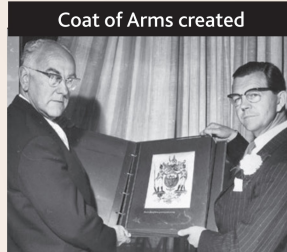
As 2014 unfolds, students, alumni, faculty, staff and the entire Niagara community will be invited to commemorate Brock's 50th anniversary.

Open houses, dinners, special performances



and events will provide opportunities for alumni to network and share their memories and stories. An anniversary website will capture highlights of Brock's anniversary events, achievements, and future direction. It will also feature a timeline of key moments, and provide alumni and faculty the chance to share theirs online.

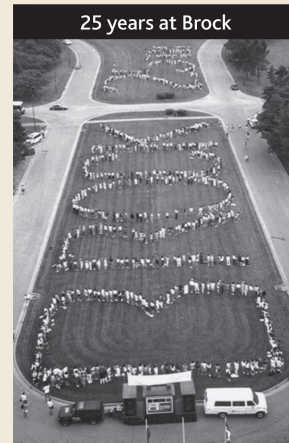
Interested in attending some of the celebrations? Visit brocku50.ca often for information about the many



ways to mark the occasion, including the unveiling of a new statue commemorating Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock, Homecoming and Canada's largest annual gathering of scholars, the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Alumni will be the major focus of the anniversary celebrations. Hundreds of graduates will participate in reunions throughout the year, with many culminating on the Sept. 18-21 Homecoming Weekend.

Numerous alumni volunteers have already confirmed their participation in leading reunion activities. Events have already been set, including reunions for Brock's first students, the Grade 12 summer entry program graduates, residence dons, graduates of our prestigious Co-op



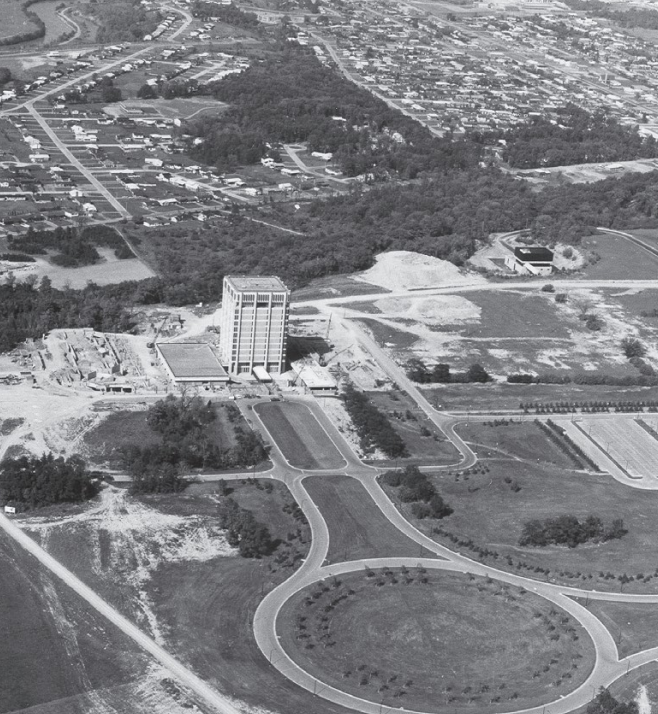
Accounting program and various athletic teams. Visit brocku.ca/alumni/connect/alumni-reunions for details, or to organize your own get-togethers.

So join us, won't you? This is your open invitation to reconnect and celebrate Brock. Whether it has been five years or 50 since you've returned to campus, come and celebrate this major milestone for Niagara and Brock.



View an interactive timeline of Brock's 50th anniversary at brocku50.ca

More than 80,000 graduates have completed degrees at Brock in its 50 years.



The Tower in 1966.



1957 Allanburg Women's Institute.



6

1984: Robert Schmon and Christine McMillan with a portrait of Arthur Schmon that was presented to Brock.

Brock's Founding Father

By Ian Brindle (MSc '72)

The plaque at the main entrance to Brock commemorates its founding mothers — the Allanburg Women's Institute who, in 1957, passed a motion calling for a university to be built in Niagara.

That started the ball rolling on the establishment of Brock University. What the plaque doesn't tell us about is the founding fathers.

The Brock Tower, as it was called in the early days, was eventually named Schmon Tower in recognition of the efforts of Arthur Albert Schmon to establish a university in the Niagara Peninsula. It's a fitting tribute to the man without whom Brock might never have been created.

In the fall of 1963, when Brock University was a reality — its name, its site and its first president, James Gibson, were known — members of the Founders' Committee and others met for a celebratory dinner. The owner of the *St. Catharines Standard*, W.B.C. Burgoyne rose to say, "I would like to know exactly who conned (Arthur Schmon) into taking the job (of chair of the Founder's Committee) because, for my money, they are the unsung heroes of Brock. ... I want to tell you that in this short time, as universities go, he and his team have accomplished more — I am convinced — than could have been done with anyone else as chair."

The Brock Tower, as it was called in the early days, was eventually named Schmon Tower in recognition of the efforts of Arthur Albert Schmon to establish a university in the Niagara Peninsula. It's a fitting tribute to the man without whom Brock might never have been created.

Schmon was born in Newark, N. J., in 1895, the son of German immigrants. In 1913 he was admitted to Princeton University to study English. After completing his studies in 1917, he was stationed in France with the U.S. army. It was there that he was recognized for his abilities by then-Capt. Robert McCormick, the soon-to-be owner and publisher of the *Chicago Tribune*, who made him battalion adjutant. In 1919, immediately after the war, McCormick offered Schmon a job to look after the Tribune Company's timber rights at Shelter Bay, Que., on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River. Schmon accepted, although he confessed to McCormick that he "didn't know the difference between a spruce and a balsam."

At Queen's Park, Arthur Schmon was on first-name terms, and had secured agreement on a university in Niagara.



McCormick agreed that this was a fundamental deficiency but allowed that I had some qualities that might offset this.”

For the next 10 years, Schmon built the infrastructure of the Tribune Company's holdings in Shelter Bay and Baie Comeau, then in 1930 came to Thorold to run the Ontario Paper Company. He brought the same energy and commitment to Niagara, and threw himself into the life of the community.

