

Surgite

A Brock community magazine
Vol. 9 No. 1, Spring 2017



COVER STORY

**Adam Shoalts'
amazing Arctic trek**

PLUS

Racking up more 3M
teaching excellence awards

Brock grads land at
Harvard and MIT



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in more ways than one.”

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Surgite

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

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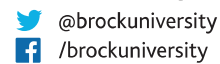
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Scholars Deming Xiong from Hubei University of Arts and Science in China, and Carolina da Silveira Scarpellini from Sao Paulo State University in Brazil each completed an academic exchange at Brock University with the assistance of Brock's Global Scholars Office.

➔ Brock's Global Scholars Office unique to Canada

BROCK HAS BECOME THE FIRST Canadian university to launch a Global Scholars Office aimed at facilitating and supporting academic exchange and collaboration.

The office, launched this spring, is a centralized service that assists international scholars and professors with the logistics of visiting the institution, while also aiding Brock academics with collaborative opportunities overseas.

Building on the success of Brock's well-established visiting scholar program, the University invested greater resources to launch the new office — a one-stop shop to provide supports and promote opportunities for both inbound and outbound academics looking to participate in international research and teaching experiences.



➔ Brock University alumna Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry, CEO of the Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games Host Society.

Brock partners with 2017 North American Indigenous Games

BROCK'S DEPARTMENT OF SPORT MANAGEMENT is partnering with the Toronto 2017 North American Indigenous Games.

More than 60 students will volunteer and receive course credit during the July event, which has a Brock alumna at the helm.

Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry (BA '00) was named CEO of the Games — the largest continental sporting and cultural gathering of indigenous peoples.

The eight-day event, from July 16 to 23, will be attended by more than 5,000 athletes and 2,000 volunteers, along with spectators and dignitaries from across North America.

Trudeau-Bomberry has also been named the 2017 Faculty of Social Sciences Distinguished Graduate and will be recognized for her achievements as a leader and role model in September during Homecoming weekend.

Goodman launches business analytics centre

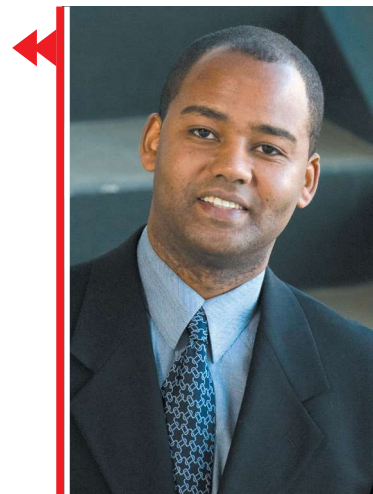
BROCK UNIVERSITY'S GOODMAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS knows that big data is having a huge impact on the business world.

After introducing a business analytics specialization to the MBA in 2014, Goodman expanded that focus to launch a new Centre for Business Analytics, for which a grand opening was held in March.

The new interdisciplinary research hub will help the business school connect with other disciplines at Brock, and with the business community to make a meaningful impact on Niagara.

The sheer amount of data that organizations can use to their advantage is staggering and is pointing to a shift in data-driven decisions based on insights gained from analytics.

With support from the Goodman School of Business, the Centre is led by Professor Anteneh Ayanso.



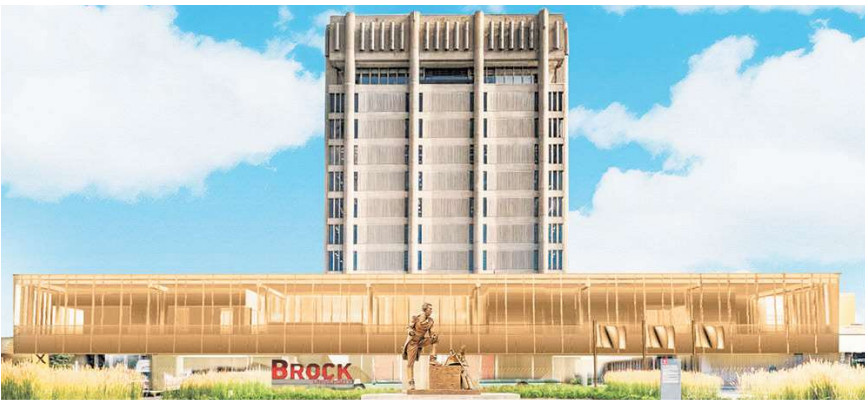
➔ Professor Anteneh Ayanso is at the helm of the new Centre for Business Analytics launched by Brock's Goodman School of Business.

The Brock News wants to hear from you

BROCK'S CONNECTION to its community of students does not end at convocation — and the Brock News wants to hear more about that ongoing bond.

The University's source for news wants to hear about how the Brock experience has helped to shape the lives and careers of alumni. Was there a professor who offered sage advice that has made an impact? Did a co-op opportunity give you the experience needed to land your dream job? Did a research project open your eyes to a career that had never before landed on your radar?

Tell us your Brock story and it may be used in an upcoming Brock News article. Send us a few paragraphs about your experience, along with your name and contact information, to campusnews@brocku.ca.



A rendering of the Brock LINC project.

Big changes at Brock's Tower entrance

BROCK IS UNDERGOING A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION, with the space in front of Schmon Tower preparing for an overhaul.

In April, work began on the new Brock LINC, a \$19.2-million initiative that will create two storeys of striking new learning and innovation space in what is now the covered but open-air forecourt of the University's original landmark building.

To accommodate construction, the Schmon Tower forecourt has been barricaded off and the front doors of the Tower closed. The entrance is expected to remain closed until spring of 2018, and the Tower lobby will be inaccessible for parts of the summer of 2017.



Goodman School of Business students celebrate with their trophies after arriving back at Brock University from winning School of the Year at the 2017 JDC Central competition in Ottawa.

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BROCK UNIVERSITY ALUMNI wanting the latest news on their alma mater need look no further than The Brock News. The University's digital newsletter has been expanding its outreach among the Brock community through brocku.ca/brock-news. The online news source for all things Brock delivers daily updates right to your inbox. Subscribe online at brocku.ca/brock-news/subscribe.

Brock raises the bar with Experiential Education definitions

BROCK, IN JANUARY, became the first Canadian university to have its Senate adopt a set of definitions for the experiential education that students receive.

The move was so significant that the University began receiving calls from institutions across the country wanting to know how it was done.

Defining and categorizing experiential learning means more opportunities for students to gain transferable skills that lead to careers after graduation.

Brock remains committed to bridging the gap between academic learning outcomes and transferable employment experience.



Student Feby Jose, left, gets tax preparation help from Accounting Co-op students Alyssa Gambel and Shreya Verma.

Goodman students go on winning streak

STUDENTS FROM BROCK UNIVERSITY'S Goodman School of Business spent Winter term showcasing their skills and earning prestigious titles.

In January, Goodman students brought home one of the most coveted trophies in Canadian university business competitions. The team earned School of the Year, in addition to several first- and second-place finishes, during the JDC Central case competition in Ottawa, the largest undergraduate business school competition in the country.

