



Retirement?  
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A quarterly publication for graduates and friends of Brock University  
*Surgite!*/sur-gi-tay/Latin for "Push on!" The inspiring last words of Maj.-Gen. Sir Isaac Brock

## New facility will house variety of 'addresses'

A massive new "front door" is rising on the campus of Brock University.

Plaza2006 is a \$22.6 million complex under construction on the east side of the Alumni Student Centre. The five-storey, 86,000-square-foot building will redefine Brock's front entrance and house a diversity of "addresses."

The ground floor will contain a significantly expanded campus Bookstore and a direct link to the Alumni Student Centre. The second and third floors will house academic offices, computer labs, classrooms and seminar rooms, and also will link to the Alumni Student Centre on the second floor. The upper two floors will contain research facilities for the Lifespan Development Research Centre (LDRC), a complex unique in Canada.

LDRC is a collaborative effort between various academic departments, providing a centralized location of expertise to study how development occurs across the human lifespan. It will bring together more than 50 faculty and 40 community organizations to better understand issues ranging from infant development and teen gambling to detecting and treating dementia at its earliest stages.

Project design architect Brian MacKay-Lyons of MacKay-Lyons Sweetapple Architects Ltd. in Halifax describes Plaza2006 as a systems facility of "frugal beauty."

MacKay-Lyons and project co-designer and business partner, Talbot

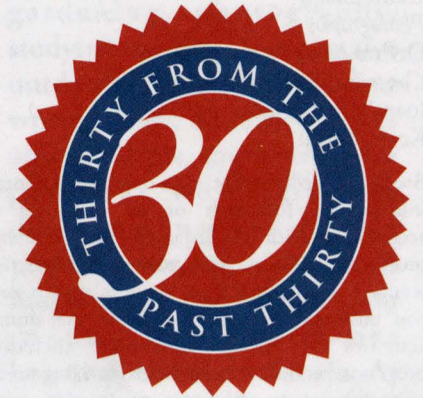


Architect designer Talbot Sweetapple stands at the Plaza2006 site.

Sweetapple, in association with Rounthwaite Dick and Hadley of Toronto, are internationally recognized

architects specializing in institutional, urban and residential design.

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RECOGNIZING  
EXCELLENCE  
AMONG BROCK  
UNIVERSITY  
ALUMNI

Outstanding  
graduates sought for  
30th anniversary  
tribute

Graduates of Brock University have inherited from the institution a special set of core values — Imagination, Innovation and Commitment. Those ideals have helped to shape their lives and guide them toward their life's accomplishments.

In 2006-2007, the Brock University Alumni Association (BUAA) will mark its 30th anniversary and as a special tribute, it will honour 30 graduates who have made their mark during the past 30 years and best exemplify the Brock spirit through their scholarly, creative, humanitarian or professional achievements.

Richard Knabenschuh (BA, psych, '90) President of BUAA, said the most difficult task will be choosing only 30 graduates for the honour, called 30 From the Past 30 Awards. All graduates are eligible to submit names for the honour.

*Continues on page 3*

## Hospital administrator named outstanding business graduate



Debbie Sevenpifer

Debbie Sevenpifer, President and CEO of the Niagara Health System (NHS), received the 2005 Distinguished Graduate Award from Brock University's Faculty of Business

at a private gathering in December 2005.

The award recognizes a graduate who has earned prominence as a result of his or her exceptional professional achievements and service to society.

Sevenpifer graduated in 1987 with a degree in Business Administration from

Brock's Accounting Co-op program. She received her Chartered Accountant designation in 1988, placing 17th out of a field of 1,600 candidates in her Uniform Final Exams. Sevenpifer returned to Brock briefly after her graduation to teach in the Accounting department for one year, and in 1994, she obtained her designation as a Canadian Health Executive.

"It is an extreme honour for me to receive this distinguished award from Brock, especially given the number and calibre of the many successful Brock business graduates," said Sevenpifer. "The experience and education I received through the Co-op Accounting program at Brock were truly foundational to my success over the years."

The NHS has an annual budget of \$332 million, employs about 4,200 employees, has a medical staff with more than 500 physicians, and is supported by more than 1,000 active volunteers. The system serves 411,000 residents from Niagara's 12 municipalities, providing care to about 32,000 in-patients annually. More than 195,000 patients are treated annually at its five 24-hour emergency departments and one 14-hour prompt care centre.

"The Faculty of Business is indeed proud to name Debbie Sevenpifer as our 2005 Distinguished Graduate," said Dr. Martin Kusy, Dean, Faculty of Business. "Debbie has had an exceptional career. Her outstanding success brings great honour to both the Faculty and the University."

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## Brock University

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Dr. Norris Walker  
Acting President and Vice-Chancellor  
Dr. Terry Boak

**Surgite!**

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Brock University maintains a database of contact information for each of its graduates in accordance with all legislative requirements protecting privacy. The contact information retained is used to deliver services and to keep you informed and up to date on the alumni activities of Brock University, including programs, services, special events, funding needs, opportunities to volunteer or to give, open houses and more through periodic contacts. All records are maintained by the Office of Alumni Relations and cannot be released without the permission of the individual(s) concerned. The Office of Alumni Relations does not sell, trade or give away mailing lists to other organizations. However, in the interests of serving its graduates and generating revenue for the University, the Office of Alumni Relations does contract with a number of companies to provide a range of services that offer competitive rates and personal assistance to alumni. Any contractors of the Office of Alumni Relations are also required to keep information about you confidential and limited to carrying out the service they provide us. Should you wish to have your contact information removed from our database contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 905-688-5550, ext. 3816.

## Gift to Library will provide a lasting tribute

An inspirational work of literature — the answer to an urgent question — a favourite children's story — there are moments in our lives when a book has made a significant impression. Books sustain us and connect us to our loved ones, friends, and teachers as well as to the history of our world.

The James A. Gibson Library invites graduates to participate in Honour with Books, a program designed to allow you to pay a lasting tribute to a special person in your life by placing a bookplate in his or her honour in a newly purchased book. Your \$50 tax-deductible gift directed to Honour with Books will support a critical acquisitions need while honouring a loved one, friend, teacher or colleague in perpetuity.

To make a gift, please refer to our website at [www.brocku.ca/library/gifts/honour.htm](http://www.brocku.ca/library/gifts/honour.htm) or contact Michèle Black, Advancement Officer, James A. Gibson Library at 905-688-5550, ext. 4976.

## Many exciting developments taking place at Brock

The 2006 year is advancing so very quickly. The University, as always, is active on many fronts and this issue of *Surgite!* will bring you up to date on a number of new developments at Brock as well as the activities of alumni.

Given the University's continued commitment to invest in our undergraduate and graduate programs, and our research and scholarly activity, there is one piece of news that I am particularly pleased to share with you.

Last November, the University announced that it has issued \$93 million of senior unsecured debentures. Proceeds from the debentures will be used to refinance existing debt and to meet the institution's current financing outlook for capital requirements. As we build to the future, the debenture issue will support new projects including the construction, now underway, of Plaza2006. This 83,000-square-foot facility will house faculty offices, an expanded bookstore and the Lifespan Development Research Centre, which is slated for completion in late 2006.