When asked to chair the Niagara Peninsula University Organizing Committee (the name morphed into the Founders' Committee), he quickly agreed. In July 1962, Schmon took several committee members to Queen's Park to meet with the former premier, Leslie Frost, and the Advisory Committee on University Affairs. The minutes of the meeting are very terse, but it's clear that Schmon was on first-name terms and that he had secured agreement on a university in Niagara.

In a recent email, Bob Schmon, Arthur's grandson, noted that "Arthur's great friendships and connections to the highest levels of the provincial government, and business leaders in Toronto — many of whom were among his closest friends — gave the endeavor the credibility and attention it needed to move forward."

A month after that Queen's Park meeting, subcommittees were in place to find a name and site. By October 1962, the Founders' Committee received the letters patent and the name of the university had been decided. The naming committee became the arms committee, tasked with designing Brock's coat of arms.

Meanwhile, the site subcommittee set its sights on escarpment lands to be the home of the University. Some of the land belonged to Ontario Hydro, but in March 1963, Schmon received a letter from Leslie Frost indicating that, should "the Hydro site be chosen, the government would pick up the \$60,000 tab and would not sell additional lands except to Brock." Frost also promised to have the Ontario Highway Department provide an exit from Highway 406, then in the planning stages.

Although Schmon's name is not attached to these commitments, the energy driving the process came from him. This is revealed in an unexpected way. In the winter of 1963-64, an urgent need arose to have the coat of arms approved quickly. Arthur Schmon had lung cancer and didn't have long to live.

On behalf of the members of the arms subcommittee, chair William S. Martin asked Britain's College of Arms to produce a copy of the arms, to which they would attach a testimonial. The surprising revelation is that the committee connected Brock's motto, "Surgite" — which we have tended to accept as General Brock's last words — with Schmon's drive and energy, thereby



Premier John Robarts, left, presents the charter for Brock University to Arthur A. Schmon, chairman of the university Founders' Committee at a ceremony at Queen's Park. — *Niagara Falls Review*, Feb. 14, 1963

commemorating two men who, 150 years apart and in different ways, changed the face of Canada.

Schmon didn't live to see the scroll, but it reads: To Arthur Albert Schmon BA, DSc, from the members of the Founders' Committee of Brock University, in testimony of his perceptive leadership, unflagging resources and untiring zeal as Chairman of the Founders' Committee, in witness whereof the Founders' Committee have incorporated in the Arms of the University a motto to symbolize and commemorate the devotion and example of their Chairman.

Arthur Schmon died on March 18, 1964, less than six months before the first day of classes at the university he helped establish. In its obituary of him, *Princeton Alumni News* said: "Few had as full, dedicated and rewarding a life as Arthur Schmon. In his death, Eastern Canada lost one of her most illustrious citizens, ... and hundreds of people in all walks of life a friend who could always be counted on, no matter how foul the weather."

Schmon's other grandson, Art Schmon, recently mused about his grandfather's legacy, and how much it has blossomed since its creation a half century ago.

"I can only imagine," Art Schmon said, "how delighted (he) would be to see Brock University today."

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Ian Brindle is Professor of Chemistry, former Dean of Mathematics and Science and former Vice-President, Research. He is currently working on a history of Brock University.

Join us as we rededicate "The Tower" to Arthur Schmon on Thursday, Sept. 18.

**Return, reunite and relive
Sept. 18-21**



Homecoming 2014

Celebrate Brock University's 50th Anniversary

New memories await you

Celebrate Brock University's milestone 50th anniversary by participating in the highlight of 2014, Homecoming, Sept. 18 – 21.

Students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends will come together to mark this important event in Brock's history. From receptions to athletic events, entertainment to themed celebrations, join in the festivities and share your Badger pride — new memories await you.

Thursday, Sept. 18

Join us as we rededicate "The Tower" to Arthur Schmon and celebrate those who were a driving force behind the establishment of Brock University and the Niagara community.

Friday, Sept. 19

Cheer on your men's hockey team at the annual Steel Blade Classic taking place at the Seymour-Hannah Centre. Continue the fun by taking a free shuttle bus downtown to Alumni Pub Night at the historical Mansion House. Enjoy a pint or two while you catch up with fellow graduates.

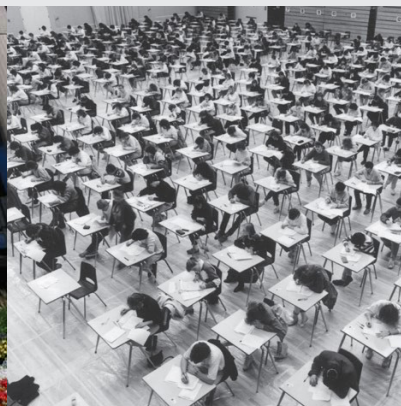
Saturday, Sept. 20

Return to Brock's campus and take part in various activities, reunions, campus tours, athletic games and more! Join us as we toast our new Cameo Club inductees, Distinguished Alumni and Faculty Alumni Award recipients at the Alumni Recognition Reception. Wrap up the evening with music, dancing, food and fun at the Red Dinner – make sure you wear your Brock colours and memorabilia.

Sunday, Sept. 21

Niagara offers so much to see and do! Take in a tour and performance at the Shaw Festival or "Educate Your Senses" at a wine seminar as part of the Niagara Wine Festival in downtown St. Catharines.

Be sure to check the website – brocku.ca/homecoming – for continuous updates to the Homecoming schedule.



REUNIONS 2014

Over 20 reunions will occur on Saturday, Sept. 20 at Homecoming.



Brock University is encouraging its more than 80,000 alumni to help celebrate its 50th anniversary by reuniting with former classmates at events scheduled throughout 2014, particularly Homecoming, Sept. 18-21.

- **Residence student-leader reunion (all residences, all years)** DeCew Dining Hall.
- **Silver Badgers and first graduates (classes of '67, '68 and '69)** Earp Residence fireplace lounge.
- **Grade 12 entry program alumni (1970-1984)**
- **Brock University Students' Union past executives and BUSAC** Brunch at Alpie's.
- **Brock Student Ambassadors**
- **Intramural staff**
- **Student Athletic Therapists**
- **Telegrad (Annual Fund) student callers**
- **Youth University student-staff alumni** Brock University ropes course.
- **Goodman School of Business**

Other reunions in the works: Brock retirees, varsity athletics and Brock University Students' Union.