More wins followed shortly thereafter with Goodman students taking home a record-breaking 18 medals at the DECA U Provincials, tripling Brock's 2016 medal count at the competition.

A trio of Goodman students — Celine Nguyen, Sylvie Nguyen and Shubhra Rishi — were also part of a five-member team that won first place at the Startup Weekend York Region competition. The team wowed the judges with an entrepreneurial pitch for a food app, Feed Me.



Juno winner conquers classroom by day, studio by night

By Maryanne Firth

WHILE HER NIGHTS ARE SPENT crafting her next musical masterpiece, Diana Panton's days are spent moulding young minds at Westdale Secondary School in Hamilton.

The Juno award-winning artist, and Brock University alumna, performs a delicate balancing act between her time in the classroom and in the studio.

The Canadian jazz vocalist is a two-time Juno winner and five-time nominee, most recently taking home the 2017 Children's Album of the Year award for her latest studio release, *I Believe in Little Things*. She previously took home the Juno for Vocal Jazz Album in 2015 for *Red*.

While Panton (BEd '04) takes great pride in her musical accomplishments, she also has a rewarding career as a French immersion drama and visual arts teacher.

Fuelling the fire for both passions is no easy task, but one that is made manageable by good organizational skills.

"I try to pass these skills along to my students and model for them how to keep themselves organized," Panton says.

She tries to focus on music when school is out — during March break, Christmas holidays and throughout the summer.

"It means that I don't get much down time," she says, "but it is important for me to incorporate my music into my life."

Panton realized long ago she would have to learn to travel down both distinct paths simultaneously, with careers in teaching and music, in order to find herself fulfilled.

She used that knowledge as motivation when she became a teacher candidate at Brock's Hamilton campus.

Panton found herself inspired by the "wonderful community spirit that was fostered at Brock," which she feels endures years later in her new role as an alumna.

That was recently seen, she says, when her former Brock French instructor Gail Phillips reached out to offer congratulations on the latest Juno win.

It was a touching gesture for Panton, who was inspired by Phillips' notion in the classroom that by making learning more fun, it is often more successful.

"She showed us how to incorporate games and music into our lessons to make them more engaging," she says.

Panton credits Brock for helping her to learn "a plethora of valuable techniques and strategies.

"The instructors were very caring and supportive," she says. "They helped build confidence, which is such an integral part of the learning process."

Hoping to provide some inspiration of her own, Panton had some staunch advice for Brock students balancing more than one passion.

"Where there is a will there is a way," she says.

"If you are passionate about something, you will carve out the time and your passion will fuel you to do what you love. Remember that you do not need to follow in someone else's footsteps — this is your life and you can forge your own path, however unconventional it might be."

Panton's music is available on iTunes.

Brock alumna Diana Panton (BEd '04) is a two-time Juno award-winning jazz singer.

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Brock
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After a long day of intensive research at Harvard and MIT, Brock alumni Kiel Ormerod, left, and Lee Belding relax at one of the Boston-Cambridge area's renowned neighbourhood pubs.

Brock success for these grads led straight to **Harvard and MIT**

By Heather Junke

FROM BROCK UNIVERSITY TO MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, Kiel Ormerod and Lee Belding have a lot in common.

Both arrived at Brock as undergraduate students in the Faculty of Mathematics and Science, and both stayed to obtain a PhD. As graduate students, each won prestigious scholarships and awards, amassed impressive records of publications and presentations, and conducted research in other labs as visiting scholars.

They left their marks as leaders, too. Both sat on Brock's Graduate Students' Association, and each served a term as GSA President.

So it shouldn't be any surprise that life after Brock took both scholars to Cambridge, Mass., and two of the world's most prestigious institutions.

“My first week (at Harvard), I went to two lectures that were given by Nobel Prize laureates.”

—Lee Belding (BSc '10, MSc '13, PhD '16)

Graduating in 2015 with a doctorate in Biological Sciences, specializing in Neurobiology and Physiology, Ormerod began a postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Not to be outdone, Belding — who received his PhD in Chemistry in 2016 — then accepted a postdoc fellowship about 15 blocks down the street at Harvard University. The two institutions were recently ranked among the Top 6 in the world by the Times Higher Education Supplement.

At MIT, Ormerod works in Building 46, an advanced research complex where he is in a group led by biology and brain sciences professor Troy Littleton. Building 46

was a key consideration when Ormerod was weighing his postdoc options, which included Harvard as well as Cambridge University in the UK.

"The dynamic of being a postdoc is to find a niche for yourself that will provide you with the freedom to pursue a research direction within a team of dedicated researchers," he said. "MIT was my fit."

Ormerod also wanted to be working within a supportive research environment, as he was at Brock alongside his supervisor Joffre Mercier. Ormerod has found that under the leadership of Littleton.

"Like Joffre's lab, I'm surrounded by a supportive and genuine team of researchers with a strong feeling of connection in what we do. That's important to me."

Ormerod has established himself as a gifted electrophysiologist whose research is focused at a basic level of molecular science, seeking to better understand how cells in the body communicate with one another. ("The role of basic science is key to being able to understand when things break down in disease.")

Amid his intensive research life, Ormerod has also carved out time and energy to sit on the board of directors of the MIT Postdoctoral Association (PDA).

"Being part of Brock's GSA was a big part of my life," he said. "After being at MIT for a year, I felt that I was missing the experience

of being involved in the greater community of my peers. It's a way to give back, and I find doing that very fulfilling."

Meanwhile at Harvard Yard, just down the street, Belding is living a chemist's dream.

"My first week, I went to two lectures that were given by Nobel Prize laureates," he said. "I saw and met Harvard faculty and researchers who feature prominently in all the chemistry textbooks of my student days."

“MIT was my fit.”

—Kiel Ormerod (BSc '09, PhD '15)

Belding is definitely undaunted when it comes to challenges. That spirit helped drive his success at Brock, beginning as an undergraduate in 2005 and carrying through his PhD degree. Along the way he garnered an impressive string of prestigious research funding awards, including graduate student scholarships from NSERC and Ontario's QEII-GSST.

He also amassed a strong publication record, and left Brock with 17 research papers published in high-ranking peer reviewed

journals. In his final year of PhD studies, he was the lead author of an article published in the esteemed *Journal of Organic Chemistry*. Supervised by Professor Travis Dudding, Belding even designed the illustration that was featured on the publication's cover.

"My research experience at Brock was nothing but positive," he said. "It's really cool when you're pushing the frontiers of what you are doing, and you are the expert in what you are doing. There is no one, arguably not even your supervisor, who knows the material as well as you. So it's nice to be at the top of your field."

In securing his position at Harvard, Belding was thrilled to join a research group led by world-renowned chemist George Whitesides.

"Whitesides is a larger-than-life figure. He's worked in every field of chemistry you can think of, and has made groundbreaking contributions along the way. He leads a large and highly diverse research group that is very well equipped, and their work has led to many important advancements," Belding said.

"As part of the Whitesides group, it hasn't taken me too long to reach a point where I have a good feeling about the research ahead."

Harvard University's Edward Mallinckrodt Chemical Laboratory in Cambridge, Mass.





