

Surfite

A Brock community magazine
Vol. 9 No. 2, Winter 2017



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and a new era**

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amazing Arctic journey

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Brock cancer prediction model



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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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Brock News



Brock has been selected as one of five Canadian host sites for new Rowing Canada hubs.

Brock selected as national rowing hub

Brock University is among five Canadian host sites selected for new Rowing Canada hubs aimed at identifying and training up-and-coming national-calibre rowers.

Rowing Canada announced Oct. 26 that Brock University, the University of British Columbia, the University of Victoria, Western University and Trent University have been selected to host the Rowing Canada NextGen Hubs.

Brock Sports Director Neil Lumsden called it a big win for the Badgers rowing program.

"This reflects on the high level of coaching within our program along with our approach to developing our student athletes," Lumsden said. "It's a reflection of our rowing program, and Brock Sports as a department."

The announcement recognizes Brock rowing's "excellent track record of promoting athletes to the national team level through good coaching, equipment and winter training facilities," said head rowing coach Peter Somerwil. In addition to the University sending 17 rowers to the Olympics over the years, nearly a quarter of the athletes representing Canada at the 2015 U23 World Championships and FISU Games were from Brock.

The NextGen Hubs will provide all-encompassing high-performance services to identify NextGen rowers. Rowing Canada said the Hubs will provide optimal coach-to-athlete ratios, extensive performance planning and enhanced technical coaching capacity. Sport science and sport medicine support will also be embedded within these daily training environments.

One-of-a-kind wine consumer research lab

Imagine being able to shop at a winery or the LCBO while listening to classical music and savouring the aromas of chardonnay and pinot grigio, all without leaving your seat.

A nearly \$1-million funding grant will help Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute establish the world's first mediated-reality wine laboratory that will combine sights, smells and sounds to help researchers study the science of consumer choice in the wine industry.

Brock's oenology and viticulture researchers are on the forefront of this leading-edge technology thanks to a \$960,000 grant from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) announced Oct. 12.

The Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and Sensory Reality Consumer Laboratory, to be known as R3CL, will be able to create a variety of environments, such as wineries, liquor stores and dining rooms, in which people purchase and consume wines. Interwoven with the scenes will be music, smells and other sensory information.

Researchers will study how a range of factors impact the research participants' choices of where and under what conditions they purchase and drink wines.

This greater understanding of consumer behaviour will help the industry to best market their wines to potential customers, says CCOVI Director Debbie Inglis.

"The concept of coupling consumer behaviour with technical tools of augmented and virtual reality is not only going to put Canadian researchers on the forefront of this research, but it's also an international first," she says.



Debbie Inglis, Director of Brock University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute.



Michael Owen is Brock's newest Dean of Education.

Familiar face returns as Brock's new Dean of Education

Michael Owen has rejoined Brock to head the Faculty of Education.

He returned to the University Aug. 15 as Dean of a Faculty in which he was once a professor. During his first tenure at Brock (2000-07), he held several senior academic administrative roles, including Director of Research Services, Director of the Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute, and Associate Vice-President, Research and International Development. He also served as a tenured professor for graduate and undergraduate studies in the Faculty of Education.

Over the past three decades, Owen has served

in academic leadership positions at universities in Ontario and Saskatchewan, including seven years at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology, where he served as Vice-President, Research, Innovation and International and, more recently, Interim Dean and Dean of the Faculty of Education.

He called it an honour to return to Brock to "lead a team of highly dedicated and talented faculty members and staff who contribute to the scholarly life of Brock and the Niagara region and to advancing Brock's mission to the cultural, social and economic development of Niagara and Ontario."



Andrew Gaudes began his five-year term as Dean of the Goodman School of Business on July 1.

Goodman School of Business welcomes new Dean

Brock's Goodman School of Business began the academic year with a new leader at its helm.

Andrew Gaudes began his five-year term as Goodman's newest Dean July 1, joining the business school at a time of growth that includes both healthy enrolment numbers and an ongoing major capital expansion project.

Recognizing that momentum has been building at Goodman in recent years, Gaudes is looking to use that energy to drive the business school forward.

"We will continue to position our students for successful, rich futures that are both personally and professionally fulfilling through our experiential opportunities," he said.

Prior to his position as Dean of the University of Regina's Hill and Levene Schools of Business, Gaudes was at the University of New Brunswick from 2003-2012, where he served in several prominent roles. Before becoming an academic, he worked in architecture and interior design.

Brock teams up with Town of Lincoln

A unique partnership formally connecting Brock University and the Town of Lincoln is expected to benefit students and residents into the future.

Officials from both organizations came together in October to launch the Brock-Lincoln Living Lab, kicking off a long-term relationship that stemmed from a Memorandum of Understanding signed in February 2017. The MOU's goal was to create opportunities for students and advance the Town's overall development.

The Brock-Lincoln Living Lab will focus on addressing specific local needs around community sustainability and well-being. Brock faculty and students will contribute to the lab's work through their research and the partnership offers a conduit for experiential education that extends curriculum into the community.

"The relationship between Brock and the Town of Lincoln is blossoming and represents a wonderful example of how collaboration can benefit everyone," said Brock University President Gervan Fearon. "Brock is a comprehensive university with a clear mission to serve local communities and the lab announcement directly speaks to this mission."



Town of Lincoln CAO Mike Kirkopoulos, Mayor Sandra Easton, Brock University President Gervan Fearon and Environmental Sustainability Research Centre Director Ryan Plummer sign an agreement to create the Brock-Lincoln Living Lab.



Jannatec Technologies Senior Research Scientist Steffon Luoma and Brock University Professor of Kinesiology Stephen Cheung at a training mine in Sudbury.

Cheung works on 'smart suits' for miners

It's like something out of a Star Trek episode: a suit that cools down when the person who wears it gets hot.

But unlike a prop in the sci-fi show, research for this suit is happening now, and the place it will be worn is on Earth — or more specifically, far under the Earth's surface.

Brock University Professor of Kinesiology Stephen Cheung, known in the industry as Dr. Freeze, has partnered with Sudbury-based mining company Jannatec Technologies to create a vest for miners with the technology to monitor and control body temperature.

"The idea is to develop a smart, personal cooling system miners can wear that will get feedback on their internal physiology," explains Cheung, who is a Canada Research Chair in Environmental Ergonomics.

The vest is aimed at 'ultra-deep miners' — workers who mine copper, nickel, tin and other minerals as far as three kilometres below the Earth's surface.

To aid in not only uncomfortable but at times dangerous conditions, the vest, using thermoelectric ribbons, would be relatively lightweight and have a high level of adjustability in terms of the intensity and location of cooling.

Bottling passion proving fruitful for this alumnus

By Sarah Moore

If there was ever a Brock alumnus destined to work between the grapevines, it's Shiraz Mottiar (BSc '00).

With a fitting name and the drive to succeed in the wine industry, 2017 proved to be a particularly fruitful year for the Oenology and Viticulture (OEVI) graduate.

Mottiar was awarded the coveted 2017 Winemaker of the Year designation at the Ontario Wine Awards last spring, a testament to his nearly 20 years of work in the industry. The lead winemaker at Malivoire Wine Company, Mottiar transforms grapes from the company's Beamsville vineyard into award-winning wines. In 2017 alone, Malivoire wines won five Ontario Wine Awards.