Want to organize a reunion of your class or student group? Alumni Relations can help get the gang together when and where it makes the most sense. Email alumni@brocku.ca to start organizing your event.

For the latest information about upcoming reunions, visit brocku50.ca

Brock to host Canada's largest gathering of scholars across all disciplines

Academics, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners will gather at Brock University from May 24 – 30, 2014 for the largest Canadian gathering of scholars across all disciplines.

The annual Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, known simply as Congress, will bring more than 8,000 academics, researchers, policy-makers and practitioners to Brock's campus.

Congress, now in its 83rd year, is organized by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences and is the national voice and public policy advocate for Canada's scholars, students and practitioners in the humanities and social sciences.

"We are thrilled to showcase Brock's research, creativity and grad programs at Congress," says Jane Koustas, PhD, the academic convener for Congress 2014. "It's the ideal forum to highlight our community and the ties Brock has developed with U.S. institutions."

The conference's theme — Borders without Boundaries — drives home the message of thinking, working and creating outside the lines of traditional boundaries. Congress workshops are primarily reserved for members. The Big Thinking series is open to the public at no cost.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to experience internationally recognized scholarship and creativity, to see all that Brock has become in 50 years and since it last hosted Congress in 1996," says Koustas.

The Brock community looks forward to welcoming the many delegates and guests participating in Congress, a much-anticipated conference that brings together scholarly excellence, creativity and leadership to Niagara.



May 24-30, 2014
24 au 30 mai 2014

CONGRESS2014
OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Brock University
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WITHOUT BOUNDARIES
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SANS LIMITES

CONGRÈS2014
DES SCIENCES HUMAINES

congress2014.ca



Fast forward ...rewind

Participants in innovative Grade 12 program reflect on coming to Brock a year early

By Doug Junke

When Barbara Duffus (BA '75) entered Brock University's Grade 12 summer program in 1971, it was a pivotal event in her life.

The six-week immersion program ran from 1968 to 1984 and accepted exceptional Grade 12 students when university-bound Ontario students were otherwise expected to complete Grade 13.

The innovative course of study explored the humanities, sciences and social sciences. Students successful in the summer program entered first-year courses at Brock.

"I really wanted to escape Grade 13," says Duffus, who left a small town in southwestern Ontario for St. Catharines to complete an honours degree in French and Spanish in 1975 before doing her master's at the University of Alberta.

"Brock was life-changing. It probably saved me from dropping out of school," she adds. "Suddenly I was given intellectual challenges and treated as an adult, even though I was legally a minor. Brock instilled in me, or perhaps refined, a lifelong interest in learning as well as a dedication to helping others."

Duffus worked at Alberta's Athabasca University, moved in 1986 to Spain, where she was the director of translations for a manufacturer, and returned to Canada in 2003. She's now a freelance translator, interpreter and immigration consultant, based in Burlington, Ont. and Alicante, Spain.

As Brock celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2014, the Grade 12 program is a distant but fond memory.

Like Duffus, the Grade 12 program couldn't have come soon enough for Roni Srdic (BA '86) and Monica Gemeinhardt (BA '74).

"I was restless and wanted to be done with high school," says Srdic, who left Stoney Creek's Saltfleet High School in 1983.

In 1970, Gemeinhardt left small-town Bayfield on the shores of Lake Huron, where she "was bored and under-stimulated in high school."

"For many, Brock rescued us from yet another year of high school while providing us with an opportunity to shine academically," Gemeinhardt says.

"(It) provided me and many others with a coming-of-age experience when we experimented, explored and discovered. It seemed like many of us were from small towns or the north. We were ready to break free."

After Brock, Gemeinhardt added a master's and PhD from Western University.

Arnie Lowenberger, who retired from Brock as athletics director in 2001, was the University's first Dean of Students,



overseeing the Grade 12 program. Fifty-eight students from the program enrolled in first year at Brock in 1968 and by the early 1980s, about 1,100 students had passed through it.

"It was a great program, for us and the students," Lowenberger recalls. "There were excellent students wasting time in Grade 13. So we asked the schools to recommend students who would benefit from this program. It didn't hurt us to attract these high-quality students because we were still growing."

Alan Earp, University president from 1974-87, always referred to the program as "a conspicuous success."

Students who enrolled said they felt challenged by their professors. But those same teachers also helped them ease into their daunting new surroundings. Everyone knew their professors, and likewise, the professors knew their students, even inviting them to parties at their home.

"I will always remember Prof. (Maurice) Yacowar's English Lit lectures and I was very fond of professors (Peter) Peach and (Don) Ursino," says Jean Nicholls (BA '74, BEd '76), who enrolled in the program in 1971. "They all challenged us and at the same time, made us feel comfortable in this new environment."

Nicholls always knew she'd leave her St. Catharines secondary

school for Brock where her father, Robert Nairn, was the University Secretary. She admits she was surprised when she was accepted early, but was excited to face the challenge of university life.

"I was initially intimidated by all the very smart people who were in my classes," Nicholls recalls. "The small group seminars were a way to get to know other students and

"(It) provided me and many others with a coming-of-age experience when we experimented, explored and discovered."




**GET A HEAD
START ON YOUR
FUTURE**

If you are a grade 12 student who would prefer to be in university next year, we can help you get that head start on your academic future. Brock offers a comprehensive Summer Program from which students can enter first year university. While you experience living and learning in a university environment, our instructional committee helps you to decide whether or not you are ready for post-secondary study. Outstanding students receive university scholarships of \$1,000 or \$1,500.