Arranging this financing, with CIBC World Markets acting as exclusive agent to the University, was a very comprehensive process. It involved a thorough review of the institution's past and present financial management. It went well beyond our financial picture to look at our strengths and weaknesses in all areas — strategic planning and corporate governance, faculty and staff resources, academic programs, facilities, student services, research activity and fundraising initiatives.

The University came away from this scrutiny with the Dominion Bond Rating Service (DBRS) assigning a rating of A (high) to Brock. This rating has allowed the University to acquire these funds at an annual interest rate of 4.967 per cent over a 40-year term.

In addition to the financial impact to Brock, this rating resonates in very real terms as an endorsement of our University. Clearly, investors have an optimistic outlook for Brock and regard the University as a leader of tomorrow in higher education. We certainly concur with this evaluation.

Brock has made phenomenal progress in its commitment to become a comprehensive university — an institution recognized for its academic excellence in undergraduate and graduate education and dedication to research and scholarly achievement. The success of our faculty in obtaining research grants and in their contribution to scholarship is to be commended. The quality of students attracted to Brock and their achievements in academics, culture activities and athletics have not gone unnoticed by people in our community and throughout Ontario and Canada.

The Brock of today owes much of its success to the contributions of our 52,500 alumni. From our first graduating class, the Silver Badgers, to those whom I had the personal pleasure of congratulating at the



The recent alumni network reception held at the HMCS Bytown Wardroom in Ottawa was organized by Brock University graduate volunteers. From left: Shreedat Phulesar (BA, poli, '00), Richard Guitar (BA, econ/poli, '78), Acting President Terry Boak, and Terence Scheltema (BBE, '96).

2005 Fall Convocation, the University has benefited enormously from your support.

Graduates respond generously to our fundraising needs, donating to new buildings and facilities, student awards and bursaries, library needs, and varsity teams. Let me provide you with a recent example of alumni giving. Last September, the Ontario government set up a new program, the Ontario Trust for Student Support (OTSS), to match gifts for bursaries for Ontario resident students with financial need. To date, with the OTSS match, graduates have donated a total of \$150,000 to establish awards in their names.

The University is also fortunate to

The Brock of today owes much of its success to the contributions of our 52,500 alumni. From our first graduating class, the Silver Badgers, to those whom I had the personal pleasure of congratulating at the 2005 Fall Convocation, the University has benefited enormously from your support.

have graduates who share their time and talents in many ways. Our alumni serve on the University's Board of Trustees, Deans' Councils and Alumni Association. They are involved in student mentoring programs, volunteer at Career Fairs, help to organize University events such as the popular Brock Days, and the list goes on and on. As well, an increasing number of graduates come out to watch our students perform in sporting events, home and away, as well as dramatic and musical productions.

The Office of Alumni Relations and the Brock University Alumni Association are committed to making it possible for alumni to be involved with the University throughout their lives. They have put in place many initiatives to maintain and strengthen a lifelong relationship with graduates, such as

the new online community [brockpeople.ca](http://brockpeople.ca), alumni networks, affinity programs, and special alumni events.

I invite graduates to celebrate with the Alumni Association as it marks its 30th anniversary in 2007. As one of the ways to commemorate this occasion, the Alumni Association will recognize 30 graduates with a special award to honour lifetime achievements that reflect Brock's core values of imagination, innovation and commitment. More information on these awards is available on [brockalumni.ca](http://brockalumni.ca)

In a survey launched on [brockpeople.ca](http://brockpeople.ca) last summer, graduates of all years expressed a great sense of pride in their Brock degree. That is a very powerful sentiment for a university and one of which we are proud. We want to do more to ensure that our future graduates feel the same way about Brock University.

For the future of the University, it is important that our graduates of yesterday and today move forward with us. I invite you to stay connected, to contribute your time, and to invest financially in our initiatives to attract the best and brightest students, recruit outstanding faculty, build quality facilities, and increase our reputation as a centre of research and academic excellence.

My term as Acting President and Vice-Chancellor is quickly coming to an end. It has been a privilege for me to serve the entire University community. Brock is an outstanding institution. With so many people working on the University's behalf, we will continue to take a more important place in Canadian post-secondary education.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Boak".

Dr. Terry Boak, PhD  
Acting President and  
Vice-Chancellor

# Learning commons will complement classrooms

By Margaret Grove (BA, Fren/Germ, '70), University Librarian and Kim Meade, Associate Vice-President, Student Services

Planning for a learning commons is well underway, thanks to the work of the Learning Commons Task Force and the enthusiastic efforts of many staff from the Library and Student Services.

**What is a learning commons?** A learning commons is an inviting place designed around the social and informal dimensions of learning. It provides an enriched learning environment to support students in their use of scholarly information, and helps them develop critical thinking and multiple literacy skills, such as information, writing, numeracy, and technology. A learning commons generally embodies an integrated service model where collaborative services are delivered from a common physical space by units that traditionally have worked independently.

**Where will the learning commons be located?** The learning commons will be situated on the main floor of the James A. Gibson Library, and will also encompass the upper floor of the campus bookstore once it moves to its new quarters. An architectural firm will be engaged in the spring of 2006 to prepare a preliminary design, an estimated project budget, and concept drawings for the proposed learning commons.

**Why is the learning commons important?** The learning commons will foster and support the informal learning that takes place outside of the classroom. As a hub of learning activity on campus, the Brock learning commons will be a welcoming space, bringing together in one central location the people, services, resources and technologies that support and enrich the student learning experience. Services will be delivered through individual

consultation, peer mentoring, workshops, group instruction, and other collaborative learning opportunities, to create a continuum of support throughout students' academic careers. Co-ordinated referral to other services on campus will be an important component of the learning commons service model.

**Who are the learning commons partners?** The Library, the Student Development Centre, Career Services and the Centre for Teaching, Learning and Educational Technologies are working together on this project.

**New learning commons services** Although it likely will be 2007 before the Brock learning commons is a physical reality, two exciting new learning commons services were launched in the fall 2005 term:

**Laptop Loan:** Thirty laptop computers are available for loan at the Reserves Desk and may be borrowed for up to three hours by students, faculty and staff for use anywhere on campus. The laptops come equipped with standard software, including Microsoft Office and Adobe Reader, and support wireless printing from the Library's public printers. The service has proven to be highly popular with students. Details about this major new initiative are available at [www.brocku.ca/library/laptop.htm](http://www.brocku.ca/library/laptop.htm).

**Peer Assistance Program:** The result of a collaborative initiative by Career Services, the Student Development Office and the Library, the initial phase of this program offers two student peer assistants based in the Library for roughly 24 hours per week. The peers provide students with "one-stop" information and referral to services such as study skills workshops, academic and career planning, library research, technology support and tutoring services.

# Accounting team awarded gold in ICBC contest



Brock University congratulates several Business students for their outstanding performance at the recent Inter-Collegiate Business Competition Finals at Queen's University (ICBC). Pictured, from left, are Rico Passero, Robert Tartaglia, Eric Roller and Nathan Stienstra. Absent from the photo are Scott Clark and Jason Peattie. Roller and Tartaglia won the Accounting Division at ICBC, while Passero and Peattie were Debating finalists and Clark and Stienstra were Industrial Relations finalists. ICBC is Canada's oldest and largest undergraduate business case competition.