"It was a huge honour to receive the Winemaker of the Year award and I appreciate all that it represents," Mottiar said. "Being a winemaker at Malivoire has been a great gig. We've strived to always be at the forefront of what's current in wine, while continuing to build on the traditions we've established as proven winners."

Mottiar, who was among the first graduates of the OEVI program out of Brock's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute (CCOVI), began his career in wine working as a cellar hand with Malivoire in the fall of 2000. Aside from spending one year working in Australia, he's been honing his craft with Malivoire ever since, eventually taking on lead winemaking duties in 2005.

Mottiar shared insight into the labour of love that is crafting a great bottle of wine in the September edition of LCBO's Vintages magazine, where he was featured as the cover story.

"We spend months planning and preparing for the harvest and yet, there will always be something unforeseen — an opportunity or a new challenge," he said of the excitement that springs up during harvest season. "It's the time when the quickest growth in our abilities occurs, which will create new discoveries and possible new approaches for the future."

Mottiar's winemaking will take the international stage as he joins 11 other Niagara winemakers in crafting Chardonnay for the International Cool Climate Wine symposium. The event will take place at Brock in 2020, attracting hundreds of grape and wine researchers, trade professionals and media from wine regions around the world.

"Clearly, I want to continue to make exciting wine right here in Ontario — that doesn't change," he said. "I think the opportunity for these wines to reach a greater profile internationally is something I want to see more of and I'll continue to work to make that happen."



Shiraz Mottiar, one of the first graduates of the Oenology and Viticulture program, was named the 2017 Winemaker of the Year at the Ontario Wine Awards.

"I think the opportunity for these wines to reach a greater profile internationally is something I want to see more of and I'll continue to work to make that happen."

— Shiraz Mottiar (BSc '00)



Mottiar was the host and a member of the judging panel at the 2017 Experts Tasting run by the University's Cool Climate Oenology and Viticulture Institute.

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START

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Race against time: 4,000 km across Canada's north

By Maryanne Firth

Winter is coming. Through blustering winds, treacherous terrains and sleepless nights, those three words remained a mantra in the mind of Adam Shoalts (BA '09).

When the modern-day voyageur set off to conquer the Canadian Arctic in May, he knew it would be a race against time to reach the finish line by September.

During every twist and turn of the amazing one-man expedition, the Brock History grad could feel Mother Nature breathing down his neck, threatening to usher in winter without warning.

But with determination on his side, the 31-year-old Pelham native was able to complete his journey through the remote wilderness unscathed, living to tell the tale of the four-month adventure that saw him walk and canoe an incredible 4,000 kilometres across the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut — from the Alaska border to Hudson Bay.

"There were a lot of unforeseen issues, but overall I feel like it went extremely well," he said from his home in Sudbury, a few days after flying back from the conclusion of his epic saga. Shoalts completed the marathon, done in honour of Canada's 150th birthday, on Sept. 6, slightly ahead of schedule.

"Through the whole journey, I just kept telling myself, 'Winter is coming. Winter is coming.' Winter can set in as early as mid-

August, putting things to a halt. I knew I just had to keep going."

With the clock ticking down each day, Shoalts felt the pressure to keep pushing forward.

"I was like a drill sergeant inside my own head, saying, 'Keep going. You don't need to rest.'

"On normal expeditions if I woke up to rain pounding on my tent and high wind gusts, I would wait it out and hunker down. There's no point in getting drenched to the bone. But on this expedition, I didn't do that at all. I'd just screw up my courage, put on

my boots and head out in the wet weather, because tomorrow could be worse."

Knowing that the next day might bring a snowstorm or unbearable winds helped keep the young adventurer going, often putting in a 15-hour day that began in the early morning hours.

One of his biggest challenges was dealing with ice floes that made it dangerous to navigate the waterways on his route, causing delays. Some days the abundance of ice left him stranded on shore, while others, he was able to break through blockages to slowly continue his journey.

But ice wasn't the only obstacle the Arctic threw his way.

Some days the wind was so fierce that it was impossible for him to canoe at all.

"I would be trying to canoe down current, but because the wind was going in the opposite direction, it was almost reversing the flow. I would try to paddle but end up spinning like a corkscrew, 360 degrees."

Rather than quit, Shoalts often strapped on his waders, got into the water and dragged the canoe behind him.

It meant going at a significantly slower pace, but he found comfort knowing that at least some progress was being made. During the expedition he did this mode of travel on foot through water for hundreds of kilometres, leaving his waders torn to shreds.

When the water became too dangerous, Shoalts — and his gear — was forced back on land.

Doing a portage took multiple trips back



Shoalts on the road: "I knew I just had to keep going."



Dealing with ice floes was one of the biggest challenges Shoalts encountered on his journey.

and forth — one with his canoe, two with a barrel of supplies each, and a fourth with his backpack. Four kilometres of progress required nearly 30 kilometres of walking.

"All that said, my progress was much faster than I ever dared to hope," Shoalts said. "You have to hope for the best but plan for the worst, because anything can happen."

While travelling over rocks and mushy tundra could be exhausting, the most treacherous and psychologically taxing stretches came on the icy water. For instance, there were many "white-knuckled moments" during his crossing of Great Bear Lake, which took about two weeks and 430 kilometres to complete.

"I'm in this huge lake, the eighth largest in the world, in a 15-foot canoe that's not meant for open water of that size. There was a lot of ice to complicate things, strong winds to paddle against and the water was very cold.

"There were times I was paddling for 15 hours consecutively without a break because I was afraid I wouldn't have another calm stretch (of weather). I had to take advantage of it."

It meant throwing any regular sleep cycle out the window and immediately hitting the water the moment the lake calmed. Of course, this was made a little easier by the Arctic's near 24-hours of daylight that lasted for the first three months of his journey.

"I could go out at any hour of the day," he said, "and often I did."

When August arrived and nights began getting longer, Shoalts was stunned by a sight that had once been so commonplace.

"I remember when I saw my first star on

the expedition. It looked like a really shiny diamond in the sky. I hadn't seen a star for three months. It was so incredible. I'll never take it for granted again."

Isolated but not alone, Shoalts often found himself surrounded by wildlife.

He encountered several grizzly bears, had a close encounter with a territorial muskox and shared a moment with a family of Arctic wolves, the young pups trotting and jumping along the banks of a river as Shoalts paddled his canoe just offshore.

"When you look a wild wolf in the eye and it looks right back, it's almost an indescribable feeling. It's really special to see such a magnificent animal in its natural habitat."

As you might expect, such an extreme journey was not without its harrowing moments. About three weeks in, Shoalts was awoken by the sound of a branch snapping.

A red squirrel, he hoped.

Instead, he unzipped his tent to find a large black bear that had wandered onto his camp. In attempt to scare the animal off, he began yelling loudly, even shooting a loud flare, known as a 'bear banger,' into the air.

"The bear didn't even flinch." Instead, it responded with a growl.

Shoalts grabbed his paddle, banged on his canoe and then held his ground until the bear retreated.

"I had to then force myself to go back to sleep. I knew if I couldn't fall asleep, I'd never complete the expedition. Every night could be just like this one.

"I tried to banish fear from my mind. Eventually, you just don't think about the bears anymore."

Now that he's safely returned to the comfort of home, Shoalts is busy sharing details of his adventures and Canada's history at a variety of speaking engagements, which included a special presentation at Brock University in December.