Brock offers this program for your self-development and discovery because we realize many young people are looking for educational alternatives. First of all, our namesake, Sir Isaac Brock, was an original early achiever — he won his army commission at the age of 15. See your guidance counsellor for full program and application details. Or write to:

**BROCK
UNIVERSITY**

Rob McGraw,
Dean of Students,
Brock University,
St. Catharines, Ontario
L2S 3A1



**THE BROCK
GRADE 12 SUMMER
PROGRAM**

The Grade 12 summer program (1968-84) welcomed students from across the province who may have been a year younger than most, but who were more than capable to bypass what was then Grade 13 and get an early start on their university education. And it wasn't all schoolwork. Students sometimes joined friends for a sing-a-long or a spirited game of Frisbee behind the Schmon Tower.

debate ideas and opinions. We really had an opportunity to get to know the professors and they knew us by name."

Pamela Barkwell (BA '87, BEdTSL '88 and MEd '93) agrees. Barkwell, now the academic co-ordinator in Brock's ESL Services, left Thorold Secondary School a year early to participate in the program. She recalls feeling better prepared for university than her peers who had to complete Grade 13.

"(It) allowed students to acquire the skills of self-direction and responsibility necessary to be a successful university student," Barkwell says. "We were treated in a mature fashion and were expected to live up to that level of maturity."

Prof. John Mayer — "one of the originals at Brock" and a proponent of the Grade 12 initiative — has great affection for the program, which helped Brock attract the best and the brightest in those early days.

"Being a small and new university was often viewed as a hardship (in recruiting students) but it was also a positive thing. We were a tight-knit community, we were very close to one another," says the now-retired chair of the Philosophy Department and former Associate Dean of Arts and Science. "The Grade 12's were an enthusiastic group, a competitive group academically, but they were socially active, too."

Unfortunately, changes in funding and increased costs contributed to the program's demise in 1984. But it left its mark. Former students still have very strong feelings about it.

"(Brock) was where I 'grew up' and where I met my closest and most cherished friend," says Srdic, who graduated with a BA in Political Science and is now the director of student enrolment and registrar at the Michener Institute in Toronto.

"Summer program students share a special bond," she adds. "It's like we were part of a super summer camp."

.....
Doug Junke is the writer/editor for Marketing and Communications at Brock University.

Photo by Julie Jocsak



Homecoming
2014

Goodman School of Business Reunion,
Sept. 20, 2014
Organizers: Deborah Rosati (BAdmin '84),
Don Critelli (BAdmin '78) and
Mark Authur (BAdmin '77)



Success by numbers

Deborah Rosati knows about hard work, achievement and giving back. Now she's realizing the true value of success.

By Ted McIntyre

Positive experiences just seem to follow Deborah Rosati around, but not by accident. Rosati (BAdmin '84) has been pushing through glass ceilings since the day she left Brock University with an accounting degree, and has found herself in some influential positions.

Her most recent roles include "ambassador and advisor" for Karma Athletics, the rising Vancouver-based clothing brand, as well as a position on the board of Canada's National Ballet School.

Her resumé, which landed Rosati in the *Financial Post's* Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada in 2012, includes a pivotal role as the Canadian Internet Registration Authority's board chair, a board member with the former Ontario Lottery and Gaming Commission and a current role as the lone woman on the board of directors at Sears Canada.

Such titles were often accompanied by shrewd judgments. Among those was Timestep, a network security company she helped found in 1994. But every step forward brought with it a new learning experience, Rosati recalls.

"I was a CFO at a very young age and had the opportunity to grow that company in a way that really set me up for future advisory work in venture capital," she says.

"When I was at the frontier of that new ground, though, it was a very male-dominated profession at that time, so I would get mistaken for the girl who would get coffee. 'It's OK, we'll wait for the boss to come in,' they'd say. And I was the most senior person on the job."

Rosati's trailblazing tendencies began with attending Brock in 1980. While she was inspired to become an independent woman by her Scottish mother, it was her Dutch immigrant father who steered Rosati onto her career path.

"Some girls wanted to be ballet dancers," the Hamilton native recalls. "I wanted to be a businessman like my Dad. I liked that he got dressed up every day and was very involved in the community. He went out each day with his briefcase and looked like he did important things."

Her means to that end was a business degree. Having been brought to Niagara by her father's publishing roles with the *Niagara Falls Review* and *Welland Tribune*, Rosati focused on Brock with an unwavering vision.

"I was very determined and very purposeful and I was going to come out with a business degree and get my (chartered accountant) designation. I wasn't looking for the social outlet at

school. I was looking at it from a business point of view. I lived at home while at university and was articling every tax season, so from January to April I was always working. Then I'd go to school during the summer months. I had part-time jobs, too.

"Not to say I never socialized, but I was pretty focused."

In 2005, her focus turned to the co-op accounting program's 25th anniversary. Rosati called upon what she describes as a tightknit group of co-op alumni to gift \$50,000 to the Brock program. Then in 2012, she again approached the University as it readied for its own momentous birthday in 2014.

"It's the 50th anniversary for Brock, and the 30th anniversary of (my) graduating from Brock. I have callings in life. I needed to do something special."

That something special is the Deborah E. Rosati Co-Op Entrepreneurship Fund, a five-year pledge totalling \$100,000. It supports student entrepreneurial ventures and startups. The timing for such a legacy was perfect, Rosati says.

"Success is defined in many ways. I don't want to leave a pledge for when I'm not here. I want to see the impact."

Besides her impactful gift, Rosati's other achievements have not gone unnoticed by her alma mater. A 2009 Fellow CA (FCA) recipient, she was named to the Brock University Alumni Association's "30 from the Past Thirty" in 2007 and received the Faculty of Business Distinguished Graduate Award in 2003.

She also gives guest lectures to classes and has sat on the business faculty's advisory council.

After selling Timestep in 1999, Rosati was able to indulge her passion for music and art while mastering the act of raising two sons as a fast-tracking entrepreneurial mother. Today her situation enables her to help 20-year-old Colin, who's setting up a business while he attends OCAD University, and also support 22-year-old Domenic, a history major at Carleton University.

There's an even keel to Rosati's day-to-day activities as well, splitting time between Toronto and her residence on the shore of Lake Erie in Wainfleet.

She'll also continue her habitual two-weeks of yoga instruction at a Caribbean resort this winter, all the while tending fastidiously to her various boards of directors duties. Accountants and yoga instructors both like to deal in balance, after all.