The Faculty of Business at Brock University is pleased to announce the outstanding performance of its Accounting team who won a gold medal at the Inter-Collegiate Business Competition (ICBC) finals at Queen's University in early January. This is the second year in a row that a student team from Brock has placed first in the accounting category of the annual business competition.

"We are extremely proud of the three teams who represented Brock with distinction at the ICBC finals. The repeat victory in the accounting category reflects the strong quality of that program which received accreditation from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario just this past year," said Martin Kusy, Dean of the Faculty of Business.

Twenty-eight schools competed in the ICBC competition this year. Brock University was one of six business schools to place three or

more teams in the final round.

The following is a list of the three student teams from Brock who qualified for the ICBC finals, the categories in which they competed and how they placed.

- Robert Tartaglia and Eric Roller, Accounting, Gold Medal
- Scott Clark and Nathan Stienstra, Industrial Relations, finalists
- Rico Passero and Jason Peattie, Debating, finalists

The ICBC is Canada's oldest and largest undergraduate business case competition. Hosted annually by Queen's University students since its inception in 1979, the competition attracts business students from across Canada and the world. All competitors must first participate in a preliminary round, and the top six teams from each of the eight categories compete in the Final Round at Queen's University in January.

# Symphony offers adult summer classes

The Niagara Symphony will offer an Adult Summer Music Program on July 17, 18, 19 and 24, 25, 26 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. each evening, at the Second Century Building at Ridley College.

Music instruction in a group setting, for a short but intense period of time, will allow students to explore a new instrument or reawaken old skills. Adults will study with professional musicians and have the opportunity to perform in small or large ensembles. Instruction is offered in strings, winds, brass, percussion, harp and collaborative piano. Each evening includes a master class, faculty recital or guest lecturer and

an option of orchestra, ensemble or theory.

The cost of the program is \$375. Second registration (bring a friend!) is \$325. The price includes all taxes. A non-refundable deposit of \$50 is required at the time of registration and payment in full is due June 2.

Instruments may be rented for \$25. Registration includes a Niagara Symphony canvas bag to carry music.

For registration and/or information, please contact Marcia O'Neill at 905-687-4993, ext. 3; e-mail: [education@niagarasymphony.org](mailto:education@niagarasymphony.org)

## Outstanding graduates sought...continues from page 1

"The number of Brock alumni who would be outstanding candidates for this recognition far exceeds 30," said Knabenschuh. "Talented and committed students, who enriched the University by their presence, continue their good works in Canada and beyond upon graduation. They have taken their Brock experience and ideals to the next level."

Acting President Terry Boak said the core values of the University — scholarly, professional and creative achievement; highest quality; positive contributions; and imagination,

innovation and commitment — are embraced and reflected by Brock's outstanding graduates.

"It is appropriate indeed that the Brock University Alumni Association celebrate its anniversary by paying tribute to its exceptional members through this award. The University is proud to have been a part of guiding and shaping these individuals," said Boak.

Nomination forms for the awards are available through the BUAA website at [www.brockalumni.ca](http://www.brockalumni.ca)

## New facility will house variety of 'addresses' continues from page 1.

Structural components, such as ductwork, are a visible element of the design and its beauty lies in its simplicity. Integral to the project are the exterior materials: copper cladding, Niagara Escarpment stone, and the liberal use of glass. The interior of the building will feature wood, a warming element, in social gathering places, benches and the campus store.

"This is a quiet building that will withstand time," says MacKay-Lyons. "It is the quality of materials, not extravagant form, which defines and makes the building."

Maritimers such as himself, he says, eschew ostentation and prefer simple, clean lines.

Both architects are particularly excited to be building next to projects designed by Brock Chancellor Dr. Raymond Moriyama, an internationally known architect whose most-recent project, the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa, has been critically acclaimed. Over the last 25 years, the architectural firm Moriyama & Teshima has designed seven buildings for the Brock campus, the two latest being the Brock Academic Complex and the Walker Complex. Some of his other projects include the Bata Shoe Museum, Bank of Montreal Institute for Learning, Saudi Arabian National Museum, Ontario Science Centre, Scarborough Civic Centre, Toronto Reference Library, and the

Canadian Embassy in Tokyo.

The contractor for Plaza2006 is Merit Contractors Niagara, which is headquartered in St. Catharines. Jean St. Pierre, manager, field operations for the firm, said the company has completed several projects for Brock in the past, including the Alan Earp Residence and the Sean O'Sullivan Theatre.

"Plaza2006 is exciting," says St. Pierre, "because it's in our own back yard. We are delighted to be working on a Niagara project of this stature. The other exciting element is the opportunity to be working in concert with acclaimed architects."

He says Plaza2006 is both complex and simple — it is complex in its

construction and components "but the end result will be a building that is very clean and simple."

"Plaza2006 combines visual refinement, quality, warmth and functionality," says Steven Pillar, Vice-President, Finance and Administration. "In many ways, the project is representative of what Brock has to offer — a high-quality experience in conjunction with the warmth and intimacy offered by a mid-size university."

"We are pleased to present an elegant and friendly 'front door' that will welcome students, faculty, graduates and staff from around the globe."

## 1979

**Norman Dodd** (BA, envs/geog) was appointed to the Board of Directors of Barnabus Energy Inc., which is committed to the development of a diversified energy project portfolio. The company is currently acquiring commercially viable projects in both conventional and renewable energy sectors.

## 1989

**Shane Smith** (BA, admi/econ; BAdmin, '90) recently accepted a promotion with Dana Corporation in Toledo, Ohio, as the Global Director of Purchasing-Torque.

## 1995

**Stephen Adler** (BA, poli) is the Director of Public Policy for Canadian Jewish Congress Ontario Region in Toronto. He is responsible for co-ordinating and carrying out all aspects of the CJC Ontario public policy on behalf of the Jewish community of Ontario at the Ontario Legislature, provincial ministries and agencies, regional and municipal governments and boards of education.

## 2002

**Klemen Zumer** (BA, inpe) has completed two master's degrees, London School of Economics in 2003 and Sciences Paris in 2004. He is currently working in the European Parliament.

## 2003

**Ann Grimwood** (BRLS) is a volunteer worker in the east African nation of Tanzania. She is spending three months working with orphaned children in the village of Bagamoyo through a non-governmental organization called the Raal Foundation. The volunteer experience was arranged through New Zealand-based Global Volunteer Network.

**Wendy McCauley** (BA, csbc) has accepted a full-time position with Deloitte & Touche, in Denver, Colo.

## 2005

**Mark Holmes** (BPhEd) graduated from the University of Toronto on Oct. 14 with a Master of Science in Physical Therapy.

**Ryan Pasquale** (BSM) is a graduate of the Game Face Executive Academy in Portland, Ore., and has been placed into a consumer sales position with the Toronto Blue Jays of Major League Baseball. Ryan and four other Academy graduates will be promoting and selling the Blue Jays in the Toronto market.