"It means a lot to me to be able to give back to the Brock community and to encourage students to chase their dreams," said the History grad. "I hope I can inspire students to push the boundaries and make their own path."

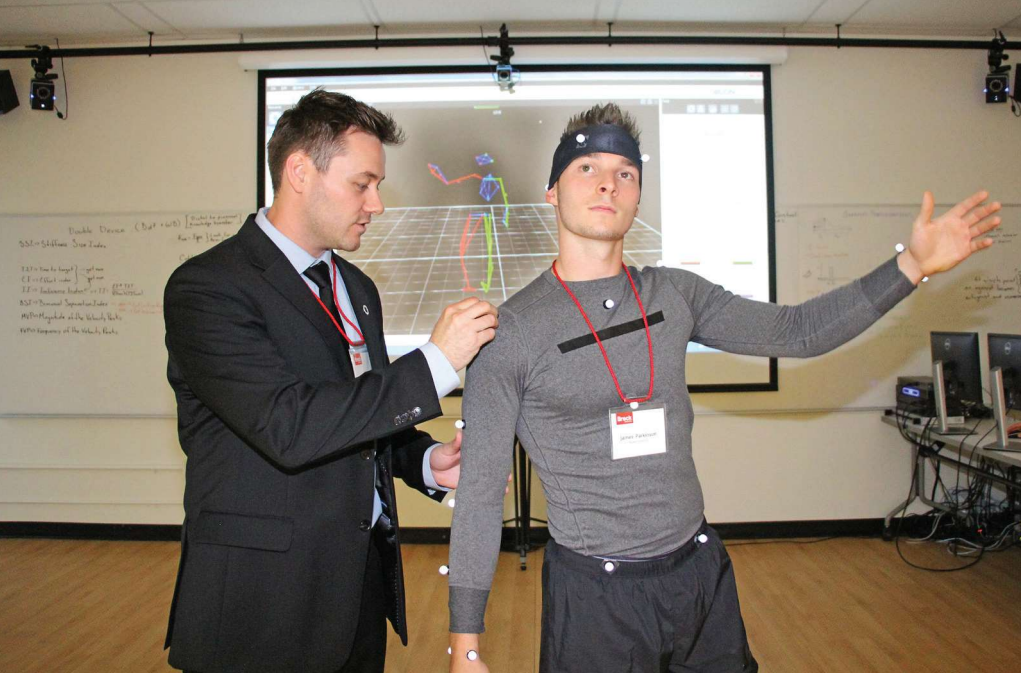
Brock University was a co-sponsor of Shoalts' exhibition, contributing lightweight, quick-dry outerwear to help during his excursion through forest, muskeg and tundra.

Shoalts, who released a new book in October, *A History of Canada in Ten Maps: Epic Stories of Charting a Mysterious Land*, plans to write about his latest adventures in the near future.

While he has no lengthy expeditions planned for 2018, the Royal Canadian Geographical Society Fellow will be joining the organization on a two-week journey in Antarctica this winter..



Shoalts took along the flag of his alma mater, which was a co-sponsor of his expedition.



Brock Kinesiology Assistant Professor Michael Holmes works with student James Parkinson in the new Neuromechanics and Ergonomics Lab.

New lab puts workplace injury under the microscope

By Colleen Patterson

Michael Holmes believes work shouldn't hurt.

The assistant professor in Brock's Department of Kinesiology has focused his research efforts on turning that sentiment into reality.

With the use of state-of-the-art technology in a newly unveiled Neuromechanics and Ergonomics Lab, Holmes and his team of researchers are aiming to improve workplace conditions.

"By studying how people move and use their muscles on the job, we will be able to rethink and redesign workplace tools and spaces to make occupational tasks safer and more efficient," says Holmes, the Canada Research Chair in Neuromuscular Mechanics and Ergonomics.

His research, which seeks to find ways to prevent injuries, has previously helped nurses experiencing lower back pain due to patient handling, police officers and emergency responders who spend a lot of time in vehicles, and office workers, among others.

"By evaluating and redesigning equipment, we are able to reduce the physical demands associated with repetitive activities," Holmes explains. "For example, working with industry partners such as Notion Medical, we tested and evaluated a new IV pole which reduces the amount of overhead reaching required by nurses to load IV bags. This is a task that

doesn't appear to be physically demanding, however, when performed repetitively, over time injuries can develop."

Brock came together with various community partners Oct. 3 to officially unveil the new lab, a first of its kind for the University.

With funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the newly renovated space features more than \$150,000 in state-of-the-art biomechanics, neurophysiology and

"Through research collaborations with other Brock kinesiologists, community and industry partners, I hope to keep making healthy differences in people's lives."

—Michael Holmes, Kinesiology Assistant Professor

ergonomics equipment, including motion capture cameras, robotics, brain stimulation and electromyography.

"This isn't a typical ergonomics lab," says Holmes. "It offers a unique and innovative approach to studying workplace injuries by combining techniques from neurophysiology and biomechanics.

"It will allow us to better understand how people become injured as a result of their work by simulating workplace tasks and then developing ergonomic interventions to reduce that injury risk."

The robotics technology used in the lab has applications for pilots who control joysticks as well as surgeons, dentists and construction workers who regularly hold tools for their jobs. This technology, which is one-of-a-kind in Canada, will also help improve current rehabilitation protocols for individuals with neurological impairments or those currently unable to work as a result of a workplace injury.

"The goal of this lab is to benefit the lives of Canadians and the vitality of our communities," Brock University President Gervan Fearon says. "While this research has applications for several occupations and professions at the national level, the Niagara community can look forward to immediate benefits resulting from community and industry partnerships."

In the past year, Holmes has been awarded more than \$800,000 in federal and provincial funding from the Canada Research Chairs program, Canada Foundation for Innovation's John R. Evans Leaders Fund, with matching contributions from the Ontario Research Fund for Small Infrastructure Funds, and a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grant. Funding from the Canada Research Chairs program and NSERC supports Holmes' graduate students, who are instrumental to the lab's success.

"Our scientists need the best tools and equipment for groundbreaking research and discovery, and we are committed to ensuring they have them," says the Honourable Kirsty Duncan, Minister of Science. "Their successes will lead to an improved economy and will fuel an active research community here in Canada and internationally."

Work plays an "extremely important role in our lives, taking up the majority of our days," says Roseann Runte, President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation. "At the CFI, we understand the importance of supporting the best design of space and equipment to improve the health of all Canadians in and outside of the workplace."

Work-related pain and injury to the upper extremity are primary reasons for illness, sick leave and disability among workers, but each person is different, says Holmes.

"Through research collaborations with other Brock kinesiologists, community and industry partners, I hope to keep making healthy differences in people's lives."

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Brock
University



Brock University welcomed Dr. Gervan Fearon as its new President and Vice-Chancellor on Aug. 1.

A new President and a new era

By Maryanne Firth

For Brock University's new President and Vice-Chancellor, the job is about engaged leadership, which means listening and communicating with the Brock community in support of the University's mission.

It began on day one. When Dr. Gervan Fearon arrived on campus the morning of Aug. 1, he was instantly shaking hands, learning names and gaining insight. He has kept his ear to the ground ever since, eager to hear where students, staff and faculty believe the institution's focus should lie.