Although, in Rosati's case, the tally has clearly settled on the positive side of the ledger.

.....
Ted McIntyre is an Oakville-based freelance writer.



Illustrious crowd



Brock's 2013 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients

14

Nominate a Brock graduate for the 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award. The award honours graduates who have earned prominence as a result of their exceptional achievements. The nomination deadline is March 31, 2014. Complete the online nomination form at brocku.ca/alumni-association. Awards will be presented at the Alumni Recognition Reception at Homecoming, Sept. 20, 2014.

John Smol (MSc '79)

John Smol is an environmental scientist researching long-term environmental changes in lakes. He teaches biology at Queen's University, where he also holds the Canada Research Chair in Environmental Change. Smol, who grew up in Montreal but now calls Kingston home, also serves as editor of the journal *Environmental Reviews* and is a regular commentator on environmental and other scientific issues for television, radio and newspapers.

Surgite: How does it feel to be honoured by your alma mater with a Distinguished Alumni Award?

John Smol: As a university professor, it is always nice to be honoured by a university, as universities are key to a functioning and engaged democracy. I was amazed to see how Brock had changed since I was a student there. On my last visit, I only met two people whom I knew from my days at Brock and both were retired! But the University, like Niagara wine, has really become impressive over the last 35 years or so.

S: What's the most important lesson you learned while at Brock?

JS: I learned that hard work can pay off.

S: What do you love most about the career path you've chosen?

JS: I am very happy with my life and my career. I work on lakes, which means that much of what I do is what people like to do on their holidays. Although I do less field work now with my other commitments, I still enjoy doing field work; for example, in the High Arctic where a large part of my research program is. But I also love teaching, both at Queen's and elsewhere. I have had the pleasure of lecturing on all seven continents. Last year I lectured in 10 different countries.

S: Any advice for students in the University's next 50 years?

JS: Do what you love. Enthusiasm is an important catalyst, and cynicism can be destructive.

Anne-Marie Robinson (BSc '87, BBA '90)

Anne-Marie Robinson is the president of the Public Service Commission of Canada, which is responsible for ensuring that hiring in the federal public service is based on merit and free from political influence. She lives with her family in Ottawa.

Surgite: How does it feel to be honoured by your alma mater with a Distinguished Alumni Award?

Anne-Marie Robinson: I felt very privileged to receive this honour and I especially appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with some of the people at Brock who had helped me along the way. In some ways, it was a walk down memory lane, and it was great to see the growth and expansion at the University. The institution is remarkable.

S: What's the most important lesson you learned while at Brock?

AMR: I am especially grateful that Brock gave me a second chance. I did not complete high school but I applied to Brock and was accepted as a mature student. Brock has always been known as a University with heart, where students can talk directly to their professors and deans, and where individual students matter.

In looking back on my experience, I also learned the importance of being a part of a University that actively supports the development of its students.

S: What do you love most about the career path you've chosen?

AMR: I am proud to be a public servant and I greatly value the opportunity to contribute to developing programs and services for the benefit of Canadians. There is a remarkable diversity of skills in the public service, from astronauts and scientists to business analysts, accountants and auditors.

S: Any advice for students in the University's next 50 years?

AMR: I would advise students to really enjoy their University experience. It's a great privilege and I would encourage them to be creative and take advantage of the opportunity to develop their critical thinking and analytical skills. As well, in terms of going out into the workplace, I would say from my own experience that learning how to collaborate, and to be flexible and adaptable, are increasingly the most important skills.



Jill Grose (BEd '97, PhD '11)

Jill Grose came to Brock 18 years ago as an education student after teaching for 20 years as an adult educator. She had her BA and MA from York University and wanted an education degree. Her family, including two children, moved with her to St. Catharines where the plan was to obtain the degree in one year and move on. But, soon after graduation, a job opportunity opened up at Brock in instructional development. Sixteen years later, Grose still works in Brock's Centre for Pedagogical Innovation, and along the way has earned her PhD in education.

Surgite: How does it feel to be honoured by your alma mater with a Distinguished Alumni Award?

Jill Grose: It feels quite wonderful but humbling as well. My job has allowed me to partner with the Faculty of Graduate Studies on a number of projects, most notably the support and professional development of graduate students. I have always felt very passionate about our programming for graduate students, particularly our work in helping them develop teaching skills as teaching assistants. But it has always been a collaborative effort with many people involved, so I really need to share this award.

S: What's the most important lesson you learned while at Brock?

JG: When I first went back into the student role, I tried to compartmentalize it. Just be a student and focus on the readings and the assignments. But that wore thin really fast. My learning was impacted by my work at Brock and vice versa. What I read for courses influenced and altered how I did my job. I really think it made me better at both.

S: What do you love most about the career path you've chosen?

JG: I get to work with some amazingly talented and creative people. Plus, there is a huge variety of projects, so the landscape — and the learning — shifts constantly. Sometimes it can feel a bit overwhelming, but on most days, I feel very fortunate to be part of Brock.





Kathryn Belicki (BA '76) and Denis Belicki (BA '78)

Kathryn Belicki came to Brock in 1972 through the early entry Grade 12 program. After Brock, she got her PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Waterloo. She currently teaches psychology at Brock and calls St. Catharines home. She shares this award with her husband Denis.

Surgite: How does it feel to be honoured by your

alma mater with a Distinguished Alumni Award?

Kathryn Bielicki: It was rather overwhelming, actually. I'm generally not a fan of achievement awards because they presuppose that there is something special about the recipient, and can downplay all the social support and context that helped the recipient become who she or he is. What I liked about this award is that it celebrates Brock and its achievements through its alumni. I would never have been able to become who I am except for Brock. I came to Brock painfully shy, and the seminar system and interactive profs were the making of me. In a larger school I would have slipped in and out, leaving no impression, and therefore been unable to get the letters needed to get into a good graduate school.

S: What's the most important lesson you learned while at Brock?

KB: I learned skills that I could not have acquired in a larger, more impersonal school: group facilitation, public speaking, and hands-on research skills, for example. Because of the personal attention that profs and seminar leaders routinely gave students, I developed self-confidence and a greater sense of self-worth.

S: What do you love most about the career path you've chosen?