Students in Sherri Vansickle's Indigenous Culture and Early Childhood Education course, including Courtney Baxter and Susan Lepore, spent two months collecting donations to create care packages for Attawapiskat First Nation. The donations were packaged in early March.

Class provides aid to **Attawapiskat**

By Maryanne Firth

RATHER THAN SIMPLY EDUCATE HER STUDENTS about the crisis in Attawapiskat, Brock lecturer Sherri Vansickle hoped to inspire them to create change.

As part of her Indigenous Culture and Early Childhood Education course, Vansickle introduced a social justice component that encouraged her students to make a difference in the Northern Ontario community.

Home to about 2,000 people, Attawapiskat has long been in a vulnerable state, but was recently plagued by suicides that have left the community in crisis.

Vansickle, with Brock's Tecumseh Centre for Aboriginal Research and Education, shared history of the area with her students, in addition to also addressing residential schools, systemic racism and the poverty that exists in indigenous communities.

In January, the class decided to launch a campaign to collect clothing, hygiene products and school and medical supplies to ship to children, adults and seniors in Attawapiskat.

The donations were rounded up in early March and divided into care packages that were shipped in April. About 25 large boxes of goods were collected.

"The intent wasn't to go out and buy things, it was to engage people in your circle — friends, family, co-workers — and to spread awareness about Attawapiskat," said third-year Early Childhood Education student Susan Lepore.

Many of the people Lepore approached knew little about the indigenous community and the living conditions that have left its population in a vulnerable state.

"It's about spreading the message one person at a time," she said, adding many people were eager to contribute once they learned more about the cause.

Fellow ECE student Courtney Baxter made a Facebook page and a passionate plea urging people to donate to the campaign.

"I felt I had to raise that awareness," she said. "You hear about things like this happening overseas, but to have it happening within our province is shocking to me."

Lepore believes the initiative will have a lasting impact on her career working with children.

"It showed us that you have to be the change you want to see in the world," she said. "Sometimes people don't know how to help, how to take that first step. We can be that first step."

Vansickle believes there was significant engagement in the project in part because students were given the reins and allowed to shape the initiative.

"It's about having input in your learning journey," she said. "They began learning about First Nations issues and then had a chance to make a real difference in people's lives."

She's hopeful her students will continue to seek out opportunities to incite change as they move into the workforce.



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Adam Shoalts (BA '09) will traverse diverse landscapes during his 4,000-kilometre trek across the Arctic that began this spring. (Photo credit: Alexia Wiatr)

Alone across the Arctic

By Maryanne Firth

AS MODERN-DAY VOYAGEUR Adam Shoalts (BA '09) ventures to the Arctic this spring on an amazing one-man expedition, he's doing so with signature red Brock gear that's sure to stand out against the tundra.

In mid-May, the 31-year-old Pelham native departed his home in Sudbury, intent on honouring the country he loves dearly with an epic adventure.

To commemorate Canada's 150th birthday, Shoalts plans to spend five months walking and canoeing thousands of kilometres across the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut. And as he traverses the great northern landscape, following a route from the Alaska border to Hudson's Bay, he'll be warmed — literally — by reminders from his alma mater.

Brock University is a co-sponsor of Shoalts' exhibition, contributing lightweight, quick-dry outerwear to help during his Ulyssean excursion through forest, muskeg and tundra.

While dreaming up trip possibilities to mark Canada's milestone birthday, Shoalts began researching a canoeing trek that took teams of travellers from Vancouver to Halifax in 1967 in celebration of the country's first 100 years.



Recreating that journey was appealing, but Canada has changed a lot in 50 years, and today that original '67 path would basically bring him to a Tim Hortons every third day. The intrusion of civilization and pop culture were not in his game plan.

"To up the ante and keep the route in the wilderness, I figured I'd take it to a new extreme and do it across the Arctic," he said in the days leading up to his sendoff.

Shoalts hopes the expedition will encourage Canadians to "think more about the country's northern wilderness and what kind of future it might have over the next 150 years."

Few people realize the "incredibly diverse" landscapes the country's remote north has to offer, he said, with most envisioning a land filled with ice, snow and little else.

"I'll be covering about 4,000 kilometres across a variety of landscapes: the spectacular peaks of the Richardson Mountains, low-lying muskeg, black spruce and tamarack forests, high-walled granite canyons, raging whitewater rivers, slow-flowing muddy streams, sandy deserts, lush tundra cloaked in wild flowers, flat plains, rolling hills, rugged outcrops, and yes, quite a bit of snow and ice," Shoalts said.

With a route that, by necessity, is mainly upstream, the adventurer will brave the elements, experiencing temperatures expected to fluctuate from -15 C to 25 C.

"I'll be travelling at a pretty frantic pace, so there won't be much time to dwell on anything — this is a race against the seasons," he said.

"My biggest concern is ice conditions and adverse winds. Those are two major factors outside my control that could prevent me from reaching my goal."

As a self-proclaimed fan of taking the road less travelled, the Brock alumnus left the comforts of home both prepared and excited for the challenge ahead, as well as thankful for those who have stood behind his dreams of exploration.

"To have the support of my old University means a lot," Shoalts said.

"Some people may think, '4,000 kilometres alone across the Arctic? That's crazy!' so to have Brock step up and give me a vote of confidence in what I'm doing is very welcome."

Shoalts said he's thrilled to be able to "show a bit of school pride" throughout his journey in hopes of inspiring the next generation of Brock students to chase their dreams, "no matter how unlikely they might seem."

When thinking back to his time on campus, Shoalts' mind naturally drifts to the University's Map, Data and GIS Library.

"I'd have to thank the map library and the excellent map librarians there, who may not remember me, but were always extremely patient and helpful when I would come in to pore over topographic maps when planning expeditions," he said.

Shoalts continues to apply those skills, doing extensive research while planning his travel routes, studying satellite imagery and maps closely to commit as much to memory as possible.

"That saves time in the field and encourages a deeper connection to the land," he said.

He will be travelling as light as possible, with only the bare essentials strapped to his back and contained within his 15-foot solo prospector canoe.

In addition to his expedition backpack, he'll have two watertight plastic barrels crammed with food rations, camera equipment and other gear.

"Minus the 53-pound canoe, my gear weighs around 75 pounds," he said, "not counting, when fully replenished, around 100 pounds of food rations, which diminishes with each day until I reach one of my re-supply points."

Also within his pack are a few good books, that, along with the wildlife he's likely to encounter, are sure to keep him company.

Shoalts found his love for reading and learning was nurtured during his time at Brock.

"I really soaked up the atmosphere; listening to lectures, engaging in seminar discussions

and, my favourite, just wandering the library and perusing the shelves almost at random for books that interest me," he said.

Although he felt the bookish behaviour "might sound strange coming from someone who does extreme adventure," Shoalts thinks the academic grounding he received at the University "helped me to bring things into sharper focus, and strike the right balance on my journeys between adventure and research."

Once Shoalts returns to Ontario in late September or early October, he intends to share tales of his expedition through various Brock speaking engagements.

"Hopefully I can help inspire others in the Brock community to chase their dreams by letting them see that I started in the same place — from an undergrad sitting in a Brock lecture hall to alone in a canoe traversing Canada's Arctic," he said.