Initial impressions confirmed Fearon's sense of a student-centred University, and his first few months in the post have affirmed the passion that Brock's faculty and staff have for propelling students

along a path to successful futures.

"Because of that dedication, Brock has a reputation across Canada for providing an amazing student experience and student engagement," he said. "There's a sense of commitment around the University. People want to be a part of what we're doing, but also want to engage in conversations about the bigger picture, what we'll be doing and where we are going over the next five, 10 years."

Brock today is a bustling comprehensive university, where teaching and learning meet research, where broad-based academic programs include liberal arts and sciences as well as professional programs.

But Fearon says the bigger discussion will still be crucial as Brock determines the next steps in its journey. As technology and society evolves, "we need to be a part

of the dialogue about the future of the Niagara region, the province, the country and our world around us."

He said the University must play a major part in contributing to the healthy development of its host communities, and help shape the talent pool of the future.

Brock is anchored in the Niagara region, he says, but with "national excellence and an international voice. We need to be relevant to the lives of the people we serve and relevant to the questions facing society and humanity."

"We need to ask ourselves, what's needed, and how can we contribute to meeting student and societal needs as well as support the development of faculty and staff members."

Fearon, who came to Brock after serving as President at Brandon University in

Manitoba, has long been fascinated by how education and universities have a substantial impact in small, often subtle ways.

"When I go out for a meal and look at my dinner's nutritional value, I know there's a researcher who, once upon a time, put the work in to provide me with information I take for granted every day. When I go to a hospital, I know the individuals serving me, from intake all the way up to their best doctors, administrators and staff members, have pursued their educational goals in order to contribute to the lives of those around them.

"Universities in one way or another have been a part of making lives better for many individuals and communities — it is motivating and inspiring to know the importance of the work we do every day at Brock University."

Besides building communities, he also knows from personal experience the impact that education can have for individuals. Born in Birmingham, England, with Jamaican parents, Fearon's family emigrated to Canada in 1968. He saw how his own parents worked hard to ensure that all four of their children could attend university.

"I know what it meant to my parents for us to have the opportunity to go to university, and what it has meant for me and my siblings in terms of what we've been able to accomplish and contribute in our lives. There are other families and community members with those same aspirations and, through the work I do alongside my colleagues at the University, we get to support their dreams and possibilities.

"Our children also have all pursued university-level education and, as our parents did for us, we have emphasized the importance of contributing and supporting others who may not have had the same opportunities or who have faced overwhelming challenges."

A strong believer in giving back, Fearon sees his role in education as a chance to pay forward the support he once received from teachers and professors. This October, during his

"Getting out into the community is another chance to say 'thank you' for those years of support and commitment to the institution."

— *President Gervan Fearon*

first Fall Convocation ceremony at Brock, he was emotionally moved when looking into the audience and seeing proud families celebrating the new graduates march across the stage.

"We recognize the achievement of a new generation of individuals who will go on to motivate others in their own ways," he mused. "It's a gift to be President of this University. What a gift we have as a University to contribute to society in this way."

Fearon emphasized the important role all members of the Brock community — alumni included — must play in bettering the institution. By sharing their accomplishments and the paths they've taken, they inspire today's students and motivate Brock faculty and staff to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

"Indeed, our alumni show everyone at the University how their hard work pays off 10, 20, even 50 years down the road."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



The President joins a member of the Brock community for a selfie during Homecoming weekend in September.



At the annual Opening of Term event in August, taking time to meet and mingle with Brock staff members.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Fearon makes a point of getting off campus and into the communities of Niagara, speaking to local groups, participating in parades and representing the University at various conferences. Besides letting him talk about the “outstanding efforts taking place at Brock,” it also gives him a chance to keep a finger on the community’s pulse.

“Getting out into the community is another chance to say ‘thank you’ for those years of support and commitment to the institution,” he said.

“I get to hear what individuals and organizations are hoping the University can help them with, support them with and partner with them on. I can carry these ideas back to the University, where we can challenge ourselves on how we can actually make these partnership initiatives possible.”

Since moving to the region, Fearon has also connected with the Niagara Folk Arts Multicultural Centre, which provides settlement services to newcomers to Canada. His own life experience helped him to understand the important role all members of society play in welcoming newcomers and creating a sense of belonging.

“Working with local community organizations is my way of saying ‘thank you’ and giving back.”

He also enjoys exploring new areas of Niagara, or burying himself in books that span a huge range of interests.

“I just love to read. I’ll read on the history of the Magna Carta, then read about abstract algebra. In fact, being curious helps me learn about the work being conducted by faculty and staff at the University and allows me to champion their efforts.”

There are other pastimes. Some evenings, long after students have left Brock’s Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts in downtown St. Catharines, he can be heard inside, practising the saxophone.

“I usually show up at about 11 p.m. and only a few people get to hear or see me. Maybe as I get better, I can show up earlier.”

He has been playing the sax — both alto and tenor — for about six years, and has been known to perform in the occasional jazz festival, though plans are not yet in the works for his Niagara debut.

Fearon has a blended family that includes five grown children with wife





“It is motivating and inspiring to know the importance of the work we do every day at Brock University.” — *President Gervan Fearon*

Kathy Moscou, an artist and pharmacist with a master’s degree in public health and Ph.D. in pharmaceutical science and global health. She shares his passion for volunteer work, and the couple, who are recent grandparents, enjoy travelling and donating their time to various causes around the globe.

“I like to contribute, instead of just experiencing,” Fearon said, while recalling trips to Kenya and Nigeria in recent years that had him engaged in international projects.

“Whether local or international, it’s just such a privilege to give your time and skills to the betterment of others. For me, it’s just an incredible joy.”

But he always returns to the campus.

“Universities are special places. They are about contributing to the future of our students, communities, country and others. Brock has a unique history and a promising future, one that I look forward to forging together with colleagues and stakeholders.”

Photos at left (from top to bottom):

Brock University Students’ Union President Faisal Hejazi looks on as Graduate Students’ Association President Shannon Kitchings, right, helps Brock President Gervan Fearon with his robe during the installation ceremony at Fall Convocation Oct. 13.

Gervan Fearon speaks with guests at the celebratory dinner held in his honour following his official installation as Brock’s sixth President Oct. 13.

Brock University President Gervan Fearon and basketball player Donald Mims were all smiles during September’s Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Grande Parade.

Photo above:

President Gervan Fearon wasn’t afraid to get right in the mix during the University’s messiest tradition, the annual Grape Stomp held as part of Homecoming weekend.



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Brock's first graduating class, including Brooke Broadbent at far left, celebrated its 50th anniversary during the Alumni Recognition Reception held as part of the University's Homecoming weekend.

Class of '67 grads journey back to Brock

By Erin Court

It was the summer of 1964. *Mary Poppins* was on the big screen, the Beatles ruled the airwaves and the first-generation Ford Mustang had just hit the road.

And in downtown St. Catharines, a small group of students gathered to attend the first classes at Brock University in the basement of St. Paul Street United Church.

Brooke Broadbent (BA '67) remembers it like it was yesterday.

Then an 18-year-old Grade 13 student from Newmarket, Broadbent recalls when he first drove to Brock's administrative offices at 15 Welland Ave. to meet with Registrar Ernest Goldsmith.

With impressive grades on his side, he was promptly accepted into Brock, joining what would become the University's first graduating class.