KB: The work is meaningful. I get to touch lives on a daily basis. The work is also varied given the mix of research, teaching and administrative activities. And I simply enjoy it!

S: Any advice for students in the University's next 50 years?

KB: Follow your interests and talents. Wherever you are in life... pick the activity, whether it is a course or a job, that best plays to your strengths and/or that you enjoy and do that. Then keep looking around at what's available. It has been my experience that the people who proverbially "follow their noses" picking activities that they are good at and/or enjoy, do the best in the long run. They enjoy life the most and they tend to be the most successful in conventional terms.

Denis did his honours BA in psychology as a mature student at Brock, graduating in 1977. He then did his master's in community psychology at Wilfrid Laurier University and got his PhD in clinical psychology at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Today, Belicki is a registered psychologist with a private practice in St. Catharines. He shares this award with his wife, Kathryn.

Surgite: How does it feel to be honoured by your alma mater with a Distinguished Alumni Award?

Denis Belicki: I was both surprised and delighted to receive the award.

S: What's the most important lesson you learned while at Brock?

DB: I had many professors who were willing to spend time with me, despite their busy lives. They chose to invest time with me, and other students, and this was invaluable... This was very beneficial to me and in my current work as a clinical psychologist. I, in many respects, emulate what these professors taught me about working with others.

S: What do you love most about the career path you've chosen?

DB: When I opened my private practice in St. Catharines there were virtually no psychologists in town. It was wonderful to have trained at Brock and then later to return and be able to provide services to the community. Fortunately, there are now more psychologists in the Niagara region and I expect that, over time, more Brock psychology graduates will find their way back.

S: Any advice for students in the University's next 50 years?

DB: During your training, take time to take care of yourself and your friendships. Education is a process and not an end-point. Have some fun.

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Remembering Gerry Dirks

By Patricia Dirks

When Gerry Dirks, a blind 24-year-old, was hired by Brock in 1966 to teach in the Politics Department, he already had considerable experience in breaking down perceived barriers on his way to becoming a successful university teacher and researcher. After becoming the first blind student to be integrated into a regular high school in Vancouver, Gerry went on to earn degrees from three universities.

Gerry never forgot that Brock gave him the chance to prove that he could fulfil the requirements of an academic career and he worked hard to demonstrate that this was the case. In his early years at Brock, Gerry completed his PhD while teaching full time and taking on the administrative responsibilities part of being a faculty member, especially in a new university.

Teaching was at the centre of Gerry's life at Brock. While he recognized that he was a bit of a novelty when students first met him, they quickly got used to him and appreciated his remarkable ability to recognize their voices. When I think of Gerry and Brock, what comes to mind first is his interest in, and commitment to, his students. What always impressed me was the number of students who kept in touch with Gerry until his death in February 2008, and with whom he maintained contact as they moved on through their careers. He made a difference in the lives of many Brock students.

Research is an integral part of an academic's life and Gerry's publication record clearly demonstrates he was a fine scholar. His two books and many scholarly articles and newspaper commentaries on Canadian immigration made a significant contribution to a field of study in which he was a pioneer. Three decades after his arrival at Brock, Gerry's scholarship and teaching earned him promotion to full professor. The chance that Brock took in 1966 clearly worked out well for both Gerry and the University!

Becoming literate in Braille as a child was the key to Gerry achieving his academic goals and realizing his potential as a teacher and researcher. Even when the technological advances of the late 20th century opened up new avenues to knowledge for the blind, Gerry still used Braille to draft his lecture notes and carry out research. Through the Gerald Dirks Scholarship for the Advancement of Braille Literacy, established in 2013 through the World Braille Foundation, more blind students in the African Union will be provided the opportunity to learn Braille and, therefore, to become productive members of their societies.



Cycle-mates: Patricia and Gerald Dirks.

Gerry's legacy as a teacher will live on not only in the memories of the many students he taught while at Brock but also in the futures of the students and teachers who will benefit from the scholarship established in his honour. This is, I think, a fitting tribute to Gerry's career at Brock and to his volunteer efforts to improve the lives of the blind and visually impaired in Canada and throughout the world.

.....
Patricia Dirks was married to Gerald Dirks and taught in Brock's Department of History from 1971 to 2001. For details about the Gerald Dirks scholarship, see worldbraillefoundation.com

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Brock University

Crowning glories

By Cory Smith

When he recites the athletic accomplishments of Brock University, Athletics Director Robert Hilson sounds like a proud father: 33 national championships and 67 provincial titles, for a grand total of 100.

The majority of championships have come during the last 20 years, which places Brock near the top among Canadian schools.

The latest crowns came the first weekend in March when the men's and women's wrestling teams powered their way to national gold.

Wrestling coach Marty Calder (BPhEd '92) won his 10th Canadian Interuniversity Sport Coach of the Year, and leads a powerhouse program that remains the gold standard with 15 national championships.

"Our process is forever evolving," Calder says. "We know it works and continue to pursue athletes who are passionate about what they want to accomplish."

At the top of that list is Tonya Verbeek (BRLS '00). The former Brock women's wrestling star and her coach won two Olympic silver medals and a bronze, plus dozens of Canadian and international titles.

"That's significant," says Calder, whose coaching and guidance helped push Verbeek to the top of the podium among Canadian wrestlers.

Calder has continued building on a solid foundation started by his predecessor, Richard DesChatelets. In 26 years running Brock's wrestling program, DesChatelets' Badgers captured 22 Ontario championships (15 men's, seven women's) and 13 national titles (12 men's, one women's).

"I don't know about the other programs," Calder says, "but we have a desire for success that I think is unmatched all the way up."

Out on the water, Brock's men's rowing team has captured five Canadian championships since 2000 and nine Ontario titles overall. Much of that success came under former coach Joe Dowd (BSc '86), who had the likes of two-time Olympian Iain Brambell (BA '97) on his squads.

"He changed how universities trained for rowing," current coach Peter Somerwil says of Dowd, "making it a year-round commitment like a national team would."

Brock's men's rowing program was a dynasty a decade ago, when it won three consecutive CIS titles. Somerwil took over in 2004, when the Badgers completed their three-peat. That

group was mostly of Dowd's making, Somerwil says, which made the 2012 CIS triumph more fulfilling.