"If I can do that, anyone can achieve their dreams."

Shoalts, a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, has written two books and published more than 100 articles on various subjects related to exploration and the environment.

He was honoured in March with the young author's Speaker's Book Award from Ontario legislature Speaker Dave Levac.

He was recognized for his latest book, *Alone Against the North, An Expedition into the Unknown*, which details his 2012 expedition to Hudson Bay Lowlands, where he canoed along the uncharted waters of the Again River.

Receiving the award was a "welcome surprise," Shoalts said. "I was happy just to make the shortlist. To actually win was such an honour."

For updates on Shoalts' latest adventure, visit adamshoalts.com.

“I’ll be travelling at a pretty frantic pace, so there won’t be much time to dwell on anything — this is a race against the seasons.”

—Adam Shoalts (BA '09)



Modern-day adventurer Adam Shoalts (BA '09) is embarking on a daring five-month solo journey to mark Canada's 150th birthday. (Photo credit: Alexia Wiatr)

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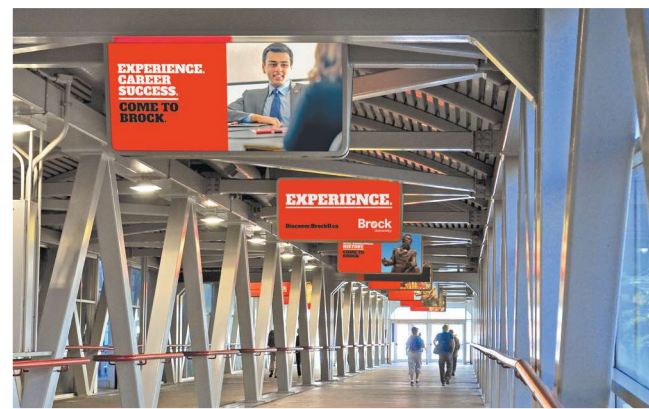
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Brock's 'Experience.' campaign has been drawing attention across Ontario after being launched in September 2016 in one of Canada's busiest thoroughfares — the Skywalk of Toronto's Union Station, the Pearson Express station and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.



'Experience.'

campaign captures Brock's momentum

By Maryanne Firth

EXPERIENCE. It's a single word used to describe all that Brock life encompasses — one that has stopped people in their tracks and caused them to take notice.

Experience is at the centre of Brock University's most recent brand campaign, launched in the fall of 2016 to highlight the institution's top experiential education programming, exceptional student and campus life experience rankings, and above-average graduate employment rates.

The campaign, which has been drawing attention across Ontario, was developed to tell Brock's story and shed light on opportunities for the exceptional experiences offered by the University, whether in a classroom or lab, at a co-op placement or through on- and off-campus activities.

It was first introduced last September in one of Canada's busiest thoroughfares, with Brock's message of experience and success displayed in the Skywalk of Toronto's Union Station, the Pearson Express station and the Metro Toronto Convention Centre.

The campaign has since been popping up with great impact in many strategic locations, using banners, billboards, bold poster walls, massive floor decals and large-scale digital screens to catch the eye of prospective students.

"Experience matters, and Brock University is an exceptional choice for students looking to gain the experience they need to be successful after graduation," said Gord Hunchak, Associate Vice-President, External Relations. "The 'Experience.' campaign packages Brock's leadership in experiential learning opportunities, our top-quality programs and the renowned campus experience students rave about into one clear and succinct message."

The results to date have been overwhelmingly positive, as the new campaign has contributed to the record crowds that poured into Brock's Fall Preview Day in November, and the Spring Open House in April, two of the University's most important events in the annual student recruitment calendar.

The April event itself drew nearly 5,000 prospective students, parents and other guests from across Ontario, representing a 12 per cent increase over 2016.

This increased interest in Brock is translating into increased application numbers, and more importantly, a large increase in the number of students choosing the institution as their first choice for the Fall of 2017.

"While the 'Experience.' branding is still new and fresh, we will continue to develop and evolve the platform to ensure more students, their parents and potential community partners see and hear the Brock message," added Hunchak. "If you want to be successful, come to Brock. It's a great story to tell."



Nicola Simmons, Assistant Professor of Education, and Tim O'Connell, Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies, won two of this year's 3M National Teaching Fellowships.

Brock profs earn top national 3M awards

By Maryanne Firth

BROCK UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS Tim O'Connell and Nicola Simmons have been honoured with this year's coveted 3M National Teaching Fellowships.

Considered Canada's most prestigious prize for teaching excellence at the university level, only 10 are given out nationwide each year.

It was announced in February that O'Connell, Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies, and Simmons, Assistant Professor of Education, would be recognized with the award for their outstanding contributions to education.

O'Connell was humbled by the honour, but quickly acknowledged his students, colleagues and Brock's administration who have impacted his classroom success.

"It really is a group effort," he said. "I don't think you can be a good educator without having great people to work with. There are a lot of people behind this."

O'Connell, who joined Brock in 2006, has received significant praise for co-founding the BaseCamp leadership program, where novice students with little experience in outdoor recreation are teamed

with senior students for five days of hiking, canoeing and rock climbing to help foster student success and confidence. It's a model that has been adopted as a best practice by other Canadian universities.

Simmons, in the Department of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies in Education, has also made her mark on the country's educational landscape. She established Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Canada, chaired the Educational Developers' Caucus, and served as vice-president for the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

Simmons, who began her post-secondary teaching career in 1986, continues to use innovative methods to engage students. Her approach may lead students to rewrite a course reading as a free verse poem, build with Lego in order to consider the connection be-



Tim O'Connell, Professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies, assists student Patrick Miller during a BaseCamp rock climbing trip.

tween theory and practice, or examine the learner experience by participating in a martial arts class.

While both winners like to take unconventional approaches in the classroom, they said it's their campus support systems that allow those innovative methods to succeed.

"You can't teach or lead if there aren't people willing to come along with you," Simmons said. She feels the 3M Award also celebrates the trust shown to educators in the classroom.

Anna Lathrop, Brock's Vice-Provost, Teaching, Learning and Student Success, praised Simmons and O'Connell for their outstanding contributions to the University.

"It's clearly a reflection of not only their dedication within the classroom, but also how they have enriched the culture of teaching across the Brock campus, thereby contributing to the scholarship of teaching and learning both provincially and nationally," she said. "I can't think of two more eminently deserving faculty members."

The selection of two of Brock's faculty to win this award in a single year clearly demonstrates Brock's emphasis on teaching excellence and student-centred learning, Lathrop said.

"Ensuring a fantastic student experience is a key goal at Brock and great teaching is central to that end," said Tom Dunk, Provost and Vice-President, Academic.

O'Connell and Simmons are "keeping Brock's tradition of pedagogical excellence alive and well," he said. "We are all extremely proud of them and grateful for their dedication and commitment to their craft."

Since 1989, Brock faculty members have won 11 of the 3M Awards, ranking in the Top 5 among all Ontario universities.

The 3M National Teaching Fellowship awards will be presented at the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education conference in Halifax in June.