"President (James A.) Gibson at the time invited me to attend Brock University and I remember casually meeting with the registrar while leaning on the window ledge in his office," Broadbent said. "Looking back, the admission process seemed simple — although I know now that the requirements to succeed were stringent."

Broadbent had cause to reflect on those formative years this past September when he returned to campus for the Homecoming weekend celebration. He was eager to mark

the 50th anniversary of the University's first graduating class.

It was at Brock that the English major learned to express himself by writing weekly essays and used the seminar-based system to improve his confidence in public speaking.

"I can't believe that 50 years have sped by."

— Brooke Broadbent (BA '67)

"My first degree enabled me to move through life with great success," Broadbent said. "My experiences at Brock University gave me the confidence to try new things. As a result, I have taken the opportunity to work around the world, published articles and books on a variety of topics and, as a lifelong learner, have learned other languages."

Broadbent also greatly benefited from the University's 'Porch Club,' which allowed him to discuss current events after hours with his instructors and peers in a casual setting. This helped the young student develop lifelong relationships that he continues to cherish.

It was continuing to build on those relationships that had the now 72-year-old grandfather most excited to return to Brock to celebrate Homecoming weekend.

Broadbent was determined to make the long-awaited reunion, and refused to let any obstacles stand in his way.

While travelling down the long stretch of highway from Ottawa to St. Catharines, Broadbent ran into car trouble that left him temporarily stranded.

Rather than turn around and call it quits, he rented a car to complete his journey back to his alma mater.

"Worry aside after making arrangements for a rental car, my mind filled with images of the people I met at Brock — fellow students, professors and girlfriends," Broadbent said. He began thinking about his University career and the significant impact it had on his life, setting him on his future course.

In that moment, there was no turning back. He was ready to celebrate with his classmates.

"It was a milestone for me to return on the 50th anniversary of our graduation," Broadbent said. "I feel incredibly emotional about it and I can't believe that 50 years have sped by."

About two dozen members of Brock's first graduating class returned for Homecoming weekend, coming together to mark their golden anniversary — and take a trip down memory lane.



A Homecoming for the books

By Erin Court

For some members of the Brock community, Homecoming weekend prompted a walk down memory lane. For others, it created a chance to reflect on their newfound status as Brock Badgers.

Whether their connection to the University was newly minted or longstanding, alumni, students, staff and faculty who attended the annual celebration, held Sept. 15 to 17, came beaming with pride and donning the school's signature red gear.

The jam-packed weekend was filled with reunion celebrations, varsity sporting events and a community tailgate party followed by the much-anticipated Steel Blade Classic hockey game at the

Meridian Centre. With 4,975 people in attendance, the men's hockey team set the record for the biggest crowd ever for a Brock sporting event, and set a new record for highest attendance ever at a university hockey game held in Ontario.

The weekend also included the Alumni Recognition Reception, during which the University honoured several award winners and marked the 50th anniversary of Brock's first-ever graduating class, whose members were recognized with special golden Badger cameo pins.

"Brock's first graduating class is a highly dedicated and loyal group of alumni and the University was proud to honour them during their golden anniversary," said Shelley Huxley, Director, Alumni and Donor Relations.



Alumnus Ian Beddis (BSc '67, LLD '00) received his golden cameo pin from Brock University President Gervan Fearon at the Alumni Recognition Reception. The gold cameo pin is presented to alumni who graduated from Brock University 50 years ago.



There was no shortage of laughs had among alumni in the VIP Brock Alumni Lounge held at Montebello Park during the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival Sept. 16.



Hundreds of students participated in the annual Grape Stomp, Brock's messiest tradition, which helped to kick off Homecoming weekend Sept. 15.



Members of Brock's original men's hockey team reunited during the annual Steel Blade Classic Hockey Game on Sept. 15.



Brock's 2017 distinguished graduates were honoured at the Homecoming weekend Alumni Recognition Reception held Sept. 16. They are, from left, Jeff Dykeman (BSM '05), Tim Siemens (BA '90), Steffanie Bjorgan (BA '90, BEd '90), Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry (BA '00), Tony Abou-Assaleh (BSc '01), Lilian Tomovich (BA '89), who was named the Brock University Alumni Association 2017 Distinguished Alumna, Martin Philp (BAdmin '80, MA '86), Sarah Argue (BA '06) and Joanne McKee (BAdmin '86).

Brock grads were named distinguished alumni:

Tony Abou-Assaleh (BSc '01)
Faculty of Mathematics and Science
Distinguished Graduate Award

Sarah Argue (BA '06)
Faculty of Humanities
Distinguished Graduate Award

Steffanie Bjorgan (BA '90, BEd '90)
Faculty of Education Distinguished
Graduate Award

Jeff Dykeman (BSM '05)
Faculty of Applied Health Sciences
Distinguished Graduate Award

Joanne McKee (BAdmin '86)
Martin Philp (BAdmin '80, MA '86)
Goodman School of Business
Distinguished Graduate Award

Tim Siemens (BA '90)
Brock University Alumni Association
Award for Community Engagement

Marcia Trudeau-Bomberry (BA '00)
Faculty of Social Sciences
Distinguished Graduate Award

Lilian Tomovich (BA '89)
2017 Brock University Alumni Association
Distinguished Alumni Award



Brock students were among the hundreds of community members who took part in the tailgate party held before the Steel Blade Classic Hockey Game at the Meridian Centre.



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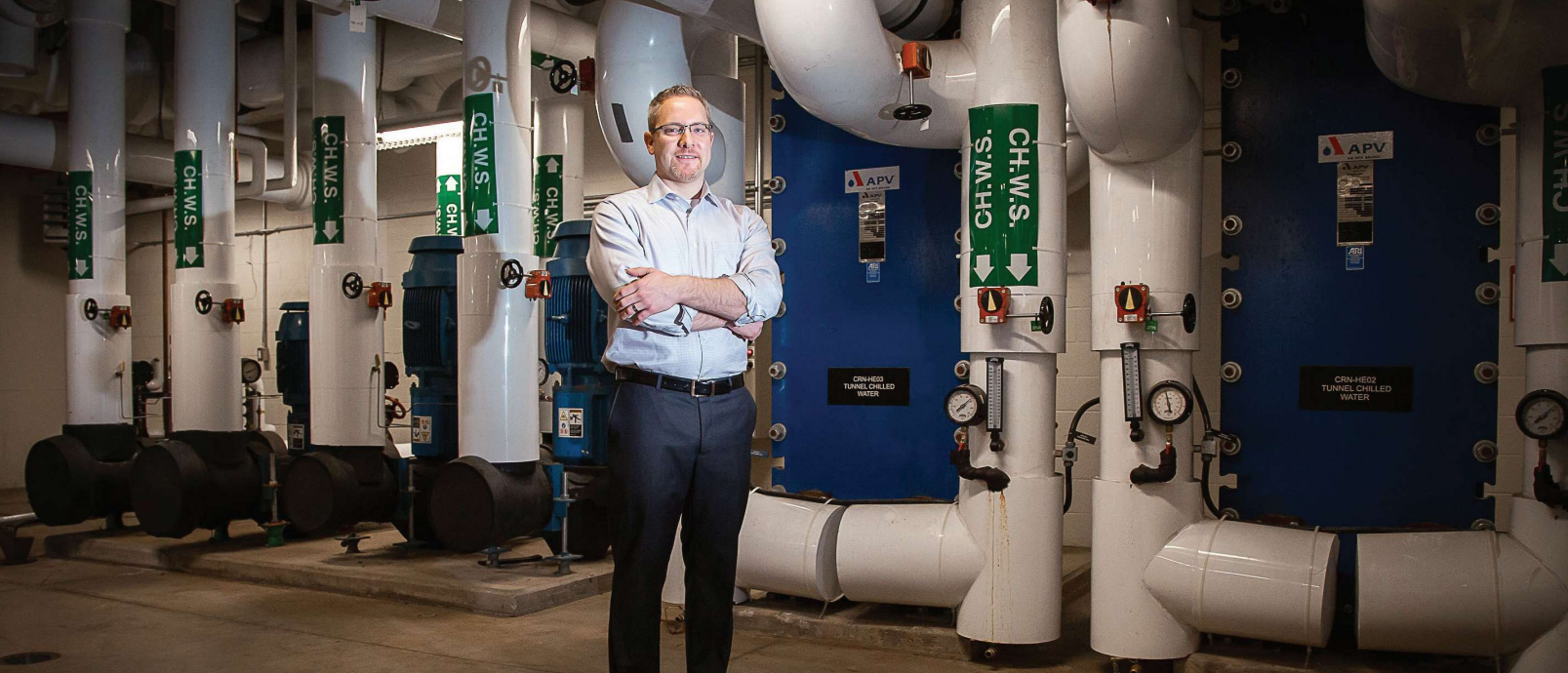
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Scott Johnstone, Associate Vice-President of Facilities Management, in the midst of Brock's cooling system.