**Cara Pauls** (BA, lite), along with 17 other WorldTech volunteers, is on a year-long commitment to teach in Namibia's public elementary and secondary schools.

**Dave Teutenberg** (BACC) joined with the Partners of Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP Chartered Accountants. He provides assurance, accounting and taxation services to clients of Welland and Fort Erie offices.

**Julie Trudeau** (BACC) is now with the Partners of Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP Chartered Accountants. She provides assurance, accounting and taxation services in French and English to clients of St. Catharines and Niagara Falls offices.

## Births

**Julia (Mascio) Abdel Maksoud** (BA, cscb, '97) and **Mamdouh Abdel Maksoud** (BBE, '98), a son, Michael, Dec. 8, 2005.

**Paul Aquilina** (BRLS, '93), a son, Ashton, Feb. 28, 2005.

**David Arbuckle** (BA, poli, '98), a son, Henry William, Oct. 31, 2005.

**Nancy (Wells) Atrill** (BA, Fren, '95) and Steve Atrill, a son, Noah Alexander, Oct. 1, 2005.

**Corrine (Burnett) Baiden** (BA, soci, '96), a daughter, Julia, June 21, 2005.

**Sandra (Santos) Boucher** (BA, Fren, '95; BA, ling, '97) and **Erick Boucher**, (BPhEd, '95), a son, Xavier, Aug. 21, 2005.

**Warren Bowley** (BSc, cosc, '96), a son, Owen William, Sept. 13, 2005.

**Nancy (Norris) Bramlett** (BAdmin, '90), a daughter, Audrey, Feb. 2, 2005.

**Heather (Henderson) Charlton** (BBA, mgmt, '96), a son, Jackson Raymond, June 21, 2005.

**Christine (Kane) Cocca** (BA, psyc, '97), a daughter, Mia, April 2, 2005.

**Wanda (Wilkinson) Cook** (BPhEd, '99; BEd, '00), a daughter, Paige, June 21, 2005.

**Kevin Curiston** (BEd, '95), daughters, Janneke Elizabeth, May 27, 2003 and Willemijn Lorraine, Sept. 19, 2005.

**Sara (Bailey) De Divitiis** (BA, psyc, '00), a son, Zander Rocco, March 25, 2005.

**Stuart Edge** (BRLS, '95), a daughter, Abigail Raquel, Nov. 1, 2005.

**Paul Fasan** (BA, psyc, '90), a daughter, Kirsten, July 26, 2005.

**Stephanie (Flanagan) Glassford** (BA, psyc, '00), a son, Kyle Thomas, May 19, 2005.

**Joanne (Cooper) Guthrie** (BA, psyc, '91), a daughter, Chelsea, May 18, 2005.

**Erynne (Riedstra) Hunter** (BA, pols, '01), a son, Kieran Charles, June 6, 2005.

**Tracy (Lloyd) Lawther** (BACC, '94), a son, Ashton, Feb. 21, 2005.

**Douglas Lester** (BSc, geol, '87), a son, Logan Lance, Dec. 1, 2005.

**Karen (Banfield) Longley** (BA, chld/psyc, '95) and **Neil Longley** (BA, soci, '95), a daughter, Hannah, March 15, 2005.

**Margaret (Matacz) Majos** (BACC, '04), a son, Adam, July 9, 2005.

**Leigh (Leaver) McMartin** (BSc, cosc, '98), a daughter, Madison, July 15, 2005.

**Patrick Miller** (BA, geog, '89), a daughter, Molly Christina, April 7, 2005.

**April Moon** (BA, labr/soci, '95), a son, Sasha, Oct. 27, 2005.

**Margaret (Richardson) Morrish** (BSc, cosc, '98) and **Terrence Morrish** (BSc, cosw, '99), a son, Cameron Andrew, June 16, 2005.

**Todd Murray** (BSc, ener, '98) and **Michelle (Brock) Murray** (BA/BEd, '97), a son, Hudson, Jan. 26, 2005.

**Craig Nagel** (BBA, fnce, '96) and **Stephanie Wiebe** (BBA, fnce, '96), a daughter, Claire, May 1, 2005.

**Michelle (Gallo) Nelson** (BPhEd, '97), a son, James William John, Oct. 14, 2005.

**Joy (Provost) Quinlan** (BA, soci, '96), a daughter, Megan Joy, May 15, 2005.

**Karen Raittinen-DeSario** (BA, Fren, '94; BEdTSL, '95), a son, David Ross, Dec. 22, 2004.

**Kyle Sadowsky** (BBA, admn, '99; BSM, '01), a son, Michael, June 3, 2005.

**Michelle (Werth) Schmid** (BA/BEd, '95), a son, Eric, May 25, 2005.

**Genevieve Schmidt** (BA, clst, '04), a son, Darius Xerxes, April 25, 2005.

**Kelly Smith** (BA, pols, '03), a son, Liam Christopher, Jan. 16, 2005.

**Les Szabo** (BA, csmc, '96) and **Lee-Anne (Schiestel) Szabo** (BA, psyc, '97; BEd, '98), a son, Luke Alexander, Oct. 12, 2005.

## Marriages

**Leanne Kane** (BSc, biol/ersc, '99) and Samuel Inglis, July 23, 2005.

**Brandy Purdy** (BACC, '05) and Graydon Elliott, Oct. 5, 2005.

## In Memoriam

**George Bosma** (BA, poli, '92), Sept. 8, 2005.

**Patricia (Maguire) Brillinger** (BA, psyc, '89; BEdTSL, '91; MEd, '96), Dec. 24, 2005.

## Dedicated professor dies suddenly

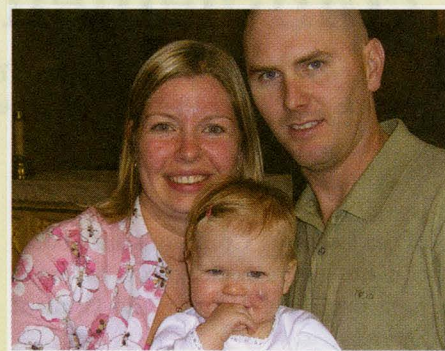
Professor Judith Blackwell, a former Chair of the Department of Sociology and a past member of the Brock University Senate, passed away suddenly on Nov. 22, 2005, from complications arising from a respiratory infection. She was 61.

Blackwell held a doctorate from the London School of Economics and was best known for her publications on the use of illicit drugs. She also served as an adviser on drug laws and drug policy in Canada and in England. In Sociology, she taught Social Policy, Law and Society, Psychiatric Sociology and Medical Sociology. She also co-taught a Women's Studies course on feminist theories and research strategies.

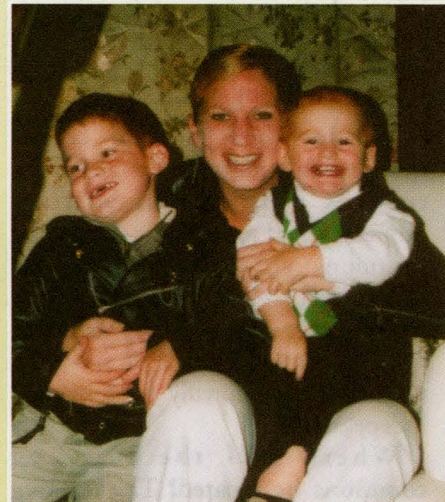
Her most recent major publication was a book, co-authored with two sociology colleagues, entitled *Culture of Prejudice: Arguments in Critical Social Science* (2003).