Nicola Simmons, Associate Professor of Education, used a martial arts class to give her adult teaching and learning graduate course students a lesson on experiencing as first-time learners.

Brock University 3M Fellows

2017: Tim O'Connell, Recreation and Leisure Studies

2017: Nicola Simmons, Graduate and Undergraduate Studies in Education

2010: Zopito Marini, Child and Youth Studies

2007: David DiBattista, Psychology

2004: Lorne Adams, Physical Education and Kinesiology

2004: John Mitterer, Psychology

2003: Maureen Connolly, Sport Management

2001: Anna Lathrop, Physical Education

2000: Barry Joe, Communications, Popular Culture and Film; Germanic and Slavic Studies.

1991: Donald Ursino, Biological Studies

1989: Clarke Thomson, Geography

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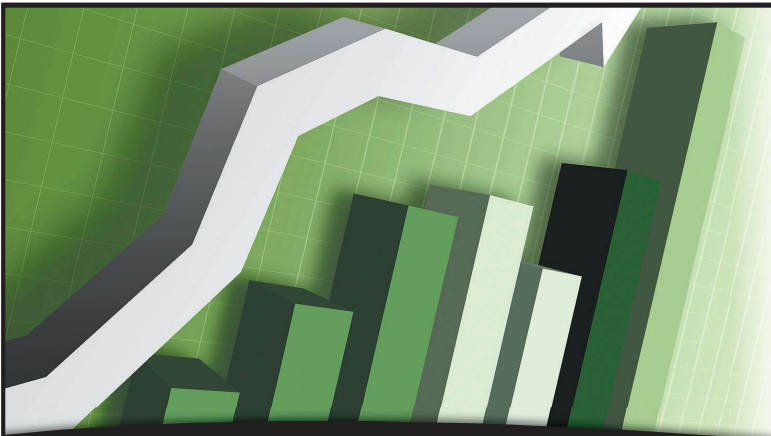
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Brock University's main campus will serve as an athletes' village during the 2021 Canada Summer Games.

Brock to play key role when **Canada Summer Games** come to Niagara in 2021

By Dan Dakin

WHEN ONTARIO TOURISM Minister Eleanor McMahon announced at the end of March that Niagara had won the 2021 Canada Summer Games, it was also a win for Brock University.

To win the bid, Niagara edged out strong efforts from Ottawa, Sudbury and Kitchener-Waterloo-Cambridge.

The Canada Summer Games will bring more than 5,000 athletes and 30,000 visitors to Niagara in the summer of 2021. It has been projected that the Games will have an economic impact of more than \$200 million across all of Niagara, creating hundreds of jobs and leaving a significant infrastructure legacy for the benefit of Niagara residents.

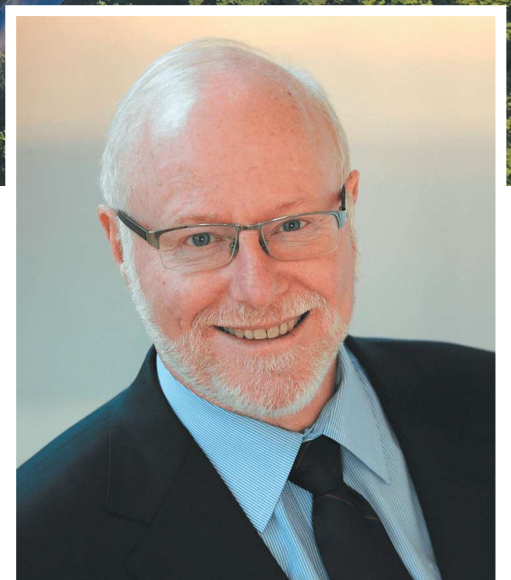
"This is a wonderful result for everyone

in our region," Brock President Tom Traves said at the time of the announcement. "Brock is proud to be part of Niagara, and proud to be one of many important partners on this collaboration."

Brock, which has residences and food services that normally support thousands of students, will serve as an athletes' village during the summer event. The University will also provide a home for almost half of the 17 athletic events taking place as part of the competition.

Tom Arkell, who played a lead role for the University on the bid committee called the successful bid a "region-wide effort."

"It will result in the building of much-needed facilities that will provide an exceptional experience for athletes from Niagara and all across Canada," said Arkell, Special Advisor to the Vice-President.



Tom Traves, Brock University President



Tom Arkell, Special Advisor to the Vice-President



Lilian Tomovich (BA '89) has made a name for herself in the world of marketing in Las Vegas, Nev.

From Brock to Vegas: resort manager to be honoured at **Homecoming**

By Erin Court

IT SEEMS AS THOUGH Lilian Tomovich (BA '89) hit the jackpot — though luck had little to do with her big win.

It was a long track record of hard work and success that helped to catapult the Brock University alumna into the role of Chief Experience and Marketing Officer at MGM Resorts International, based out of Las Vegas, Nev.

Tomovich, the Brock University Alumni Association 2017 Distinguished Alumna, is an accomplished and passionate marketing executive who operates a portfolio of more than 15 destination resort brands, including Bellagio, MGM Grand and Mandalay Bay.

In her role, she is responsible for all marketing functions of the brands, with a special focus on perfecting the guest experience through innovation, marketing technology and exceptional service.

“ It is an acknowledgement of what is possible for any Brock University graduate.”

—Lillian Tomovich (BA '89)

Her focus on delivering the best guest experience possible led her to be a respected business leader who takes pride in being recognized as a top manager in the industry.

Reflecting on her time at Brock, Tomovich recalled the strong sense of community, diversity and inclusion she felt as a student — all of which she continues to cherish today.

“I am incredibly thankful for the wonderful experiences and lifelong friends I made,” she said.

Tomovich was thrilled to learn she is the recipient of the 2017 Distinguished Alumna award, to be presented during the Alumni Recognition Reception on Saturday, Sept. 16, as part of Homecoming weekend celebrations.

“It is an acknowledgement of what is possible for any Brock University graduate,” she said.

“For me, it is an extra special acknowledgement as my father (Victor) was a Sociology professor at Brock for 29-plus years, and I know he would be proud.”

Tomovich plans to return to campus in September to accept the award and participate in the popular Homecoming celebration.

She will be joined by a number of other outstanding alumni also being recognized for their achievements and ongoing connection to Brock University.

The Alumni Recognition Reception takes place on Saturday, Sept. 16 at 2 p.m. in Lowenberger Dining Hall.

2017 Faculty Distinguished Graduate Award winners:

Faculty of Applied Health Sciences:
Jeff Dykeman (BSM '05)

Goodman School of Business:
Martin Philp (BAdmin '80, MA '86)

Faculty of Education:
Steffanie Bjorgan (BA '90, BEd '90)

Faculty of Humanities:
Sarah Argue (BA '06)

Faculty of Mathematics and Sciences:
Tony Abou-Asseleh (BSc '01)

Faculty of Social Sciences:
Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry (BA '00)



School spirit is always high at the Steel Blade Tailgate Party — a highlight of Homecoming weekend in September



Thousands of alumni are expected to pack the Meridian Centre in downtown St. Catharines for the Steel Blade Classic hockey game during Homecoming weekend.