"It was very rewarding, especially since I had two volunteer coaches who helped out for a long time," he says. "To share that with them was great."

The rowing program is about more than winning championships, Somerwil notes. Its goal is to develop rowers past the varsity level and prepare them for the men's and women's under-23 and senior national teams.

Brock has also won multiple national titles with its men's basketball and baseball teams.

The basketball squad won its first title in 1991-92. Then the 2007-08 team, led by their captain Brad Rootes, captured a second CIS crown. In 2011, Rootes (BPhEd '07) became the youngest head coach in the CIS when he took over behind the bench from Ken Murray, who had been the architect of the basketball program.

"I've accomplished more than most university coaches accomplished during their careers," Murray said when he stepped down. "I'm pleased. Coming in, I rescued a sinking ship because they had lost 14 straight league games and I don't know if I could paint a better picture winning the first national championship. And then the second one is golden because my son was on the team. I have some great memories and those are the ones that will stay with me forever."

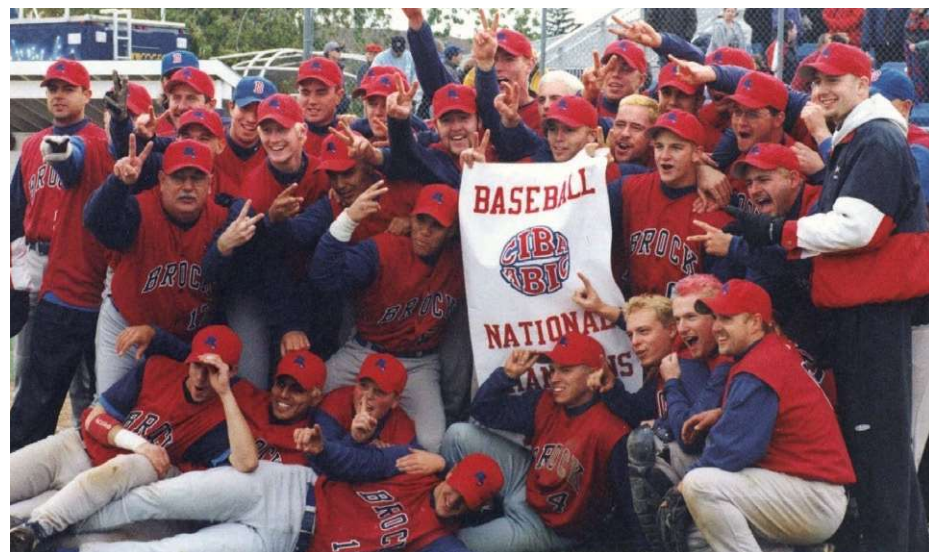
On the baseball diamond, the Badgers won back-to-back CIS championships in 1999-2000.

"I expected to win every year," former Brock player and current Toronto Blue Jays executive Andrew Tinnish (BRLS '99, BSM '01) told *Surgite* last spring. "We had good players. Our coaches, we recruited guys from good summer programs, U.S. schools, played summer games, practised. We expected a championship and anything less was a disappointment."

Athletics Director Hilson says it's an attitude that explains much of Brock's athletic success in its first 50 years, and a reason why the Badgers have high hopes for the next 50.

"As Brock's reputation continues to grow, that's going to aid in our development of the athletic department," Hilson says. "I feel our role as leaders is to empower and provide the tools for coaches to do their job. It's pretty simple."

.....
Cory Smith is interim Writer/Web Editor in Brock University's office of Marketing and Communications.



Clockwise from the bottom left: Brock men's basketball captain Brad Rootes celebrates the team's CIS title in 2008; Brock 2012-13 OUA and CURC men's rowing champions; Brock wrestling won men's and women's national championships in March 2014 while also developing Olympians like Tonya Verbeek; Brock captured its first men's basketball title in 1991-92; and Brock's baseball team won back-to-back CIS championships in 1999-2000.

of Badger athletics



Applied Health Sciences Dean becomes Brock's new Provost

By Kevin Cavanagh

The University's top academic post got a new leader on

Dec. 1, 2013 when Neil McCartney became the

Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

McCartney, who had been Dean of the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences, succeeded Murray Knuttila, who announced earlier in the year that he would step aside after serving as Provost since 2009. McCartney's appointment runs until the spring of 2019.

Knuttila will act as special adviser to the Provost until July 2014. He'll then begin an administrative leave, returning in 2015 as a professor of sociology.

"I'm eager to build on Dr. Knuttila's legacy, to support the growth of Brock as a leading educational and research institution, and to further develop its role as a pivotal partner in the continuing development of Niagara," says McCartney, who joined Brock in 2011 after being Chair of Kinesiology at McMaster University. "Working together as one team with a proud sense of shared empowerment, we can make great things happen."

Knuttila's legacy as Provost includes helping develop a new integrated strategic plan, drafting Brock's Strategic Mandate Agreement for the provincial government, helping create the Centre for Pedagogical Innovation, and overseeing the recruitment of new deans for every Faculty at the University. He also developed Brock's academic review policy and procedures

to meet the province's new quality assurance system, and chaired the Senate's new Academic Review Committee.

"Murray has been invaluable in helping

lead Brock through probably the most complex phase of its history," says Brock President Jack Lightstone. "We were not only expanding our transdisciplinary research emphasis and innovative teaching methods, but simultaneously bringing online millions of dollars' worth of new learning facilities.

"We are well-positioned for someone of Neil's vision and passion to build on that momentum and accelerate Brock's trajectory as a leading mid-sized Canadian university. I am excited about Neil's ability to help Brock become even more effective, not just as a centre of learning excellence but as a partner who benefits our surrounding communities in Niagara."

Knuttila says he is looking forward to returning to the activities that first attracted him to the academy, related to his love of teaching, scholarship and research.

"It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve Brock University," he says. "I wish Dr. McCartney all the best as he continues to work to enhance and expand the academic mission of this fine institution."

James Mandigo has been appointed interim Dean of the Faculty of Applied Health Sciences.