A greener Brock is taking shape

By Maryanne Firth

They were hard to miss when they began buzzing about campus last summer. Two new Brock-branded electric Smart cars have been added to the Facilities Management fleet, contributing to the University's efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Brock has a number of initiatives on the go as work continues to achieve a goal of reducing carbon emissions by 20 per cent between 2013 and 2023.

The Smart cars replaced supervisor vehicles — one van and one SUV — previously driven around campus. The two-year-old electric cars, both with minimal kilometres, were purchased for \$10,000 each. In comparison, vans previously added to the fleet were each more than double that cost.

"We get about a week and a half on one charge just moving around campus, avoiding fill-ups at the gas pumps," said Scott Johnstone, Associate Vice-President of Facilities Management. "It means significant carbon savings."

The University sought out green options when replacing the fleet vehicles and the cars have proven to be a benefit since their introduction in May 2017.

"Our goal is to work toward carbon neutrality over time," Johnstone said, calling the Smart vehicles a step in the right direction. "We're trying to cut down on



Brock has introduced two electric Smart cars into its Facilities Management fleet.

"Our goal is to work towards carbon-neutrality over time."

— Scott Johnstone,
Associate Vice-President of
Facilities Management

burning fossil fuels as much as we can."

The University is also in the midst of its \$10.8-million District Energy Efficiency Project (DEEP), which is scheduled for completion by the end of April 2018.

The project is funded by the federal and provincial governments, through the

Strategic Investment Fund and Facilities Renewal Program, respectively.

The DEEP project includes an upgrade to Brock's co-generation plant and satellite utility areas that will allow the University to reduce its carbon emissions by 15 per cent. The plant produces electricity, heating and cooling for main campus research laboratories, teaching spaces and supporting infrastructure.

That reduction is a "huge step" toward Brock's 20 per cent reduction goal, Johnstone said.

The DEEP project will replace more than 50 per cent of the natural gas powered co-generation engines and controls with state-of-the-art, high-efficiency, electronically controlled units.

Also replaced with a high-efficiency model will be the University's 25-year-old absorption chiller, which will increase cooling capacity and save more energy.

The new technology will significantly reduce Brock's greenhouse gas emissions, while saving utility costs and reducing maintenance costs.

It's also expected to free up funds that can be put toward other energy saving initiatives and deferred maintenance projects.

Brock is currently exploring solar and wind power options for the future.



The lung cancer prediction model developed by Brock University epidemiologist Martin Tammemägi has been deemed highly effective in catching the disease in its early stages.

Tests prove importance of lung cancer prediction model

By Cathy Majtenyi

A lung cancer prediction model developed by a Brock University scientist is highly effective in catching the disease in its early stages when combined with screening and follow-up, says a new national study.

Brock epidemiologist Martin Tammemägi led a team of researchers from across the country in a first-of-its-kind study that recruited people for lung cancer screening based on the results of his lung cancer risk prediction model.

"We wanted to demonstrate that using the risk prediction model for enrolling people into the screening program was going to be efficient and successful and in fact, that's what we showed," says the professor in the Department of Health Sciences.

In the study published Oct. 18 in the journal *Lancet Oncology*, the research team recruited 2,537 participants from eight study centres across Canada between September 2008 and December 2010.

The participants, current and former smokers between the ages of 50 and 75, were identified to be at risk for developing lung cancer after filling out Tammemägi's risk prediction calculator.

They were offered computed tomography (CT scan) lung screening at the start of the study, after one year, after four years and with additional follow-ups.

Participants also filled out questionnaires measuring their quality of life.

Lung cancers were detected in 6.5 per cent of the participants. Of those lung cancers detected, 75 per cent were Stage 1 or Stage 2.



Martin Tammemägi

"We followed individuals on average for five-and-a-half years to see if they developed lung cancer and in fact, we found more lung cancers than expected," says Tammemägi. "The prediction model is a tool that is very successful at identifying individuals at risk of developing lung cancer at an early, curable stage, so that is good news."

Building on earlier efforts in the U.S., Tammemägi's model uses a wide range of factors — such as smoking status, intensity and duration, age, Body Mass Index and family history of lung cancer — along with mathematical equations, to predict the risk of an individual getting lung cancer.

The article, titled "Participant Selection for Lung Cancer Screening by Risk Modeling — The Prospective Pan-Canadian Study," says the team's findings have broad "public

health and clinical implications."

"More accurate selection of high-risk individuals for lung cancer screening appears to improve cost-effectiveness," says the study.

Funded mainly by the Terry Fox Research Institute and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, the study also found that people are less anxious about undergoing CT scanning than researchers thought they would be.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in North America and in many other countries. Five-year survival rates for lung cancer are only about 17 per cent. This is because lung cancer is usually diagnosed after symptoms have appeared and the disease is at such an advanced stage that it is no longer amenable to surgical cure.

Research has shown that if the lung cancer is detected early when it is localized, it can often be completely removed surgically and the survival rates are much higher.

Tammemägi has taken this latest research a step further by serving as Scientific Lead for Cancer Care Ontario's Lung Cancer Screening Pilot for People at High Risk.

The pilot project, based out of three Ontario centres, is the first in Canada to couple the risk prediction model with CT lung scanning, essentially replicating the *Lancet Oncology* study in public health practice.

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Brock grad Lucas Maddalena (BSc '12, MSc '17) has received a substantial scholarship to continue his cancer research at the University of Cambridge.

Grad's cancer research continues in the U.K. at University of Cambridge

By Maryanne Firth

The research that began in Brock University's labs has taken Lucas Maddalena (BSc '12, MSc '17) nearly 6,000 kilometres across the Atlantic to one of the world's most renowned institutions.