Blackwell was a dedicated teacher, a staunch supporter of the women's studies program, and an active contributor to the University community.

She will be sadly missed by her many friends and colleagues at Brock.



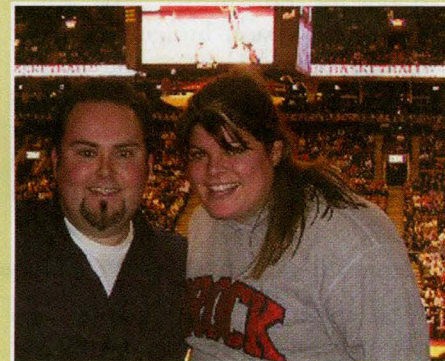
Sarah (Schmidt) Farwell (BRLS, '02) with husband Jade and daughter Teagan, born March 23, 2005.



Leslie (Iaccino) Kokkinos (BPhEd, '98) with sons Braedon and Callum.



Klemen Zumer (BA, inpe) at the European Parliament.



David Pratt and Kristie Willson (BA, chsc, '02) enjoy a Toronto Raptors basketball game.



A number of Brock graduates attended Darren and Dina Fox's wedding in December 2005. Back row, left to right: Amy Wilson, Vince (Moose) Wilson (BRLS, '98), Jamie Anderson (BBA, admn, '04), Robert Hawes (BA, chsc, '00; MSc, ahch, '05), Darryl Paul (BA, csbc, '01), Jay Boast (BA, csmc, '00), Michael Burns (BA, chld, '00), Rob Gottschalk (BBA, admn, '01), Brad Clarke (BA, chld, '00), Scott Young (BA, hlst, '99), Tracy Gould (BBA, mktg, '02), Sara (Read) Davidson (BA, soci, '99), Terry Cockerline (BA, csbc, '97). Middle row, left to right: Shari Martin-Paul (BA, Fren/hist, '00), Melanie Whitehead (BA/BEd, '03), Erin (Reid) Burns (BRLS, '02; BEd, '03), Sarah Viehbeck (BA, chsc, '02), Kacey (McColl) Clarke (BPhEd, '99), Jaime (Leasa) Young (BPhEd, '00; BEd, '01), Jen McCaughey (BA, hist, '00), Brent Casey (BBA, admn, '01), Christine Barron (BA, hlst, '98). Front row, left to right: Patrick (PC) Connelly, Kabir Abdurrahman (BA, psyc, '00), Darren Fox (BBA, admn, '00) and Dina (Debon) Fox (BA, soci, '00).

For more AlumNews, go to: [brockpeople.ca](http://brockpeople.ca)

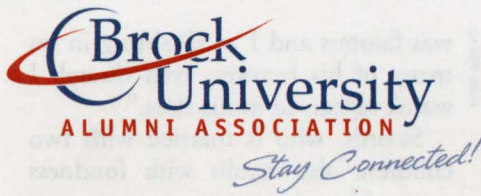
### AlumNews photos

Brock graduates are invited to submit photos for publication in the AlumNews section of *Surgite!*

Electronic photos are preferable. High quality print reproduction requires that electronic photos be 300 dpi and submitted in JPEG format. Please e-mail photos to [vterpak@brocku.ca](mailto:vterpak@brocku.ca)

Photos will be published in *Surgite!* based on the quality of print reproduction and if space is available due to the number of submissions received. Photos that are not published can be posted by visiting [www.brockpeople.ca/submitnews.php](http://www.brockpeople.ca/submitnews.php)

# Alumni Association news and events [www.brockalumni.ca](http://www.brockalumni.ca)



## Curling Bonspiel

The Annual Brock Rock Curling Bonspiel will take place at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club on Saturday, April 1. Don't miss this fun event for curlers of all skill levels. Sign up now and compete for Best Dressed Team or aim for the coveted Brock Rock. The tournament is gaining popularity every year and space is limited.

Registration is \$200 per team (\$50 per person) and includes, lessons (optional), lunch and dinner. E-mail [alumniassociation@brocku.ca](mailto:alumniassociation@brocku.ca) to sign up. Visit [www.brockalumni.ca/events](http://www.brockalumni.ca/events) for more details.

## Renaissance at Rodman

Once again, the Brock University Alumni Association is proud to offer its spring lecture series, Renaissance at Rodman. The series will run for five consecutive Thursdays starting April 20. There will be a social time prior to the 10 a.m. lectures.

Thursday, April 20 — Dr. Dan Malleck, Community Health Sciences: Current trends in alternative medicines.

Thursday, April 27 — Dr. Leonard Rosmarin, Professor Emeritus, Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures: "And God in all of this?": Reflections on the works of Elie Wiesel.

Thursday, May 4 — Dr. Paul Hamilton, Political Science: "Canada-U.S. Relations after the Election."

Thursday, May 11 — Dr. Rosemary Hale, Dean, Faculty of Humanities: "Bride Mysticism and Mother Mysticism."

Thursday, May 18 — Dr. John Lye, English Language and Literature: Examining contemporary English literature.

## Distinguished Alumni Award

The search is on for the next recipient of the Brock University Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award. This award is presented annually to a Brock graduate who has made an exceptional contribution to his or her profession, community and Brock. Nomination forms are available online at [brockalumni.ca/recognition](http://brockalumni.ca/recognition) or by contacting the Alumni Association office at 905-688-5550, ext. 4502. The deadline for nomination submissions is July 5.

## 30 from the Past 30 Awards

In honour of the Alumni Association's 30th anniversary, we will be recognizing the achievements of Brock graduates. Please refer to the related article on the front page of this issue for details on the 30 From the Past 30 Awards. Nomination forms may be found online at [brockalumni.ca](http://brockalumni.ca)

## Board positions open

A number of positions are available for the Alumni Association Board of Directors. The board meets on the third Saturday of every month. Directors sit

for three-year terms. All interested graduates can contact Terry Cockerline, Executive Director, at [tcockerline@brockpeople.ca](mailto:tcockerline@brockpeople.ca)

## Stay Connected newsletter

In September, the Alumni Association printed the first edition of *Stay Connected*, the Alumni Association newsletter. Look for the Spring issue to be released in April at the Brock Rock Bonspiel. All issues are also available to be viewed online.

## Rowing alumni beer tasting

All former Brock rowers are invited to a beer tasting on Saturday, April 8 at the St. Catharines Rowing Alumni Clubhouse on Henley Island. Tickets are available through the Centre for the Arts Box Office at 905-688-5550, ext. 3257. At this event, plans will be made to celebrate 40 years of varsity sport at Brock. For more information, please contact Peter Somerwil at [peter.somerwil@brocku.ca](mailto:peter.somerwil@brocku.ca)

## Golf Tournament

Don't forget to sign up early for the annual Alumni Golf Tournament, to be held on Saturday, Sept. 16.