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

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS



Niagara Brock Alumni Network

Join the conversation Thursday, April 3 during a 50th anniversary forum with President and Vice-Chancellor Jack Lightstone. This cocktail reception will feature an insightful discussion on Brock's past, present and future.

Other Niagara Brock Alumni Network events include a winery tour and the St. Catharines Dragon Boat Festival in June.



Burlington Brock Alumni Network

On March 27, join Burlington and Hamilton Brock graduates for a special 50th anniversary forum at Paletta Mansion featuring President and Vice-Chancellor Jack Lightstone. Interactive etiquette dinner to follow.

Other Burlington Brock Alumni Network events include a Hamilton Tiger-Cats game in the summer and a pub triathlon in October.



Waterloo-Wellington Brock Alumni Network

President and Vice-Chancellor Jack Lightstone is travelling across Canada to speak about Brock's past, present and future during our 50th anniversary. On May 13, he'll be in Kitchener.

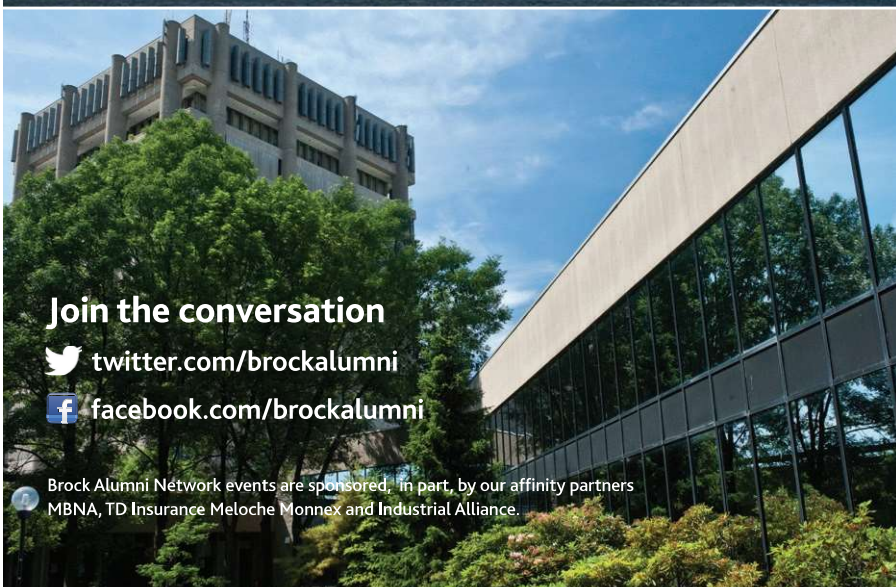
The Waterloo-Wellington Brock Alumni Network hosts one event per month, so make sure to check the website for specific dates and locations.



Toronto Brock Alumni Network

Save Thursday, May 8 for Toronto's annual pub night. This year will have a Cinco de Mayo theme.

Other Toronto Brock Alumni Network events include a speed networking event in June, a beach volleyball tournament and more.



Join the conversation

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Brock Alumni Network events are sponsored, in part, by our affinity partners MBNA, TD Insurance Meloche Monnex and Industrial Alliance.

Other Network and Affinity Events

On March 28, Brock Alumni Legal Professionals are invited to Cave Spring Cellars in Jordan for a special wine reception.

Come celebrate Lorne Adams' 40-year career at Brock and wish him well in retirement on April 25.

The Ottawa, Vancouver and Shanghai Networks will host events in 2014.

The President's Golf Tournament will be held May 22, 11 a.m., at Legends on the Niagara in Niagara Falls. This annual event raises funds for our athletes.

For information, or to register, contact Emily Hutton at ehutton@brocku.ca or go to brocku.ca/alumni

The last word

Bringing the General home.

This is a story of two journeys. One began a half century ago, and has no end. It is the trajectory of Brock University, which opened in 1964 with 127 students in a renovated factory, and this year celebrates its 50th birthday on a modern campus bustling with nearly 19,000 students. In between have been more academic, societal or athletic triumphs than could fit on this page.

The other journey happens this year, when a bronze version of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock leaves an Oregon foundry and crosses North America. When he reaches Niagara, the General will perpetually watch over the University that proudly bears his name.

This autumn, when the 50th anniversary party hits full stride, one of the most anticipated events will be the unveiling of the double-life-sized sculpture of General Brock, rising above specially landscaped lawns in front of the Schmon Tower.

Conspicuously situated in the heart of the campus, where thousands of people wait for buses or pass by in vehicles and on foot, the striking figure will become the University's iconic reference point, an emotive talisman for generations of future students and, indeed, for the entire Niagara region.

The ambitious project by Canadian artist Danek Mozdzenski, whose sculpture of Lester Pearson graces Parliament Hill, is made possible by a \$1 million gift from businessman David S.

Howes, a longtime University supporter and past chair of its Board of Trustees.

After being selected for the project in June 2013 from among 27 bids, Mozdzenski spent months researching General Brock's physique and 19th-century British officers' uniforms. Then he retreated to his Edmonton studio to create a one-third scale model, or maquette, of what the final artwork will look like.

Early reviews are ecstatic. A delegation recently allowed into the studio was struck by the beauty and impact of Mozdzenski's work. In the coming months, in the Oregon casting facility, the maquette will be meticulously transformed into final artwork.

Then begins the journey home.

The route and dates have yet to be determined, but once the precious cargo is carefully placed on a flatbed truck, University officials intend to electronically track the General so people in Niagara, or anywhere in the global Brock alumni community, can go online and follow its progress.

Throughout the spring and early summer, alumni should monitor **brocku.ca** for details.

Share in the special journey as General Brock comes home.

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



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Just ask MBA student Glenn Stevens. He has two U.S. patents and looks for discoveries in all pursuits, whether it's ice hockey, culinary arts or wineries. With a background in engineering, Glenn wanted an MBA program that focused on innovation and real-world business know-how. He found it at Goodman, where he took advantage of the co-op program and worked for the MBA student-run Goodman Consulting Group.

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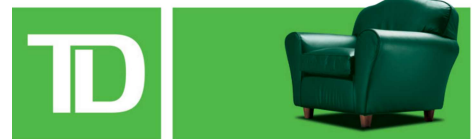
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