The Biological Sciences grad crossed the pond this fall in order to walk the hallowed halls of the University of Cambridge, where he has accepted a prestigious \$300,000 scholarship to complete his PhD.

When he learned of the coveted opportunity, which supports continued cancer research at the U.K. institution, Maddalena knew competition would be fierce.

He began a rigorous application process in the winter of 2016, which led to several interviews and left him waiting on the edge of his seat for a decision from the panel responsible for the selection.

"It was agonizing waiting to hear," he said of the sheer anticipation, which ultimately

led to the life-changing news. "You go over every interview question in your head — how could I have answered them better? Should I have said something different?"

With the arrival of summer came the good news, Maddalena had received his formal acceptance to Cambridge.

The Thorold native was the only overseas recipient of the Cancer Research U.K. Cambridge Centre 2017 Non-clinical PhD Studentship Award, of which five were awarded in 2017.

He began his studies at the historic school in October.

The scholarship covers three years of study, the typical length of a PhD program at Cambridge, and will support the costs of Maddalena's research, as well as his living expenses.

"It's surreal. That's probably the best word to describe it," he said of this new chapter in his life, which has him researching within Cambridge's Department of Medicine.

"I'm very proud that I took a shot at it and

was ultimately successful, and I'm extremely thankful for the many people that helped and supported me along the way."

Maddalena is working under the joint supervision of Professor Margaret Ashcroft, Department of Medicine, and Dr. Christian Frezza, Medical Research Council Cancer Unit, Hutchison Medical Research Council Research Centre.

His research continues the theme of his master's work, which explored mitochondrial function and oxygen usage in the context of health and disease.

"I'm studying two gene mutations for two mitochondrial proteins that are involved in some metabolic functions. These two mutations are found in select forms of cancer and different tumours, including certain forms of renal cancer," Maddalena said.

The two mutations lead to a pseudo-hypoxic state for the cell, making the cell think it's deprived of oxygen, which causes the cell to rewire its metabolism to be more anaerobic, surviving without the presence of air.

"That rewiring event is being increasingly recognized as a key hallmark in all cancers," Maddalena said. "I'm going to be looking at the molecular mechanisms that underlie that pseudo-hypoxic state in cancer cells."

Through this project, Maddalena hopes to uncover key details in relevant forms of cancer, with a specific focus on renal cancer.

"The ideal goal is that this will help improve our understanding of that disease process," he said. "The hope is to contribute ultimately to better treatments of the disease. It could have implications for the diagnoses of these diseases as well."

Maddalena credits the support of his Brock supervisors, Biological Sciences Associate Professor Jeff Stuart, whom he worked closely with during his time at the University, and Professor Jeffrey Atkinson in Chemistry.

"I wouldn't be where I am today without my experience at Brock," he said. "Having such a great relationship with my supervisors has been important for me, allowing me to keep growing as a student."

Small class sizes provided Maddalena the opportunity to "be more hands on and to really take advantage of the resources available here," he said.

"Brock has been a major part of my life. I'm really proud to say I'm from Brock and to share that with people wherever I go. It's a part of who I am and what has shaped me."



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As she did when she was a varsity player, Stefanie Pavlovich is making a big impact as head coach of the Brock Badgers women's rugby team.

“These girls know that we are committed to their overall well-being both on and off the rugby pitch, and they have to be committed as well.”

— Stefanie Pavlovich, head coach of the Brock Badgers women's rugby team.

Player or coach, she's all Brock

By Shawn Whiteley

Stefanie Pavlovich bleeds Badger red. In her first two seasons as head coach of the Brock women's rugby team, the former CIS All-Canadian has built a strong program at her alma mater, leading the Badgers into the playoffs and putting them in a position to make history.

After going 2-2 and losing in the first round of the playoffs last year, Brock went 4-0 this season, scoring a province-leading 352 points.

Though the team came up just short of the Ontario University Athletics Final Four, the season was nothing less than a great success.

It was in 2005 that the women's rugby team last met that mark. Pavlovich was a standout player at the time, and she helped lead Brock to bronze, the first and only medal in the team's history.

Repeating that mark will be a challenge, but Pavlovich believes her team has the talent it needs for a legitimate shot at a future OUA medal, and a trip to the nationals for the first time.

A native of Stoney Creek, Pavlovich was a standout fullback in high school and club rugby. When she arrived at Brock in the fall of 2005, she made an immediate impact on the field, and in the classroom.

She finished her career as a two-time OUA All-Star and CIS First Team All-

Canadian. She was also a three-time Academic All-Canadian, graduating from Brock with three degrees (BEd '10, BPhEd '10, MEd '11).

Taking over the reins as head coach in 2016, she changed the culture of the program, focusing on dedication and commitment to athletic and academic success, as well as off-season training and a family atmosphere.

“The main focus of our culture change is all about being committed and having a positive mindset,” said Pavlovich. “And that's not just the expectation of the student-athletes, it is what we model as coaches. These girls know that we are committed to their overall well-being both on and off the rugby pitch, and they have to be committed as well.”

“They have to believe that they are worthy of doing great things. We believe in them and know that they are highly capable of being successful.”

Pavlovich said she has surrounded herself with coaches who bring out the best in everyone.

“While the expectation is to perform at the highest-possible level, our team culture is all about family and everything that we do is based on what is best for our rugby family,” she said. “We want to empower these young ladies and provide them with as many opportunities as possible. That is a key piece to our family culture.”

Expanding the family has been key to the Badgers' success.

The 2017 roster includes nine key returnees led by OUA leading scorer Meagan Hart, along with five rookies.

Pavlovich recruited two of the top young players on the National Team radar in Jenna Rainville and Taylour Hurd, who have both played key roles in the Badgers' success.

“We held a recruit day in March (2017) to show a lot of these young ladies what it would be like to be a Brock Badger,” she said. “We told them they had an opportunity to be a catalyst for the Brock women's rugby program, and if they wanted to put in the work, they could really help turn the program around.”

That recruiting effort, along with a year-long training plan led by the Brock Sport Performance Centre, will continue into the future.

“Three seasons from now, we want to be one of the top teams in the OUA,” said Pavlovich. “Each year, our goal is to go one step further, and if we continue to recruit high-calibre athletes that want to buy into our system, then I am confident we can get there.”

With Pavlovich at the helm, the future of Brock women's rugby looks bright. The Badgers will only graduate three players, and recruiting has already begun for the fall 2018 season.

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The artwork of Brock Fine Arts Assistant Professor Amy Friend was chosen to be featured on the international tour of renowned Canadian musician Diana Krall.

Art and music collide for Diana Krall tour

By Maryanne Firth

When the email popped into Amy Friend's inbox, she was certain it couldn't be real.

But a feeling inside prompted the Brock Fine Arts assistant professor to respond to the inquiry, which asked about her artwork and whether she'd consider collaborating with renowned Canadian musician Diana Krall.

It was soon after that Friend found herself on the phone with the Grammy Award winner discussing possibilities for her upcoming tour.

Friend's experimental photography has since helped Krall to set the scene on stage, acting as her backdrop as she captivates crowds in venues across North America and Europe.

Friend's work has been featured on the jazz singer's international tour since June and the partnership is expected to continue through to summer 2018.

The project, which includes art pieces from three different bodies of work, has been "particularly fulfilling," Friend said.