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Alumni Pub Night

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Alumni Recognition Reception
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SUNDAY, SEPT. 17

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Student Don Chapman at Brock University's first Convocation day in 1967.

“I returned in 1968 for the first-ever Homecoming and cannot wait to see what this year brings.”

—John Auld (BA '67)

Brock's founding president, the late Dr. James A. Gibson, mailed Auld a Brock University hood and robe years ago.

“I wore it proudly to each and every convocation I attended,” Auld said, while reflecting fondly on the gesture.

The Class of '67 has always shown immense pride and loyalty to each other and to the University.

“We were all really good friends,” Auld said, adding he is saddened that many of his classmates and professors are no longer around to share in the celebrations.

Just as the graduates are proud of their connection to their alma mater, Brock is equally proud to call the group of wise, inspirational and educated individuals its first graduating class.

The University wishes the Silver Badgers a happy golden anniversary.

Brock celebrates first-ever 50th class reunion

By Erin Court

EVERY JUNE, students gather with excitement to cross the stage at Convocation and, just like those before them, they are anxious and optimistic about what lies ahead.

The tradition — and the attached emotions — has remained the same since Brock's first graduates, known as the Silver Badgers, celebrated their accomplishments in 1967.

This year, that inaugural Brock University class will mark the 50th anniversary of its graduation during Homecoming weekend from Sept. 15 to 17.

With a name that placed him at the top of the Convocation list, John Auld (BA '67) was the first graduate to ever cross Brock's stage.

He's eager to return to campus to reconnect with past friends, classmates and faculty during the September festivities.

“I returned in 1968 for the first-ever Homecoming and cannot wait to see what this year brings,” he said.

Auld, who went on to become a professor of consumer studies at Guelph University, has missed some Homecoming celebrations over the years, but always makes sure to return to his old stomping grounds for the University's milestone events. He enjoyed returning to his alma mater for Brock's 25th, 40th and 50th anniversary celebrations.

Auld said his connection to Brock has remained strong over the years, with past friendships and memories made during his time on campus considered a cherished part of his life.



Brock University's first graduates, the Class of 1967, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation during Homecoming weekend in September.

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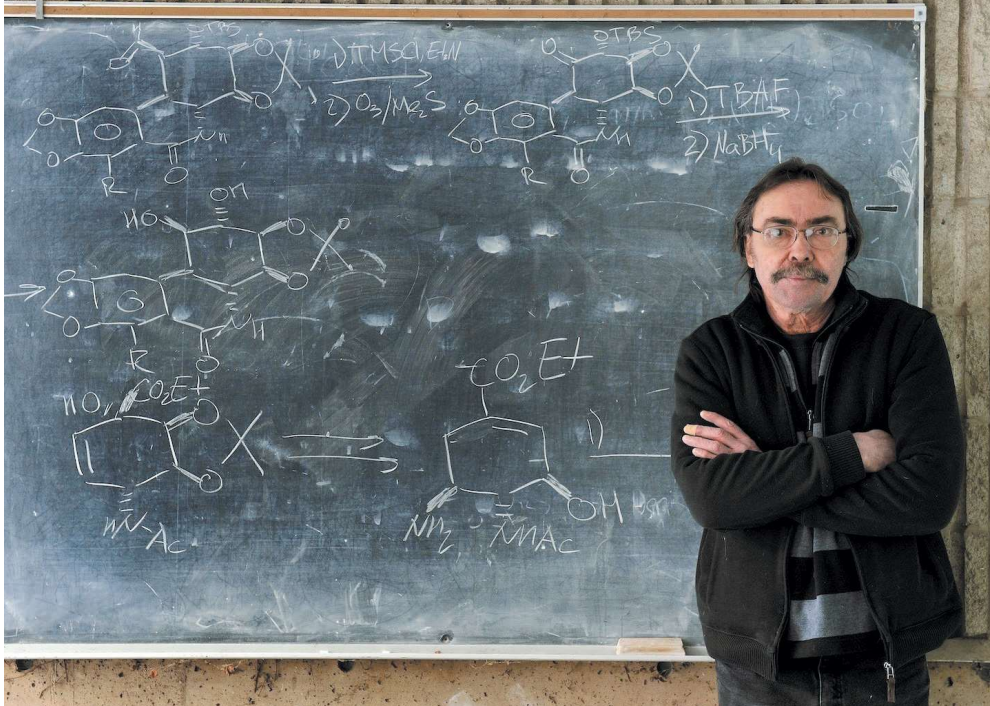
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Brock scientist's patented compound is turning out to be a cancer killer



Tomas Hudlicky: a career of breakthroughs in green chemistry.

By Cathy Majtenyi

BROCK UNIVERSITY CHEMISTRY PROFESSOR Tomas Hudlicky, one of North America's top organic researchers, has developed a synthetic compound that appears to be capable of killing cancer cells while leaving healthy cells intact.

Hudlicky — the Canada Research Chair in biocatalysis, and a fellow in the Royal Society of Canada — has created several variations of the compound pancratistatin, which has been tested on 20 different types of cancer cells by a research team at the University of Windsor.

The team's paper, Cancer Cell Mitochondria Targeting by Pancratistatin Analogs is Dependent on Functional Complex II and III, appears in the journal *Scientific Reports*.

Hudlicky's previous breakthroughs in green chemistry have led to more efficient and environmentally conscious ways to create synthetic versions of morphine and other drugs.

Scientists have known for some time that pancratistatin (PST), a substance found in the spider lily, causes cancer cells to die. But the low rate of natural production (it takes a kilogram of spider lily to produce less than 2 mg of PST) has long hindered research and clinical advancement.

"The aim is to make the new and active derivatives available for the manufacture of anti-cancer drugs," says Hudlicky.

He has spent more than 25 years researching PST's chemical structure and constructing molecules that had similar structures and functions.

A key part of constructing new drugs involves manufacturing "unnatural derivatives" of natural compounds such as PST. The Windsor research team found that Hudlicky's PST derivatives target a cancer cell's mitochondria, a structure within a cell that is responsible for respiration, energy production and cell apoptosis (or programmed cell death). Current cancer treatments tend to attack

DNA in both cancerous and healthy cells, but mitochondria is specific to each cell and can be more precise.

Hudlicky says it's still not clear how and why PST brings about cell death, but some of the new synthetic derivatives made in his laboratory "are actually more potent and more bioavailable than the natural compounds."

'Bioavailability' measures how much of a substance, such as a drug, is absorbed into a living system and how quickly it is absorbed.

Hudlicky is continuing with research on discovering and manufacturing anti-cancer compounds that can be used in drugs to treat

the disease. With funding from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) and a Canadian pharmaceutical company, he is developing derivatives of Amaryllidaceae alkaloids, some of which are isolated from daffodils and snowdrops.

Hudlicky has also formed a partnership with McMaster University chemistry profes-

sor James McNulty to develop more compounds that can be used in effective cancer treatment, efficient pro-drug design, and other commercial uses.