## Did you graduate in the '70s?

Then don't miss out on our first Decade celebration during Brock Days 2006, Sept. 29 to Oct. 1. This year's celebration features a reunion of all graduating classes from 1970-1979. Watch for details in the Summer issue of *Surgite!* If you would like to reconnect with old friends and would like help finding them, contact Lynne Irion, in Alumni Relations, at [lynirion@brocku.ca](mailto:lynirion@brocku.ca) or by calling 905-688-5550, ext. 3251.

## Badger Athletics marks 40 years with book

Brock Badger Athletics will celebrate its 40th season in 2006. The Department of Athletics has commissioned Brock graduate and Silver Badger Stan Lapinski (BA, engl, '68) to prepare a pictorial history of sports at Brock, to be published this fall, and he is looking for photos and memorabilia.

The publication will feature athletic "firsts," "bests," and people and achievements that transcended more than one team or season.

Lapinski has thousands of photos, but there are some significant gaps in his collection. At the top of his wish list are photos of the 1967-68 ECIRA lightweight eight champions, the 1967-68 OIAA fencing champions, and the 1968-69 OIAA table tennis team.

He also has photos with no names. In particular, he is seeking names of the 1966-67 and 1967-68 hockey teams; the 1967-68 track team; and all of the 1969-70 rowing crews. Another year with large gaps is 1970-71.

If you have photos with captions, medals, crests, programs, or newspaper clippings, please contact Lapinski as soon as possible, at 905-685-9404, or [slapinsk@vaxxine.com](mailto:slapinsk@vaxxine.com). For further information, please contact Shawn Whiteley, [shwhiteley@brocku.ca](mailto:shwhiteley@brocku.ca) or Lorne Adams, [lorne.adams@brocku.ca](mailto:lorne.adams@brocku.ca)

Lynne Prunskus, University Archivist and Head, Special Collections, would also appreciate hearing from graduates who have photographs, programs or other memorabilia, especially those connected with the Department of Athletics. Please contact Lynne at 905-688-5550, ext. 3264; e-mail: [lynne.prunskus@brocku.ca](mailto:lynne.prunskus@brocku.ca)

## Remembering faculty from the past

It is not uncommon for graduates of Brock University to enquire about professors who inspired, impassioned and guided them in their academic studies and lives beyond the classroom. Sadly, some of those professors have passed away. Below is a list of professors and their date of death. The asterisk indicates a book prize, bursary, academic award or other form of recognition established in the professor's name.

- \*Prof. Zygmunt Adamczewski, Philosophy, August 1990
- Prof. John Alexander Aikman, Education, February 1992
- Prof. Peter Atherton, Education, August 1991
- Prof. Allan Bennett, Education, May 2001
- \*Prof. Judith Blackwell, Sociology, November 2005
- \*Prof. Ronald Brown, Mathematics and Science, June 2001
- \*Prof. Frederick Casler, Classics, January 2004
- \*Prof. Shao-Chien Chang, Mathematics, January 2004
- \*Prof. Eugene A. Cherniak, Chemistry, November 1997
- Prof. Jesse Craft, Earth Sciences, December 2002
- \*Prof. Fred Drake, History, June 2002
- \*Prof. Victor Fic, Political Science, February 2005
- \*Prof. James A. Gibson, Founding President, October 2003
- \*Prof. Donald Goodspeed, History, August 1990
- \*Prof. Warren Hartman, Fine Arts, February 1998
- \*Prof. Simon Haynes, Earth Sciences, April 2002
- Prof. Velmer Headley, Mathematics, March 2004
- \*Prof. Herbert Holland, Chemistry, April 2003
- \*Prof. Clara Hollosi, Germanic/Slavic Studies, January 2000
- Prof. Francois Koffyberg, Physics and Chemistry, July 2005
- Prof. Harvey Mann, Accounting and Finance, August 1995
- \*Prof. Mohan S. Manocha, Biological Science, October 2000
- \*Prof. John McEwen, History, October 1997
- \*Prof. Ed Miryneck, Earth Sciences, April 2004
- Prof. Reginald Moase, Education, December 1992
- \*Prof. John Nota, Philosophy, February 1995
- \*Prof. P. Peach, Earth Sciences, December 1989
- \*Prof. Colin Plint, Physics, April 2004
- \*Prof. John W. Reed, Mathematics, January 1986
- \*Prof. Udayan Rege, Accounting and Finance, January 2000
- Prof. Debabrata Sinha, Philosophy, February 2003
- Prof. Ray Skilton, Computer Science, October 1993
- \*Prof. Guy Sprung, Philosophy, January 2000
- \*Prof. Helen Stewart, Education, August 1996
- \*Prof. Jan Terasmae, Earth Sciences, January 1998
- \*Prof. Andrea Toepell, Community Health Sciences, July 2004
- \*Prof. Ronald Tremain, Music, July 1998

This information was provided by the Department of Human Resources and is not meant to be a complete or comprehensive list; retired faculty members are not obligated to maintain contact with Brock and therefore the University does not know everyone's individual circumstances.

# Now keeping in touch is e-asy!

**Brockpeople.ca** is Brock's online community for graduates. Visit **brockpeople.ca** regularly to:

- check for alumni events
- find former classmates
- send/receive internal messages
- find businesses owned and operated by fellow Brock graduates.
- update your alumni profile

## NEW Feature — e-postcards!

Now you can send an e-postcard to your Brock friends. Send a postcard and you could win a digital camera! Visit [brockpeople.ca](http://brockpeople.ca) for more details.

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## First-time visitor to brockpeople.ca?

To log in, enter your former Brock student ID number and use your birth date as your password (yyymmdd). For further assistance, contact the [brockpeople.ca](http://brockpeople.ca) administrator at [brockpeople@brocku.ca](mailto:brockpeople@brocku.ca), or call the Office of Alumni Relations at 905-688-5550, ext. 3816.



Kevin Grout  
(BA, poli, '96)

# Ambassador to Netherlands still recalls Brock student number

No matter where she is posted in the world, Colleen Swords carries along her textbook *Dawson: The Government of Canada* from her Politics 212 course at Brock University.

Swords (BA, poli, '72) was appointed Canadian Ambassador to the Netherlands in 2005 and at the same time was named Canada's permanent representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Her Canadian government textbook, which she still uses as a reference, followed her to The Hague.

Thirty-three years after graduating, Swords still remembers her Brock student number by heart. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Swords studied law at Osgoode Hall Law School and later completed her diploma in European Integration at the University of Amsterdam in 1979. Since joining Foreign Affairs in 1980, Swords has served in Dar es Salaam, Bangkok and Washington, with a stint as High Commissioner to Barbados and the countries of the Eastern Caribbean from 1994 to 1997. Before becoming the department's Legal-Adviser, she worked in the Legal Operations Division and the Economic and Trade Law Division, all in the Bureau of Legal Affairs.

As ambassador, Swords is responsible for managing about 50 embassy staff members. The embassy provides consular and passport services to Canadians, identifies opportunities for Canadian business, and promotes investment in Canada, as well as advocating Canadian interests generally.

"Canada and the Netherlands are partners of choice on many multilateral issues that matter to Canadians; human rights, disarmament, counter-terrorism, peace and security.