She has enjoyed the challenge of working with Krall to find pieces that fit the mood and message of individual songs, while also complementing the title of the tour and Krall's most recent album, *Turn Up the Quiet*.

"It's about trying to respect your own work, while also seeing how you can

accommodate a vision that will fit within the repertoire they're working with," she said.

In addition to pieces chosen for the majority of the international tour, special selections were made to accent Krall's North American tour dates. The Canadian leg included a November stop at Toronto's Massey Hall, which Friend was able to attend.

"It was incredible seeing her perform and seeing my work filling the stage in a concert hall where I have heard musicians like Johnny Cash, Tom Waits and Nick Cave perform," she said.

Krall's latest repertoire included a cover of Bob Dylan's *Simple Twist of Fate*, which Friend was particularly excited to find a piece to accompany.

"Much of my work revolves around ideas of memory, impermanence, history and time," said Friend, who has worked at Brock for the past decade. "I am less concerned with capturing a 'concrete' reality. Instead, I aim to use photography as a medium that offers the possibility of exploring the relationship between what is visible and non-visible."

Work featured on the tour includes hand-manipulated photographs, pieces featuring floating handkerchiefs once belonging to Friend's grandparents, and artwork inspired

by snippets of film from her childhood.

Over the past few months, Friend and Krall have shared many inspiring conversations about family, creativity and women in the arts.

"She has been so great to work with, you could almost forget her status in the music world," Friend said.

Krall often emphasized the need to respect Friend's work and always checks in with the artist to ensure she's pleased with the end results of each tour stop.

Friend called it "refreshing" to be able to engage with other artists.

"It exposes you to experiences that have commonalities and, at times, interesting variances," she said. "It's also wonderful to see how my work found a place to exist far beyond my initial intentions."

The team responsible for the on-stage initiative also included Judy Jacob, a video and visual content director, and Paul Normandale, a lighting designer, who Friend said "took the project to the next level."

In addition to her work with the tour, Friend has been busy over the past year, recently releasing a new book, *Stardust*, and showcasing her work through exhibitions in Spain, South Korea, Poland, Portugal, Italy, the U.S. and France.

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Fourth-year Brock Concurrent Education student Isabella Domaradzki is the 2017-18 recipient of the John W. Bean and Kathryn Bean Becker Scholarship in Concurrent Education.

Students supported through estate donations

By Kim Post

As a Thorold high school teacher, Kathryn Bean Becker spent her days encouraging students to follow their dreams.

Though she passed away in 1992, Becker's passion for helping others has continued to impact the next generation of learners at Brock University.

Both Becker and her brother John W. Bean, who passed away in 1987, placed great importance on post-secondary education. The siblings each made a generous donation to Brock through their estates that have gone on to aid students through several namesake scholarships and bursaries.

Isabella Domaradzki knows first-hand the impact that support can have.

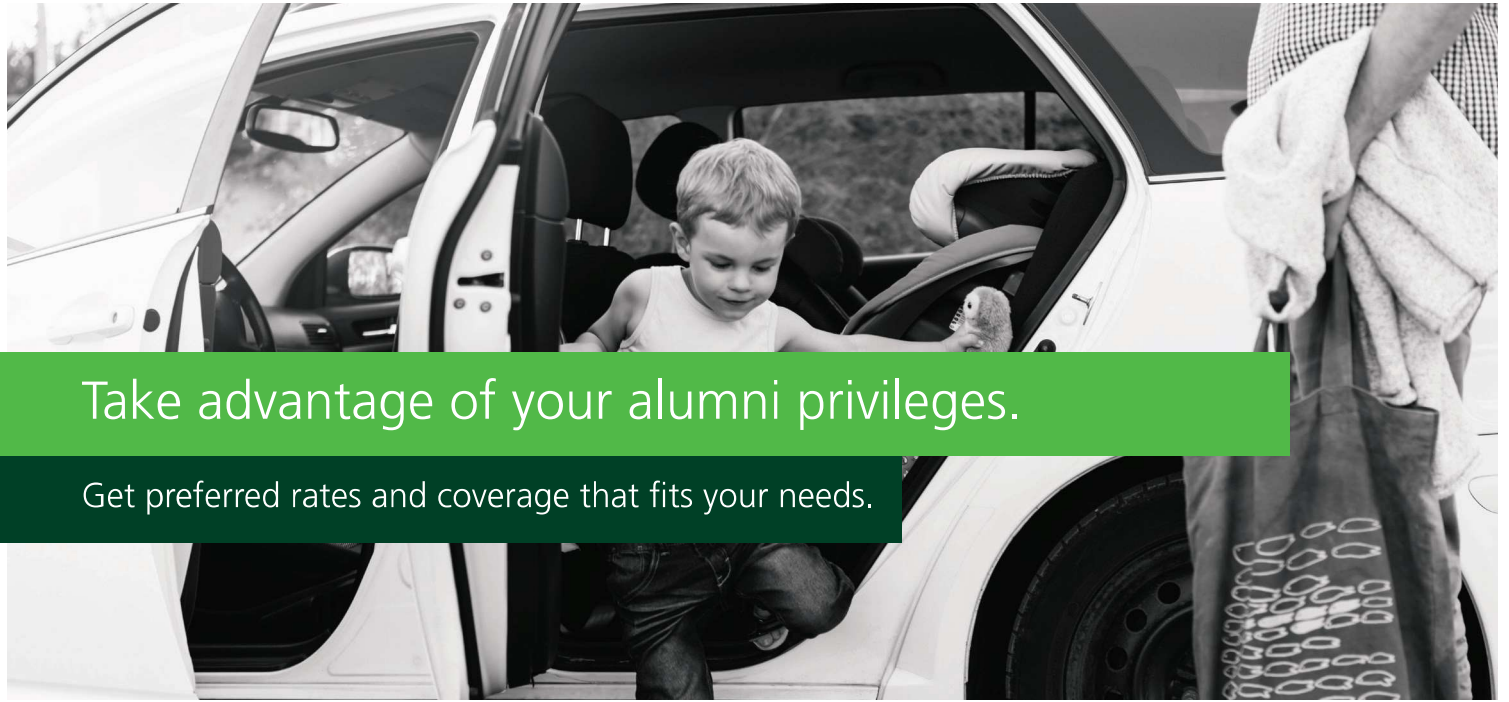
The fourth-year Concurrent Education student was able to attend Brock largely due to donor-funded student awards, including the John W. Bean and Kathryn Bean Becker Scholarship in Concurrent Education, which she received for 2017-18.

Support offered through the scholarship, which helped to ease financial stress, has allowed Domaradzki to focus on her studies as she pursues her career in education. It has also afforded her the opportunity to devote spare time to community service.

Those pursuits inside and outside of the classroom have helped her to build a strong foundation for the future, while also learning more about the person she is and the person she hopes to become.

It was the University's strong reputation and sense of community that prompted Domaradzki to choose Brock. The ongoing support from donors is yet another component of that community feel — one students should be thankful for, she said.

For more information on making an estate gift, contact 905-688-5550 x4190.



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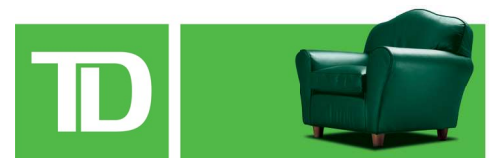
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