McNulty has developed techniques for the isolation of naturally occurring compounds in high yield and also semi-synthesis from natural intermediates and total synthesis of selected alkaloids. In addition to the discovery of compounds that exhibit potent anti-cancer activity, the Amaryllidaceae framework has allowed the discovery of congeners with potent and selective antiviral activity, for example to herpes viruses (HSV-1 and VZV) and one of the most active compounds reported to date against the Zika virus.

McNulty and Hudlicky together have more than 50 years of experience in the isolation, synthesis and modification of Amaryllidaceae alkaloids. The discovery of other valuable biological activities is under active investigation including many other biomedical and agrochemical applications.

“The aim is to make the new and active derivatives available for the manufacture of anti-cancer drugs.”

-Tomas Hudlicky



The Brock men's and women's wrestling teams captured their 23rd and 24th U SPORTS National Championships at the University of Winnipeg in February.

Brock continues Canadian wrestling rule

By Shawn Whiteley

OVER THE PAST 37 YEARS, Brock University has built a reputation in the wrestling world for producing elite athletes who deliver on the mat.

That dynasty in Canadian university sport continued in 2017, with both men's and women's teams successfully defending their Ontario and then national championships, adding to the impressive list of wins earned through years of sweat and determination.

What began as a program with a mere two wrestlers in 1980 has evolved this year to include about 50 team members.

In the past three decades, Brock's wrestling team has taken home numerous provincial and national championships, as well as medals at high-profile international events including the Commonwealth and Pan Am Games, FISU (International University Sports Federation) and the Junior and Senior World Championships.

The team has also claimed three Olympic medals.

Most recently, the Brock men's and women's wrestling teams captured both the Ontario University Athletics (OUA) and U SPORTS titles for the fourth consecutive season.

For the men, it meant adding a 16th national title to an already stacked resumé.

Similarly, the win earned the women their seventh national crown since the team's inception in 1998.

At the 2017 Junior and Senior National Championships, hosted by Brock in March, the Badgers had their best finish in the program's history, capturing a total of nine individual weight classes.

Chris MacIsaac became one of only a handful of athletes in Wrestling Canada history to capture both the junior and senior nationals on back-to-back days. Also capturing gold at the Junior Nationals were Ty Bridgwater and Hannah Taylor.

At the Senior Nationals, Jevon Balfour, Jessica MacDonald, Diana Weicker, Michelle Fazzari and Olivia Di Bacco all took home gold.

Brock's wrestling program has captured a total of 59 championships — 24 national and 35 provincial — in its history.

"The success of our program is a culmination of hard work put in by so many people," Head Coach Marty Calder said, while crediting all who had a hand in propelling Brock Wrestling to greatness.

"It really has been a collaborative effort that helped us achieve so much. We remain hungry for more. That is prevalent in the work that our athletes and practitioners are willing to put in, day in and day out," Calder said.

"We believe we have so much more suc-

cess coming our way in the future."

The Badgers have produced more wrestling Olympians than any other Canadian school, including Dave Hohl (1992, 1996), Marty Calder (1992, 1996), Colin Daynes (1996), Paul Ragusa (1996), Saeed Azerbaijan (2008), Evan MacDonald (2008), Jasmine Mian (2016), Michelle Fazzari (2016) and Jillian Gallays (2016). Jessica MacDonald was crowned World Champion in 2013.

The Badgers also produced three-time Olympic medalist Tonya Verbeek, the most decorated female athlete in Brock history.

In her three appearances at the Olympic games in 2004, 2008 and 2012, Verbeek captured one silver and two bronze medals. She is now the International Coach for Wrestling Canada, helping build the country's future Olympians.

Brock's wrestling program was started in 1980 under head coach Richard DesChatelets — a former standout wrestler.

He worked to build the program each year, leading to Brock's first national championship in 1992.

The Badgers went on to capture 10 straight national titles from 1998 to 2008.

DesChatelets retired from Brock in 2009 and was inducted into the Wrestling Canada Hall of Fame in 2012.

The tradition of excellence has continued under Calder, one of the most decorated male athletes in Brock's history.

He was a five-time OUA champion, four-time CIAU national champion, three-time Brock Male Athlete of the Year, seven-time Senior National Champion and two-time Olympian (1992 Barcelona, 1996 Atlanta).

In March, Calder was inducted into the Wrestling Canada Hall of Fame in the athlete category.

Calder has seen similar success in his career, earning Coach of the Year national and provincial honours 33 times.

"I am asked so frequently what sets us apart from the others," Calder said of the Badgers.

"I believe it's in our leadership and the commitment to the pursuit of excellence, which we take seriously every day. There is no wavering."

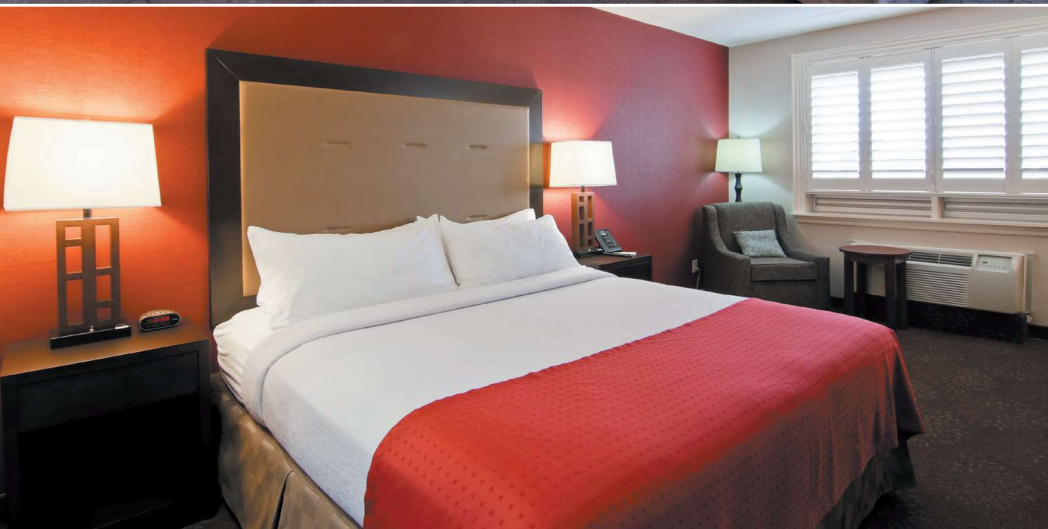
Brock wrestlers aim to exceed expectations each time they enter the gym.

"We make the most of every opportunity we have to make ourselves better today than we were yesterday," Calder said. "I think most like to say that, but few live it."

The future of Brock Wrestling looks bright with the sights of many top athletes set on the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan.



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Taylor Book (BA '14), co-owner of Beechwood Doughnuts in St. Catharines, spends her days creating sweet treats at her downtown shop.

Sweet dreams pay off for Brock alumna

By Erin Court

THERE'S NO NEED FOR TAYLER BOOK (BA '14) to sugarcoat her Brock experience.

When the 25-year-old St. Catharines native reflects on her time at the University, she fondly recalls the influence it has had on her career as a successful entrepreneur.

Although business wasn't the focus of Book's studies, the co-owner of the wildly popular Beechwood Doughnuts in downtown St. Catharines learned a lot during her Social Justice and Equity classes that she now applies to everyday life.