"Our job in the embassy is to keep that partnership strong by ensuring a



Colleen Swords

clear and active dialogue," she says.

Swords is also responsible for following developments and speaking for Canada in the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Tribunal on Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Court, and others, all headquartered within The Hague.

The 175-member Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which is also headquartered in the Hague, is important to Canada's disarmament policy, says Swords. Its objective is to ensure that chemical weapons cannot be produced and can never again injure or kill people anywhere in the world.

The busy ambassador is grateful for the "tremendous education at Brock" in preparing her for a future career in diplomacy. "I learned to analyse, to debate, to question and to write. All of these skills I have used daily as a diplomat and a lawyer."

In 1969, Swords successfully

completed Brock's Grade 12 summer program, enabling her to bypass Grade 13, the traditional path to an Ontario university, and directly enter the University.

Retired Professor Bill Matheson recalls Swords as "a stunningly outstanding student. She's someone every professor would want to have in class."

"As I look back, I cannot imagine having a better post-secondary education than what I received from Brock," says Swords, who majored in Politics and minored in French. "The Politics department at the time was quite small. The professors knew all of the students majoring in Politics and took a particular interest in ensuring the educational experience was a rich one."

The Kamloops, B.C., native adds that Professors Matheson and Ken Kernaghan "stand out in particular for me. Professor Michael Hornyansky's first-year English class

was famous and I recall sitting in on many of his lectures, even though I wasn't registered in his class."

Swords, who is married with two children, also recalls with fondness some of her classmates.

"Sean O'Sullivan (after whom Brock's theatre is named) and I took almost all the same Politics courses and we had many a friendly disagreement in seminars. I recall visiting him years later when he was studying to be a priest in Rome and I was studying at the University of Amsterdam — we had another discussion about Canadian politics over a delicious Italian meal. Sean died far too young."

And then there was the campus life. In September 1969, because construction of the DeCew Residence was underway, Swords and other students were housed in the "old and somewhat grim" sanatorium across the street. There were no athletic facilities and female rowers like herself had to adjust to male shells. Swords was also a member of the Brock women's varsity basketball team. ("I think we lost every game.")

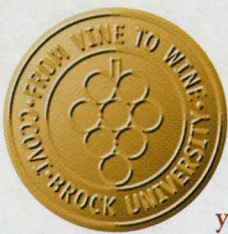
It was also a time of student activism.

"During the October Crisis (1970), I recall a very lively debate about the imposition of the War Measures Act," she says. "We protested the Vietnam War with a march across the Peace Bridge and I recall a 'sit-in protest' on the Senate floor of the Library Tower, but I cannot for the life of me remember why we were 'sitting'."

Because of her overseas travel and postings, Swords is unable to return to Brock for many reunions. However, her daughter attended Ridley College in St. Catharines for Grade 13 and provided the grounding comment that mothers everywhere, diplomat or not, often hear.

"My daughter found the picture from the Class of '72 when she visited Brock and she said she couldn't believe how young I looked."

## Raise a glass to Brock



Brock and France will continue to be connected by fine wine.

Late last year, a memorandum of understanding was reached between Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI) and ESC Dijon Bourgogne's School of Business to share the organization of future conferences.

In November 2005, representatives from CCOVI and Brock's Faculty of Business attended the Bacchus in Bourgogne, the second interdisciplinary and international wine conference, held in Beaune, Region of Bourgogne, France.

In 2001, Brock hosted the first conference, Bacchus to the Future. The next conference will be held June 14-16, 2007 at Brock. It is proposed that the conferences alternate between Bourgogne, France and Brock University.



More than 40 graduates gathered in Ottawa on Feb. 8 for the annual alumni network event hosted by Acting President Terry Boak at the HMCS Bytown Wardroom, a private Naval Officers Mess. Over the years, Ottawa-area graduates have looked forward to the opportunity to network with fellow alumni and University personnel at the annual event. From left: Mark Hrabowsky (BA, Fren/poli, '76) and Marcel Forget (BSc, cosc, '89) and Henry Nur (BSc, math/phys, '74).

## Retirement? Social advocate doesn't know the meaning of the word



Patricia Anzovino

It's pretty clear that Patricia Anzovino (BA, '91) is not going to while away her retirement years by sitting in a rocking chair on the front porch.

After 33 years of teaching with the Niagara District Catholic School Board, Anzovino retired nine years ago. Not content to "take it easy," she has embraced issues of global human rights and tirelessly advocates for refugees seeking safe haven in Canada.

The Fort Erie resident has a long association with social justice work. Her parents were active in the farm labour movement and her husband's family took in Italian immigrants and helped them to settle in the community. Anzovino herself has been an active member since 1980 in the Development and Peace Organization, where she has been involved with social justice projects for developing nations, peace initiatives and social activism. In 1985, she travelled to Nicaragua to explore development and peace issues. In 1987, she went to El Salvador with a group called Teachers for El Salvador, where she worked and lived among the poor. In 1989, she studied education and health care in Amazonas, Brazil. In 1990, she co-founded Casa El Norte, a shelter in the border town for refugees.

Anzovino also has recently been appointed as a Canadian commissioner to the Peace Bridge Authority and is a former member of the Niagara Parks Commission.

Anzovino's good works have not gone unrecognized. She has received the YMCA Peace Medal, the Ontario Citizenship Medal, the Canadian Citizenship Medal, the Older Persons Volunteer of the Year Award, Women's Place Woman of the Year Award, Flare Magazine Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Thérèse Casgrain National Volunteer Award.

"In working with people from all over the world, I have been provided with a

deeper vision and commitment to global justice," she says.

While the local, provincial and national recognition is gratifying, her Brock degree in sociology, with a minor in philosophy, also holds an important place in her heart.

"My Brock experience afforded me an opportunity for further growth and development," says Anzovino. "I loved my University experience, both academically and personally. Here I made lifelong friends with students as well as faculty."

She adds: "My biggest challenge, of course, was trying to balance the family needs of raising four children, teaching full time and fitting in my community volunteer work. As I travelled from Fort Erie to Brock, taking night courses over the course of many years, it became a quiet time I learned to treasure and call my own."

She says her greatest desire for her grandchildren "would be that they could all attend university, an experience in itself."

Anzovino still has connections to Brock. She helped to organize a November 2005 conference in Fort Erie, funded by a grant from the Department of Canadian Heritage, called The Mayor's Forum on Diversity and Inclusion: From an Experience of Exclusion to a Vision of Inclusion. The keynote speaker was Dr. Raymond Moriyama, Brock University Chancellor and internationally respected architect.

As a child, Dr. Moriyama was sent to an interment camp in British Columbia during the Second World War because of his Japanese-Canadian heritage.

"Dr. Moriyama knows better than anyone what it is like to be a refugee in one's own country and to face fear and hardship because of exclusion," says Anzovino. "His story is remarkable — a message of inspiration and hope."

## Student explores synthesis of vitamin E



Stephan Ohnmacht

Growing up in Germany and Switzerland, Stephan Ohnmacht likely never imagined that his studies would take him more than 6,000 kilometres from home.

Now working towards his Master's of Science degree in Chemistry at Brock, the 24-year-old wouldn't have it any other way.