Book, along with her partner in life and business, Shane Belanger, considers it crucial to leverage her shop's success in order to give back to the community.

Beechwood donates \$1 from every cinnamon sugar doughnut sold to YWCA Niagara Region, an organization that provides shelter, food and other supports to people living in poverty.

In an effort to further spread kindness in the community, the business also has a Pay It Forward program that allows customers to pre-purchase coffee and doughnuts for others.

"We support the community and I make sure we promote a positive work environment," Book said while discussing her business philosophy.

The vegan doughnut shop opened its doors in January 2015, less than a year after Book crossed the stage at Spring Convocation.

That first day came with an ambitious goal—to sell 250 of the sweet treats and ultimately build a larger clientele base down the road.

"We sold out within an hour," Book said with a laugh. It was an opening that exceeded everyone's expectations.



She credited her time at Brock and involvement with campus clubs for helping to give Beechwood its initial success.

As a member of Brock Dance, and a participant in several other extracurricular University activities, Book was able to build a network and make connections with hundreds of people, many of whom have shown the doughnut shop their support.

Book and Belanger, who began the business with a single employee, had dreamed of someday selling as many doughnuts as a Tim Hortons franchise, with many of the popular coffee shops each averaging 600 doughnuts a day.

With Beechwood's brand showing no signs of slowing, the shop now employs 15 people and sells between 1,500 and 3,000 doughnuts daily.

It's not uncommon to find a lineup spilling into the sidewalk of James Street as people wait for sweet satisfaction.

"We need more space for our customers," Book said, adding the business has simply outgrown the shop where the doughnut dream began.

"We'll be relocating within the same neighbourhood sometime in summer 2017."

Although she can't definitively say what it is that draws people to the specialty doughnuts, Book believes that quality and variety play a large part.

"We offer generous portion sizes and our team is constantly creating different flavours," she said. "That keeps people coming back."

“We support the community and I make sure we promote a positive work environment.”

—Taylor Book (BA '14), co-owner of Beechwood Doughnuts

Final paper a touching tribute to a remarkable career

By Dan Dakin

IT WAS A FREE TRIP TO A MAJOR THEATRICAL PRODUCTION, so Debra McLauchlan (MEd '16) figured 'why not.' She was a high school student at the time, and a troublesome one at that.

Sitting near the back of the auditorium, the teenaged McLauchlan figured she would put on her own 'performance' that night.

"I became a persistent thorn in the side of my teachers, two of whom threatened me with expulsion," McLauchlan recalled. "I purposely surrounded myself with classmates who could be counted on to misbehave."

But something happened that night as she watched a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*.

"The lights went down, and an enormous curtain opened on a translucent scrim, and gradually emerged a purplish brush of sky, and a starkly peaked roof with a ragged fiddler perched on top.

"He began to play, and I lost my capacity to speak, to move and at times, to breathe. Throughout the performance, I sat riveted and unaware of my surroundings."

McLauchlan was silent on the bus trip home. She didn't sleep that night. Her mind was racing. She knew, in that moment, that her life's path had just been altered.

"I was going to be somehow involved in theatre for the rest of my life," she wrote.

McLauchlan's recollection of that life-changing trip to the theatre was recently published as part of her final article, "Playlinks: a theatre for young audiences artist-in-the-classroom project."

McLauchlan, a professor in Brock's Faculty of Education, passed away suddenly on Oct. 31, 2016. Her article, summarizing a study on theatre-based education in elementary school classrooms, was published in the March issue of *Pedagogies: An International Journal*.

McLauchlan's article, which she submitted in the weeks leading up to her death, is printed alongside those of her Faculty of Education colleagues Jennifer Rowsell, Shelley Griffin, Peter Vietgen and Kari-Lynn Winters as part of a special edition focusing on Community Art Zone, an SSHRC-funded international research project lead by Rowsell, Canada Research Chair in Multiliteracies.

There are nine articles in the special edition of *Pedagogies* focusing on the CAZ project, but McLauchlan's stands out, reading like an autobiography as she summarizes what led her into a remarkable career dedicated to teaching the arts.

"To enhance transparency of my perspective as a researcher in the present study, I hereby reveal aspects of my personal and professional life," she wrote, before discussing her underprivileged childhood and feeling disconnected from her early schooling. "The power of theatre to deeply touch young people resonates with my personal history."

After graduating from university, McLauchlan spent nearly two decades teaching in elementary and secondary schools, directing more than 60 student productions.



A touching final paper by Debra McLauchlan, a professor in Brock's Faculty of Education, was recently released, months after her sudden passing on Oct. 31, 2016.

"I learned that students were hungry and eager to participate in activities that allowed them to explore and communicate ideas through an artistic medium," she wrote.

McLauchlan was first hired by Brock University's Faculty of Education as a sessional instructor in 1996 and became an assistant professor in 2000. Throughout her career, she worked alongside community partners such as the Carousel Players, Shaw Festival, Theatre Ontario and St. Catharines Museum.

Though she had many articles published over the years, it somehow seems appropriate that her final piece appears alongside the work of her Faculty of Education colleagues.

"It was the little things that Debra did to mentor us as colleagues," said Vietgen, who co-authored an article with Rowsell in the *Pedagogies* edition. "It's a privilege to be in a journal that she's part of. It was an honour to call her a colleague and a mentor."

"The arts team is a close-knit group of committed art educators that work in Teacher Education," said Griffin, who also wrote an article on music in the classroom for the special issue. "Drama in education was really her craft. Her students looked up to her as a leader not only in the Niagara region, but also nationally and internationally."

The full special Community Art Zone edition of *Pedagogies: An International Journal* featuring McLauchlan's article can be found online.

A touching tribute to McLauchlan written by her former colleagues and students was also published in the March edition of *Youth Theatre Journal*.

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Privacy: Brock University protects your privacy and your personal information. The personal information requested on this form is collected under the authority of The Brock University Act, 1964, and in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) for the administration of the University and its programs and services. Direct any questions about this collection to the Office of Development and Alumni Relations, annualfund@brocku.ca.



Penny Towndrow (BA '83).

Towndrow passionate about giving back to Brock — her second home

By Kim Post

IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG for Penny Towndrow (BA '83) to settle in at Brock.

When she began her studies at the University, her home for four years, she was welcomed with open arms.

Towndrow lived and worked on campus while pursuing her education, taking on many different jobs and spending time as a residence don.

Recognizing the value of the experience she received during her time at Brock, in addition to earning her degree, Towndrow is motivated to see the University continue to excel.

She's eager to give back to her alma mater and to make a difference in the Brock community.

While working in the life insurance industry, Towndrow learned about the ability to make a philanthropic gift of life insurance — a form of giving few people are familiar with.

"Brock felt like home to me and I want to leave something as a thank you," Towndrow says.

She's able to fulfill that wish by making a monthly donation to Brock, in addition to a gift of life insurance she has committed through her estate.

Towndrow is proud to be an example of giving in this way, which will ensure her support is in place for years to come.

She has had many positive experiences with the University and wants future generations of students to have those same opportunities.

For more information on how you can make a gift of life insurance, please call 905-688-5550 x4190.



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