Ohnmacht is making headway as part of a team, led by Professor Jeffrey Atkinson, Department of Chemistry, researching the synthesis and effects of vitamin E. Ohnmacht, an organic chemist in the research group, is working to understand specific analogues of vitamin E, helping to determine what the vitamin does and how it is metabolized.

The effects of vitamin E are constantly in dispute, as it is considered by some to be an antioxidant, while others question its benefit.

The research group is now dealing specifically with the rarer (but naturally occurring) gamma form of the vitamin, whereas traditional research of the Atkinson group typically explored alpha tocopherol, the most biologically active form of vitamin E. Much of the work done by Ohnmacht involves creating these molecules, because alpha tends to be the only one readily available on the commercial market.

As a high school student, Ohnmacht worked in a very science-focused environment. He then worked for five years as a student/technician with pharmaceutical giant Hoffman La Roche in Switzerland studying advanced combinatorial chemistry. From this experience, Ohnmacht was provided the opportunity to travel to Canada. In 2003, he joined McMaster University as a research associate.

After a year at McMaster, he was persuaded by a colleague to take a look at the Master's of Science degree in Chemistry at Brock, and started in the program in September 2004. This fall, Ohnmacht was joined by his younger brother, Felix, who is enrolled at Brock in his first year of the Business Communications program.

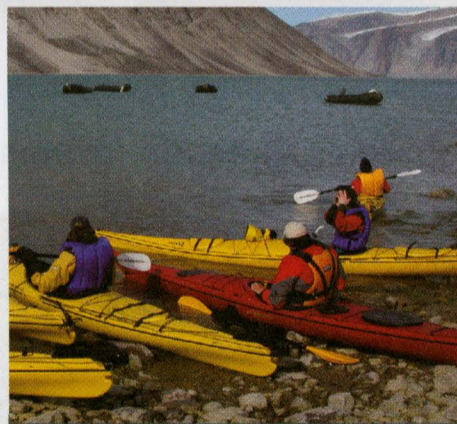
"Working with Dr. Atkinson and the rest of the research group has been an incredible experience for me," said Ohnmacht. "The training and knowledge that I am gaining here in the master's program at Brock are opening further doors of opportunity for me."

As for the immediate future, Ohnmacht is not limiting himself. "I'm certainly interested in pursuing my doctoral degree in chemistry," said Ohnmacht. "I would love to remain here at Brock, but I am willing to venture to any English- or German-speaking country."

## Continuing Education offers exciting lineup of spring/summer courses

The Continuing Education Department will deliver an exciting roster of general interest courses this spring and summer. If you enjoy gardening, photography, studying nature, being active outdoors, developing your writing skills, discovering your artistic talents, improving your personal well-being or developing yourself professionally, we're sure you'll find a course that interests you in our Spring/Summer Learning & Leisure Guide. As well, if you're looking for something to help keep your children busy during the summer holidays, a wide selection of summer art programs for children is also offered at Rodman Hall Arts Centre.

Registration for the spring and summer courses begins on Monday, March 20. To receive a free copy of the guide, please call 905-688-5550, ext. 4775, or visit [www.brocku.ca/conted](http://www.brocku.ca/conted)



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[www.brocku.ca/conted/edutavel](http://www.brocku.ca/conted/edutavel)

**Brock University**

# Modern-day voyageurs learn what it means to be Canadian

Clare Cayley and Brock graduate Drew Osborne (BSM, '03) paddled 5,200 km from Rocky Mountain House, Alta., to Montreal, Que., to raise funds and awareness for the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada. More than \$12,000 has been raised and they continue to collect donations via their website. Please visit [www.daretodream2005.com](http://www.daretodream2005.com) for full trip details or to make a donation on their behalf.

By Drew Osborne

It was high above the famous Macchu Pichu ruins near Cusco, Peru, that I first thought about paddling a canoe across Canada. During my eight-month backpacking trip through Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, several people had told me that strange things happen when you visit the ruins, that there is something in the air. You now can include me in that group.

Returning to Canada several months later, I immediately began to research the possibility of such an adventure and quickly found that it was indeed possible. In fact, it had been accomplished several times before. I asked my good friend and expert paddler Clare Cayley if she was interested in joining me on the expedition and it took her all of 30 seconds to agree to the concept. However, she wasn't entirely convinced that the route I had proposed was possible and was also concerned about



Drew Osborne and Clare Cayley.

the two-year commitment.

A week later, Clare approached me with an alternative route that was rich in Canadian history and required a one-year commitment. I agreed to the famous voyageur fur trade route and we spent the next six months working out the expedition's logistics.

It was tremendously exciting to finally put our boat in the water on April 26, 2005, in Rocky Mountain House, Alta. The first day was freezing

cold and to make matters worse, we faced a small rapid set almost immediately. Although we did our best to stay dry, the water seeped into our neoprene gloves and shoes, numbing our extremities. I swear it was sheer excitement that got us through the first few weeks of snow and freezing winds.

As the weeks turned into months and we continued to slowly move east through Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and ultimately

Quebec, one element was constantly replayed — the general kindness and generosity of Canadians. This was something that we had not given much thought to as we were planning our trip but it was absolutely refreshing nonetheless.

There are too many examples of kindness to include each one, but there are three incidents that were typical of the generosity that we were shown during our 156 days on the water.

At the crack of dawn one day, after a wicked storm on Lake Winnipeg, several First Nations Canadians approached our tent to inquire about our safety. When they realized that we had made it safely to shore before the waves reached double-figure heights, they offered us freshly caught fish and strong words of encouragement, knowing that the next two weeks on the huge lake would be extremely challenging for us.

In Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., a father of three offered us his home for two nights, complete with meals, shower and excellent conversation. He turned his whole life around for three days to help us attend media events and stock up on groceries.

In Lac Du Bonnet, Man., a Manitoba Hydro worker saw us paddling upstream on the swift Winnipeg River and concluded that we would be physically unable to paddle up river for the next several hundred kilometers. He stopped everything he was doing, loaded up his truck with all of our gear (and believe me, this was no easy feat) and drove us to the high side of the Great Slave Lake dam where the current was significantly weaker. That afternoon he missed dinner with his family to help two strangers.

Now that the trip is over and Clare and I have had the opportunity to reflect on what we accomplished, it isn't the crazy storms or the brutal bugs or the lack of food choices that we talk about. It is the short but important relationships we created with all those random Canadians along our route. They inspired us to push forward each day by showing us what generosity and compassion really are and by confirming the fact that Canadians are the finest people in the world.

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<sup>1</sup>Group auto insurance rates are not applicable in Newfoundland and Prince Edward Island. Due to provincial legislation, our auto insurance program is not offered in British Columbia, Manitoba or Saskatchewan. The home and auto insurance program is underwritten by Security National Insurance Company and distributed by Meloche Monnex Financial Services Inc.

\*No purchase necessary. The contest is open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority where they reside. The approximate value of each vehicle is \$35,000. The contest runs from January 1 to December 31, 2006. In order to win, each entrant, selected at random, must correctly answer a mathematical skill-testing question. For more details on the contest rules and on our company, visit [tdmelochemonnex.com/brock](http://tdmelochemonnex.com/brock).